

Field Day Frequently Asked Questions

Produced by ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio

Q. My group wants to start setting up in the field before the official start time on Friday. We don't want to have to rush in the heat. What do we do?

A. The rules allows groups to start setting up at 0000 UTC on Friday (which is Thursday local time: 8:00 PM EDT, 7:00 PM CDT, 6:00 PM MDT, 5:00 PDT). Groups may begin set-up, stop for the night, and return the next day. However you must be aware that you only have a cumulative total of 24-hours from when you start to finish your set-up.

Q. I am going to operate my transmitter at the club's Field Day using solar panels and 2 watts. The rest of the club will be using 100 watts and power from the generator. May we score my QSOs with the bonus multiplier of 5 and combine it with the rest of the group's multiplier of 2?

A. The Power multiplier is determined by the **highest power output of any transmitter in use at the station, including the GOTA and free VHF station.** To claim the multiplier of 5, ALL stations must be running QRP **and** must be running off of a power source other than the commercial mains or a generator. The multiplier for all QSOs from the setup described is 2.

Q. Can I help with the group Field Day effort during the day and still operate from home overnight?

A. Yes, but you may not make a contact for QSO credit with any Field Day group or station from which you participate. For example, if you operate one of the W1AW station transmitters during Field Day, you may not also work W1AW from home.

Q. We have some great Field Day photos we would like published in *QST*. How do we submit them? Where do we get the Release Form for youth under age 18?

A. You may submit photos several ways. Digital photos may be sent via email to fieldday@arrrl.org (be sure to include captions that identify the activity and all identifiable persons in the picture and the contact information for the photographer, and when images include youth under 18 years of age please send in a [Photo Release](#) for each young person in image.) You may also upload your photos and Field Day story to the Contest Soapbox on the ARRL Website. Regular photos may be sent to Field Day, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111 along with your paper Field Day entry, or separately showing your Field Day call sign in your note. **Make sure to include captions, photographer credit and that your photos are as high resolution as possible. We can not use photos with time/date stamps included in the image.** Please note that we receive thousands of pictures every year for Field Day, and space in *QST* is very limited. We cannot guarantee the publication of any specific photo submission. However, you are encouraged to post them to the ARRL Online Soapbox at field-day.arrrl.org/fdsoapbox.php where they can be viewed and shared by the thousands of visitors to the site.

Q. We sent a press release to the local TV station, but they didn't send a crew out to cover our operation. May we still claim the Media bonus?

A. Yes. In order to claim the media bonus, you must only **attempt to obtain publicity with the media.**

Q. How do we indicate our bonus points in the Cabrillo log file?

A. While we accept the Cabrillo log file in lieu of the required dupe sheets, it does not accommodate all of the information required for reporting a Field Day entry. **All entries must either complete the required summary sheet on-line at <https://field-day.arrrl.org/fdentrv.php> or submit a paper summary sheet for their entry.** Entries submitted via the <https://field-day.arrrl.org/fdentrv.php> website must submit their required supporting documentation as attachments. **Any submission without a completed summary (either paper or electronic) will be classified as a checklog.**

Q. My club mailed its Field Day entry last week. Our president phoned this morning to see if it had arrived but you couldn't tell him. What's going on?

A. If your entry was submitted electronically via the Field Day Web Submission App at <https://field-day.arrrl.org/fdentrv.php>, it will appear on the Logs Received list that is generally updated once daily Monday thru Friday.

If you submitted as a paper submission, it takes a considerable amount of time to open and process these entries into the master database (they are all done manually.) All incoming mail is opened in the mailroom before being sent downstairs to the Contest office for processing. Because of the large volume of mail at that time of year, and because of other duties by staff in the department, it takes several weeks for mail to be opened, sorted and entered into the database after it is received. We cannot locate a specific entry without literally searching through hundreds of entries waiting to be processed by hand. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Many groups include a self-addressed stamped postcard with their entry, asking us to please return it when their entry arrives. Others will send their entry using one of the US Postal Service's options for a receipt upon delivery.

Send any questions to fdinfo@arrrl.org

Once all online and paper entries are processed into the database, they will be added to the list of Logs Received via the web applet and posted on the ARRL Contest Web pages at <http://field-day.arrrl.org/fdentriesrcvd.php>

Q. How do I determine my ARRL section?

A. For most states, there is only one ARRL section that encompasses the entire state. Eight states (California, Washington, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts – and the Canadian province of Ontario) have multiple ARRL sections. A list of the US sections is found monthly in *QST* and in this packet. It is also found on-line at <http://www.arrl.org/contest-sections-list>

Q. I will be driving on vacation during Field Day and going through several sections. What section do I give in my exchange? When I change sections, do I count as a new station and am I able to re-work people?

A. Give the section in which you are currently located. You may work a station only once per band/mode, regardless if you change sections while mobile.

Q. I will be using battery power but running my station at 100 watts. What is my power multiplier?

Q. I will be running QRP using my emergency generator at home. What is my power multiplier?

A. To claim the power multiplier of 5, you must be operating QRP (5 watts or less) **AND** running on a power source other than commercial mains or a motor-driven generator. **In both of these cases, the power multiplier is 2.**

Q. What equipment at our Field Day site must be operated off of the emergency power in order to claim the 100-point per transmitter bonus?

A. You must operate all transmitting and receiving equipment from emergency power. If you use a computer for digital modes, and/or to control or operate the radio, it also must use emergency power. If the computer is used only for logging and is not keying the transmitter, it does not need to be emergency powered.

Q. I am going to be a home station using emergency power. What bonus points may I claim?

A. All entry classes now are able to claim certain bonus points. Refer to Field Day Rule 7.3. for specifics.

Q. We will be running a generator to power our stations, but will be using commercial power for the lights, coffee pot, etc. What power source should we check?

A. Only check the power source which is used to operate the transmitting/receiving equipment.

Q. My buddy and I will be going to the campground with our families for Field Day. Only he and I will be setting up the station and operating. Are we Class A or B?

A. In this instance, the entry class is B.

Q. I will be camping with my family during Field Day. My three kids will help me set up the antennas and station, but they will be busy doing other things while I operate. Am I still Class B?

A. Class B stations may only have *1 or 2 persons involved in its set-up and operation.* In this instance, the entry class is A.

Q. We don't have an area club, but we do have a small group of area hams (generally two or three of us get together for operating events). I have a large-deep property, and we will be setting up in my back yard. What Class would we be? Class A, Class B or ?

A. Convenient access across one's backyard to their home station facilities is not in keeping with the spirit of Class A or Class B portable operations. Such convenient backyard operations on property of home stations remain either Class D (commercial power) or Class E (emergency power), even if home antenna structures are not used. If the station will be a 'good hike' away from a home station (eg, at the rear of a several acre lot, or perhaps operating from a farmers field down the road) - clearly away from home conveniences (away from home utilities, or home restrooms/bedrooms, or even eating facilities/refrigerator/kitchen) - then Class A (3 or more persons portable) or Class B (1 or 2 person portable) is appropriate.

Q. How do we sign forms that we send in via the web app at <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>?

A. Electronic submissions are considered signed when submitted.

Q. What kind of "proofs of bonus points" do we need to send?

A. It depends on which bonuses you claim. For emergency power, public location, public information table, satellite QSO, alternate power, and non-traditional modes, a signed statement from a club official attesting to the fact is sufficient. Copies of the message to the Section Manager, any messages sent or received, the WIAW message, and any press releases (or copies of the story if your local media actually runs a story) must be included to claim those bonuses. If an official from a served agency and government official visits the site, a copy of your invitation as well as a statement that they did visit the site (signed by a club official) is sufficient (some clubs have a guestbook that they ask all operators or attendees to sign, for overall attendance and to meet this bonus requirement). The Safety Officer must sign a statement attesting that the checklist was completed. A statement stating the Social Media/s used will suffice for that bonus. Photos are also nice to have to share with ARRL and others in your Social Media.

Q. What about the 60-meter band? May we use it in Field Day?

A. Because of the limited scope of the 60-meter band, it is not included in bands eligible for Field Day use. In addition the 2200, 630, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands are NOT eligible for use in Field Day.

Q. Can we claim the GOTA station for a 100-point emergency power bonus? What about the free VHF station?

A. Neither the GOTA station or the free VHF station are eligible for the per station 100-point emergency power bonus.

Q. I sent the Section Manager (SM) a participation message. Do I also get 10 points for sending it under the NTS bonus?

A. Sorry, you can't "double dip." The SM participation message is not eligible for the formal message bonus.

Q. Why doesn't our contact with the International Space Station count for the satellite bonus?

A. While the ISS is by definition a satellite, the purpose of the satellite QSO bonus is to complete an Earth to Earth contact via an amateur radio satellite. Since the ISS contact doesn't relay back to Earth, it doesn't meet that requirement, though it does count for regular QSO credit (and is sure to generate excitement at your site)!

Q. I am a member of two clubs. Can I participate in Field Day with more than one group?

Q. I will be participating with my club Saturday during the day. Can I get on from home and make some Field Day contacts afterwards?

A. The answer in both cases is YES. The only limitation is that you cannot make contacts for score with any group or station from which you participate during Field Day. For example, you can't call the club's FD 2-meter station while driving to or from the site or from home in order for them to "put you in the log" for QSO point credit.

Q. Can I operate FT4/FT8 for Field Day?

A. All digital modes can be used during Field Day, provided they can accommodate the Field Day exchange.

Q. Our club's Field Day site has a high noise floor, can we operate a club member's home station remotely?

A. Remote operation of a club member's home station from the Field Day site is not allowed. All transmitters, receivers and antennas used during Field Day must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet). For demonstration purposes as an educational activity, you can certainly set up a remote station, but those QSOs will not be counted towards the club's score, and must utilize the callsign of the station operator, not the Field Day call.