

Creative Approaches to Field Day 2020

-Paul Bourque, ARRL Contest Program Manager

This year, Field Day promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.



Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional FD site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign.

We will be including club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year.

Try setting up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entry in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie. Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting.

One club is planning to conduct their Field Day as a four-transmitter Class A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a Get-on-the-Air (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while having GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at their usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their own homes. The club is creating a schedule outlining when each member of the club will be at the control of the transmitter via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation.

ARRL invites your stories about the interesting and creative ways you're planning to use to adapt your Field Day operation. Share these on the ARRL Field Day Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1966096706830030/>

We will be posting updates on the Field Day webpage as they become available.