

ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee on Youth in the Second Century Report to the Board – July 20, 2012

Committee Charge: Given that: (a) it is essential to enhance the League's outreach to potential Amateurs among America's youth; (b) the League's centennial in 2014 will highlight not only the accomplishments of the past but also point towards Amateur Radio's future; and (c) meaningful plans to excite young Americans about Amateur Radio today and in the future must take into account the ideas, lifestyles, and experiences of youthful Amateur Radio operators; this committee has been tasked to seek input from youth and also from adult Amateurs working with young people, and to furthermore make recommendations to the Staff and the Board of Directors on such topics.

Members of the Committee: Emily Bishop WE4MB, Jeremy Breef-Pilz KB1REQ, Sterling Coffey N0SSC, Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF, Joel Monza KC2SNL, Andrea Hartlage KG4IUM (ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director), and Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Committee Chairman and ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director)

The ARRL ad hoc Committee on Youth in the Second Century, established in accordance with Minute 31 of the July 2011 Board of Directors meeting, continues to be quite active via several rounds of email correspondence and a teleconference thanks to our engaged young members who bring with them unique perspective, experience across many facets of ham radio, as well as both excitement and concern for the future of our hobby and service.

Our initial focus since establishment has been on subjects including:

- Aspects of ham radio which appeal most to youth;
- Barriers of entry which exist for youth desiring to become a ham radio operators;
- Causes for what appears to be a large number of individuals, specifically youth in the case of our conversation, who seemingly don't get involved on the air or integrated/active within the amateur radio community after putting in the effort to become licensed; and
- ARRL's current youth promotion techniques, what works well, and what can benefit from improvement

Essentially, identifying gaps with respect to ham radio, ARRL, and youth.

Since its last report to the Board, the ad hoc Committee on Youth in the Second Century has turned its focus towards identifying ways to fill those gaps. Additional topics have been discussed such as what ham radio clubs can do, in-house, to not only attract but, more importantly, *retain* youth and get them involved as active members and future club leaders. The committee is also reaching out to other youth and ham organizations across the country across the nation for input, and we appreciate those Directors who have solicited input from their membership on our behalf.

A variety of recommendations that pertain to ham radio's legacy, future stewards, experimenters, innovators, and leaders – *youth* – are currently being drawn up. The

intent expressed in our last report was to provide some of the recommendations in this space, but the committee thought it would be prudent to provide them in a future report *en mass* once all discussion and outreach has run its course.

The ad-hoc Committee on Youth in the Second Century is grateful for the opportunity provided by ARRL's Board to work on such a crucial topic as youth and amateur radio, especially as the League prepares to embark on its second successful century.

Respectfully submitted,

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