

Educational Activity Bonus FAQ

Produced by ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio

FD rule 7.3.10. Educational activity bonus: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day operation includes a specific educational-related activity. The activity can be diverse and must be related to amateur radio. It must be some type of formal activity. It can be repeated during the Field Day period but only one bonus is earned. For more information consult the FAQ in the complete Field Day packet. This bonus is available to Classes A & F entries, and is available clubs or groups operating from a club station in class D and E (with 3 or more participants).

For the **Educational Activity Bonus**, a group will receive a 100-point bonus for having a **formal educational component** associated with Field Day. It doesn't have to be a formal "classroom" session per se, but it must be a **structured activity** to broaden the knowledge base of participants. Some groups may decide to have a hands-on activity of teaching people the proper way to solder coax connectors while another group may decide to teach about proper grounding techniques and electrical safety. This activity can be broad enough to allow people to learn how to do something new but should have active involvement of participants. **It must be more than a demonstration of an activity.** Standing around watching someone send CW doesn't qualify; but teaching (instead of just showing) people how to make digital QSOs and then letting them try their hand at it would. **Be creative but keep in mind, this must be an active (not a passive) event AND must be done within the context of Part 97 rules if it involves making actual transmissions over the radio. Get People Involved!!!**

Q. What is the intent of the Educational Activity Bonus?

A. Field Day is many things to many people – to some it is a giant "learning exercise." The bonus is designed to encourage clubs and groups to **emphasize "continuing education" in the hobby** as a key component in their FD operation. The opportunity to actively engage newcomers and visitors to your Field Day operation – making them more than just observers – is an important component. It should help develop the skills of each person involved.

Q. During Field Day we are often working with someone new, teaching them in a one-on-one manner. Does this qualify since it is educational?

A. While almost all of Field Day has an educational component to some degree, the intent is for a **specific, formal activity** designed to broaden the background of the entire group or club. Teaching one individual how to use a radio or features with which they are not familiar is not the intent of this bonus.

Q. What Field Day categories are eligible for this bonus?

A. **Classes A, D, E, and F are eligible** for this bonus, since it is intended to a larger group. This allows clubs and groups who are operating either at their main club locations, portable in the field or at EOCs to include this activity as part of their Field Day operation.

Q. What kind of activities would qualify?

A. Each group is encouraged to develop their own program/activity. **Be Creative!** Many of the activities from the old Demonstration Mode bonus would probably qualify provided they have an active component. Listening to an old-timer make CW contacts or talk about propagation may be interesting, but would not qualify as this is an "activity" bonus. It might be a special "how to" activity such as proper grounding techniques or how to measure, cut, assemble and erect a dipole and feedline. **Hands-on type activities are encouraged.**

Q. We want to put up "how to posters" instead of doing a formal presentation. Does this qualify?

A. While posters will certainly add to the activity, there needs to be more than just a display table during the event (and more than just playing a video, or a power point presentation). There needs to be **formal interactive session between "presenter" and "participants"** in this activity.

Q. How many times do we have to do this activity in order to qualify? Does this have to be available at all times during the Field Day activity?

A. While you are encouraged to consider having this activity available several times throughout the FD period, you are only required to do the formal activity once in order to earn the 100-point bonus. **This is a one-time 100-point bonus.** You do not get additional bonuses for repeating the same or additional educational activities during the Field Day period.

Q. Can we teach a Field Day class a couple of weeks before the event to qualify for the bonus?

A. While you can do pre-event training, **the Activity must take place during the Saturday or Sunday of Field Day.**

Q. Is there a minimum number of participants that must participate in the activity?

A. You need to make a good-faith effort to maximize participation. Doing the activity once for 1 person to "get it over with" is not in the spirit or intent of the rule.