



# RADIO SCOUTING

## Get Involved with Radio Scouting

### Jamboree on the Air

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an event held the 3rd weekend each October in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

With no restrictions on age, or on the number that can participate and at little or no expense, JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts to converse using amateur radio.



Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs.

Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) is held on the same weekend as JOTA and utilizes the internet to set up a global chat network using computers and tablets.



### Radio Merit Badge

Radio merit badge is among the BSA's popular STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) merit badges and overall is in the top 50% of merit badges earned in Scouting with over 6,600 earned each year.

An effective workshop format has been developed to assist instruction.



### Amateur Radio Operator Strip

Youth and adult licensed amateur radio operators get to wear a strip on the sleeve of their scout uniform to acknowledge their emergency communication skills. This can be a natural progression beyond the Radio merit badge.

You can earn an amateur radio license by taking a 35 question test that is easy to study. Radio amateurs start with the Technician rating. They can upgrade their privileges by taking the General and Extra rating tests. Morse code knowledge is not required for any of the tests.



### Morse Code Interpreter Strip

If you learn Morse code, you can wear the interpreter strip above the right pocket of the scout uniform. The dots and dashes spell out the message *M-O-R-S-E*.



### Amateur Radio Clubs & Field Days

Scouts and other youth are encouraged to attend amateur radio club field day events and more during the year.

For a scout, field day events can count towards the emergency exercise attendance requirement for the Emergency Preparedness merit badge. Some clubs offer Radio merit badge classes as well.

You may be able to ask club volunteers there to help you set up a station for your scout unit for JOTA.



### Icom Loaner Station Program

Local Scout councils, with the assistance of local clubs, can borrow one of 10 complete amateur radio stations for events and projects under a sponsorship agreement between Icom America and the Boy Scouts of America.



### Information Resources

#### JOTA

<http://www.k2bsa.net/jota/>

#### JOTA and JOTI

<http://jotajoti.info/>

#### Radio Merit Badge instruction tips and resources

<http://www.k2bsa.net/radio-merit-badge-2/>

[http://www.scouting.org/jota/radio\\_merit\\_badge.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/jota/radio_merit_badge.aspx)

#### American Radio Relay League

<http://www.arrl.org/>

#### K2BSA

#### Icom loaner Station Program

<http://www.k2bsa.net/icom-station-loans/>

#### Radio Scouting at Jamborees

<http://www.k2bsa.net/jamboree/>



K2BSA.net



### Jamborees and K2BSA

K2BSA offers 21st century fun with technology at the National Scout Jamboree. The station communicates around the world with HAMS and scouts using various techniques. Scouts are often able to talk with astronauts on the International Space Station.

Scouts and Venturers can engage in STEM activities such as radio direction finding. Over 300 radio merit badges are earned by Scouts during the 10 day event.



K2BSA will be at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia. This will be the first World Jamboree in the USA since 1967 and will be cohosted by Scouts Canada, Scouts Mexico and the Boy Scouts of America.

Jamborees are a great way to volunteer your expertise and have fun during Scouting's premier event.



JOTA / JOTI is the largest Scouting event in the world. Over 1.3 million Scouts participate across 157 countries on the third weekend every October