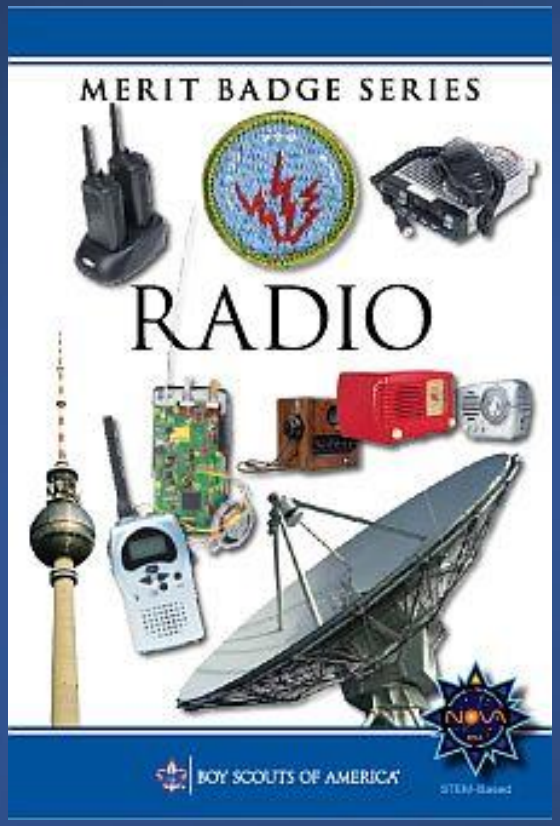
Amateur Radio Youth Series

Scouting Amateur Radio Opportunites



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ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

K6MEP
Ventura County
Amateur Radio Club
California, USA

Topics

- Introduction
- Radio merit badge requirements
- K6MEP Scouting opportunities

Introduction

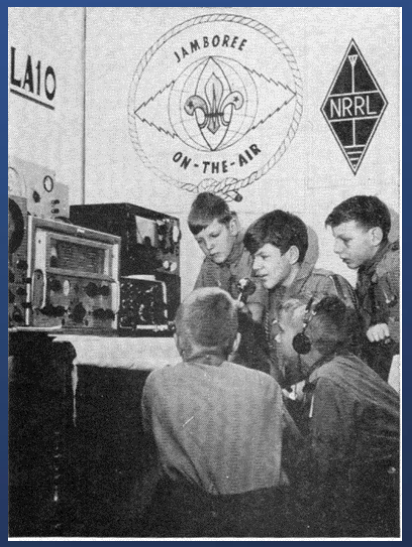
- The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) offers youth the opportunity to learn about and become involved in amateur radio by earning the radio merit badge and other activities
- This merit badge combines successfully learning basic radio theory and demonstrating various radio operations
  - Requirements are extensive and cover a wide spectrum of the radio hobby

Introduction

- As with all Boy Scout merit badges, the youth contacts a merit badge counselor approved by the BSA council office
  - The Ventura County BSA council office is located at 509 E Daily Dr in Camarillo, CA
- The counselor serves as a subject matter expert and provides guidance and training assistance

Introduction

- Upon successful completion of merit badge requirements and processing of paperwork, the youth will formally receive the radio merit badge patch at a troop Court of Honor



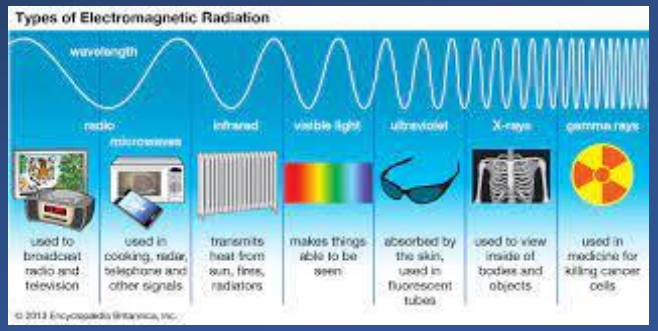
Introduction

- Counselors for the radio merit badge can be amateur radio operators with a valid technician, general, or extra license, amateur radio clubs, or someone such as an engineer whose background is radio or associated electrical engineering disciplines

Merit Badge Requirements

- Radio theory:
  - Differences between broadcast radio and hobby radio, and broadcasting and two-way communications
  - Radio station call signs, the phonetic alphabet, and how they are used
  - Radio wave propagation
  - Differences between various types of radio stations

Merit Badge Requirements



- Radio theory:
  - Radio waves, the electromagnetic spectrum, and radio bands
  - The FCC and International Telecommunication Union
  - Amateur radio equipment components
  - Block and schematic diagrams
  - Radio modulations (AM, FM, CW, Morse Code, SSB, and digital)

Merit Badge Requirements

- Radio theory:
  - NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)
  - Cellular telephones
  - Amateur radio safety

- Demonstration
  - Visit a radio installation and discuss equipment seen, how it was used, licensing requirements, equipment maintenance, and the purpose of the station

Merit Badge Requirements

- Demonstration
  - Find out about three career opportunities in radio and discuss the education, training, and experience required for one of them
  - Do all activities from one of four (4) areas: amateur radio, radio broadcasting, shortwave and medium wave listening, or amateur radio direction finding

Merit Badge Requirements

- Demonstration
  - Amateur radio activities include license levels, radio terms, how to make a call, types of equipment, repeaters, and carry on a 10 minute conversion on radio using proper call signs, Q signals, and protocol
  - Radio broadcasting activities include FCC regulations, preparing a ½ hour program schedule for a radio station, listening to and logging 15 broadcast stations, commercial broadcasting terms, and alternate platforms

Merit Badge Requirements

- Demonstration
  - Shortwave and medium wave listening activities include listening across several shortwave and medium-wave bands, comparing logs and why some stations are easier to hear than others, and demonstration listening to a radio broadcast using a smartphone

Merit Badge Requirements

- Demonstration
  - Amateur radio direction finding activities include describing radio direction finding and the frequencies and equipment used, building a simple directional antenna and using it on a simple “fox” hunt, and showing on a map how you located the “fox” using your receiver

K6MEP Scouting Opportunities

- Radio merit badge counselors sorely needed
  - Only one listed in Ventura County (John D McBride, BSA Ventura County 2015 listing)
  - BSA Ventura County serves over 4,500 youth
- Amateur radio clubs are best suited to help with the variety of activities and requirements the radio merit badge entails

K6MEP Scouting Opportunities

- ARRL endorses and supports the BSA radio merit badge
- ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America in 2014
  - Award recognizes actively involved Scouting leaders who make a significant contribution to providing Scouts with a memorable and valuable Amateur Radio experience

K6MEP Scouting Opportunities

- Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA)
  - Largest Scouting annual event, held the 3rd full weekend in October
  - Uses amateur radio to link Scouts and Radio operators around the world, nation, and community
  - https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota for further info

World Scout Frequencies

Band	Phone (MHz)	CW (MHz)
80 m	3.690 & 3.940	3.570
40 m	7.090 & 7.190	7.030
20 m	14.290	14.060
17 m	18.140	18.080
15 m	21.360	21.140
12 m	24.960	25.910
10 m	28.390	28.180
6 m	50.160	50.160

K6MEP Scouting Opportunities

- ARRL also heavily involved with Girl Scouts
  - Central Coast Office is located at 1500 Palma Dr UNIT 110 in Ventura
  - California's Central Coast serves over 10,700 girls across six counties, including Ventura County
  - Armature radio club involvement vital in Girls Scout radio programs and related activities

ARRL Website

Home | On The Air | Licensing, Education & Training | Membership | Regulatory & Advocacy | Public Service | Technology | Get Involved | ARRL Store

Amateur Radio and Scouting

- Outreach to Youth
- Amateur Radio and Scouting
  - Merit Badge Counselor
  - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
  - Girl Scouts Radio Patch
- Outreach to Teachers and Schools
- Amateur Radio Creates Buzz at Atlanta Science Expo
- Brochures and Exhibit Materials

Radio & Wireless Technology Patch

Girl Scouts can earn the new Radio & Wireless Technology Patch offered by ARRL.

Learn More

1 2

Spring Camporee

Boy Scouts Include Amateur Radio in Spring Camporee

The Riverside District in South Brevard County, Florida, recently incorporated amateur radio as a part of its camporee. The event was attended by 100 Boy Scouts from eight different troops. At these events scouts compete in various skills like map and compass, fire building, cooking, etc. This year Troop 314 from West Melbourne, the host troop, decided to include Amateur Radio as one of the events.

As a part of the camporee competition, scouts compete in patrols normally consisting of about five members. At the amateur radio event, scouts received points for listening to an overview of Amateur Radio and actually talking on the air. Jan Heise, K4QD, organized the event with the help of his grandson Aaron Ludwig, KJ4UQS, and members of the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS). Both Jan and Aaron are members of T-314. Jan obtained special event station callsign K4R (for Riverside District). They set up an HF station capable of contacting amateurs (often called HAMS) around the world, and a VHF station used for local area contacts.

PCARS members John Gerstner, K4LRP, and Marty Grove, KJ4LQX, came to the camporee and performed most of the HF operating while Aaron did the majority of the VHF operating and provided the Amateur Radio overview. As a special treat, Chuck Green, AD4ES, flew his four passenger plane overhead while Eric Smitt, K9ES, operated both HF and VHF talking to scouts at the special event station.

Scouts at the camporee were very interested in the Amateur Radio station, and almost all of them wanted to talk on the radio. The group used primarily 20 meters on HF, and on VHF they used the PCARS 146.85 wide area repeater. It was great to hear scouts say, "Wow, I just talked to Germany." or "Hey, that guy is in Canada." Everyone agreed that the special event station was a success.

Camporee With the

Operating | Organizers | Making Contact

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QST ARRL's Monthly Membership Journal GET IT HERE

Why Ham Radio for Your Troop?

+ Learn More

Get on the air for JOTA!

+ Learn More

Girl Scouts Celebrate Thinking Day on the Air

As part of annual "Thinking Day" acitvities celebrated each year in February, Girl Scouts also get on the air to share their thoughts. Read about the Thinking Day activities hosted by Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC) pictured above.

Review this invitation to hosting *Thinking Day on the Air* activities by J.W. "Skip" Youngberg, K1NKR and his daughter, Jill Galus, KB1SWV. Contact Skip for advice on organizing a club to support the event.

Learn more about *Thinking Day on the Air*.

ARRL offers a **Radio & Wireless Technology Patch** for Girl Scouts Brownie through Ambassador levels. Learn more.

Merit Badge Resources

- Requirements for the BSA Radio Merit Badge

The Boys Scouts of America Radio Merit Badge curriculum was revised January 1, 2009. You can review the new curriculum and the changes to the curriculum on the **US Scouting Service Project website** and **order a new four-color pamphlet** with a complete description of the Radio Merit Badge program directly from the BSA online store.

Learn More

+ Instructing the BSA Radio Merit Badge

+ Becoming a BSA Merit Badge Counselor

ARRL Service to Scouting Award

Nominations are being accepted for this award authorized by the Boy Scouts of America's Community Organization Awards Program. Leaders to be recognized for their contribution bringing Amateur Radio to scouts through various scouting activitties and venues can be nominated for this award. ARRL members can complete the nomination form and submit it to their ARRL Section Manager to authroze ARRL to issue the award certificate. Receipt of the ARRL Service to Scouting Award entitles the leader to wear the BSA Square Knot emblem.

Please click on this link for a list of Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award recipients.

Data Feed

- Scouting's Jamboree on the Air Set for October 16, 17, and 18 (08/31/2020)
- Texas Scout Leaders Promote Amateur Radio as a Communication Resource (12/31/2019)
- Boy Scouts Report Increased JOTA 2019 Station Participation (12/03/2019)
- Boy Scouts Sound Last Call for US Jamboree on the Air Reports (11/07/2019)
- Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) Registration is "On Track" (10/04/2019)
- US Jamboree on the Air Station Registration System Now Available (08/30/2019)

Read All | Subscribe

Other Resources

- Learning Morse Code

Scouts often enjoy learning and practicing Morse code. Find tips on learning Morse code and its history on our Learning Morse Code resource page.

CWGet software, is a program to decode Morse code (CW) via sound card to text. It can work as a narrow-band sound DSP-filter also. All you need is a receiver and computer with a sound card. A 30-Day Trial is available.

Find more information on strategies for teaching kids Morse code on our Youth Outreach page.

Boy Scouts can now earn the Morse Code Interpreter Strip. Interpreter strips are worn on the uniform to indicate a proficiency in a language and to allow Scouts to be identified who can help with language translation. Now Morse code qualifies for this designation.

To review the requirements, view the Morse Code Interpreter Strip.

+ Articles & Other Information

+ Hands-on Kits, Projects and Activities to Explore Radio

+ Promoting Amateur Radio with Boy Scouts

+ Scouting Organization Websites

+ Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

Get Involved >> Recruiting & Outreach >> Amateur Radio and Scouting

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Having Trouble?

ARRL Scouting Award Form

NOMINATION FOR THE
AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE TO SCOUTING AWARD

ARRL Section:_____ Scout Council: _____

NOTE: This nomination is confidential. To avoid possible disappointment, please do not advise nominee in any way of your action in his or her behalf.

To the ARRL Section Manager:

It is a pleasure to present for your consideration for the Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award:

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address:_____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Currently registered in Scouting as:_____

The noteworthy service to Radio Scouting upon which this nomination is based is through the individual having met five of the following ten requirements:

1. Organize a class and teach Radio Merit Badge to a District or Council "Merit Badge Day" or "STEM Badge Day" event.
2. Participate in teaching Radio Merit Badge at a Troop, District or Council event on at least three different occasions.
3. Participate in teaching Radio Merit Badge conducted at a hamfest or organized by an amateur radio club on at least three different occasions.
4. Organize and lead a District or Council Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event.
5. Participate in Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) activities for at least three JOTAs.
6. Provide Amateur Radio communications support for a summer camp, winter camp, Camporee, Klondike Derby, or other official District or Council camp.
7. Participate in three District or Council Camporees by setting up an Amateur Radio Demonstration Station.
8. Serve as Chairman or member of a Council Radio Scouting Committee and guide significant improvements in council amateur radio operating facilities and expanded Scouting amateur radio activities;
9. Arrange for the donation of equipment to establish amateur radio stations at a Council camps.
10. Serve as a K2BSA Staff Member at a National Jamboree or on the Amateur Radio Staff at a World Jamboree

Please provide as much information as possible (dates, descriptions, outcomes, etc.) to substantiate the requirements noted above which the nominee has met. Use additional paper, if necessary.

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Signature of nominator _____ Date _____

Approvals:

Certification of Scouting Registration and member in good standing

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

ARRL Section Manager _____ Date _____

Section Manager: After signing, please forward this form to the Supervisor of the ARRL Field Organization Team

Scouting Award Recipients

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

Arizona

Thomas J. Fagan, K7DF	Catalina Council	February 18, 2016
Wendell Carter, AB4LE	Catalina	August 16, 2016

Los Angeles

Travis J. Williams, AF6WU	San Gabriel Valley	August 26, 2015

Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK	Greater Los Angeles Area Council	November 4, 2015
Dean B. Cohen, WA6KYC	Western Los Angeles County Council	October 3, 2016

Orange

Fred B. Stieg, KT6K	South Western Division Scout Council	April 22, 2015

San Diego

Neil Beard, KF6AH	Los Padres	August 19, 2016
Phil Slaughter, N6CTT	San Diego Imperial Council	December 19, 2016
Rusty Sargent, AG6VY	San Diego Imperial Council	March 6, 2017
Michael S. Palugod, N6PIH	San Diego Imperial Council	June 6, 2017
Kevin P. Walsh, KK6FRK	San Diego Imperial Council	April 26, 2018

BSA Resident Camp Opportunities

(805) 482-8938 | venturacountycouncil@scouting.org

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Camp 3 Falls Programs

Since 1933, Camp 3 Falls has provided a life-changing experience to over one-million youth. Located in Lockwood Valley in Northern Ventura County, at the base of Mt. Pinos. Three Falls offers summer camp for WEBELOS and for Scouts BSA Troops, Winter Camp as well as weekend camping for Scouts and other groups throughout the year.

Camp Three Falls

12260 Boy Scout Camp Road

Frazier Park, CA 93225

Camp Three Falls Blogspot – Find out the latest news @ Three Falls!

CAMPING INFORMATION

- Camp 3 Falls Home
- Camp Facilities for Day Use
- Winter Camp
- Scouts BSA Summer Camp
- Webelos Resident Camp
- VCC Application for Camp Employment

CONTACTS

Jerry Thurston
Camp Director

Larry Tuck
Camp Program Director

Lee Winagura - (818) 808-5246
3 Falls Camp Ranger

Questions