

JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

FOR BSA SCOUT LEADERS



Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually during the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and radio operators around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operator's ham shack. Many times you will find the radio operators will come to you by setting up a station at your Scout camporee, at the park down the block, or perhaps at a ham shack already set up at your council's camp.

Tell Me More

Scouts of any age can participate: from Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA and Venturers, up to Adult Leaders. Once at the ham radio station, the communication typically involves talking on a microphone and listening on the station speakers. However, many forms of specialized communication may also be taking place, such as video communication, digital communication (much like sending a message on your smartphone but transmitted by radio), or communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater). The exchanges include such information as name, location (called QTH in ham speak), Scout rank, age, and hobbies.

The stations you'll be communicating with can be across town, across the country, or even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that nearly over 1 million Scouts and around 20,000 amateur radio operators participate in JOTA annually, from more than 17,000 stations in over 150 countries.

When Is It?

Jamboree-on-the-Air is held during the third weekend in October every year. JOTA starts Friday and ends Sunday, but there are no official hours of operation, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts.

How Can I Participate as a Scout?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area. You can also contact a local ham radio operator or a local amateur radio club. You can find a searchable database of clubs at arrl.org/find-a-club. This website is operated by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, which is cooperating closely with the BSA on JOTA and many other activities.

Your local club may be able to direct you to its planned JOTA activities. These can include ham stations set up at camporees or other events. Or, if there are no planned activities, you can either work with them to get something set up or arrange to visit a local radio operator's ham shack at a scheduled time to participate in JOTA.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Substantial JOTA resources are available online.

Go to scouting.org/jota, or scan this QR code with your smartphone, for the information provided by the Boy Scouts of America.



Information is also available from the ARRL at: arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota



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130-218
2019 Printing