

SOTA Youth Field Day

SOTA Youth Field Day - Summit on the Air Activation

Group Members:

- 9A3BYW
- ON6RF
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Event Overview:

- **Name of the Event:** SOTA Youth Field Day
- **Number of Participants:** 6 people (2 experienced, 4 beginners)
- **Level of Experience:** Beginners who just got their licenses, with two experienced participants to guide them.
- **Duration:** 30 hours (2 days with overnight camping on the summit)
- **Location:** Easily accessible summit via cable car/public transport or a simple means of transportation.

Space Needed:

- **Radio Tent (4x4m):** For radio operation, equipped with tables, chairs, and logging equipment.
- **Larger Tent:** For non-radio needs, such as sleeping, dining, and relaxation.

Food:

- **Meals:** 3 meals a day:
 - Simple, easy-to-prepare or pre-cooked meals (e.g., pasta, rice-based meals).
 - Snacks and drinks for energy throughout the day.
- **Catering Equipment:** Portable stoves, pots, and utensils for meal preparation.

Budget:

- **Estimated Costs:** €500 (requires detailed budgeting based on location and supply costs).
 - **Expenses Include:**
 - Food for the duration of the event.
 - Camping equipment (if not already available).
 - Transportation costs for equipment and participants.
 - **Funding Sources:** Local radio society, participant contributions, potential sponsorship.

Materials and Equipment Needed:

- **Tents:**
 - 1 tent for radio operations.
 - 1 tent for sleeping and other needs.
- **Power Supply:**
 - Batteries for the radio equipment.
 - Solar panels for battery recharging.
- **Radio Equipment:**
 - HF radios, antennas, masts, cables, TRX (transceivers).
 - Antennas and other materials for satellite communication (if applicable).
 - Logging equipment: laptops, tablets, or paper logs.
- **Furniture:** Tables and chairs for the radio setup.
- **Camping Equipment:** Sleeping bags, camping beds.
- **Catering Equipment:** Cooking gear, portable stoves.
- **First Aid Kit:** Ensure the group is prepared for minor injuries or health issues.
- **HT Radios:** Participants should bring handheld radios, but extras should be provided if necessary.
- **Transportation:** A vehicle or van to carry equipment to the summit.

Organizer's Preparations:

- **Pre-event:**

- Announce the event and open registration for participants.
- Grocery shopping for food and supplies.
- Test all equipment before the event (batteries, radios, antennas).
- Recharge batteries and prepare solar panels.
- Ensure all necessary permits and authorizations for the location.
- Monitor weather conditions, and prepare a contingency plan.
- For satellite work, calculate satellite passes over the summit during the event.

What Participants Need to Bring:

- **Personal Items:**

- Sleeping bag, clothing (including extra underwear), and hygiene products.
- A backpack for personal items and water bottles.
- Optional: small portable radios or handheld transceivers (HTs).

Event Structure:

Pre-Event Preparation:

- **Day Before the Event:**

- Go to the summit in advance to do a test run with one radio.
- Ensure everything is working smoothly to guarantee a successful and enjoyable activation.

Day 1 (Morning - Arrival and Setup):

1. **Early Morning:**

- Meet at an agreed location.
- Pack all supplies and equipment into a transport vehicle and head to the summit.

2. **Arrival at the Summit:**

- Teach participants the basics of setting up a campsite:
 - Setting up the tents (radio tent and sleeping tent).
 - Ensuring proper positioning of the tents to protect from wind or adverse weather.

- **Activity:** Team-building exercise to establish the camp quickly and efficiently.

Day 1 (Afternoon - Radio Setup and Activation):

1. Lunch Break:

- Enjoy a simple meal to refuel before starting the radio activities.

2. Radio Station Setup:

- Show the participants how to set up the radio equipment:
 - Set up antennas and teach about orientation for optimal signal.
 - Connect radios, batteries, and logging equipment.
 - Basic tips for antenna placement and adjusting for various bands.
- **Activity:** Each participant assists in different parts of the station setup.

3. SOTA Activation (Afternoon - Early Evening):

- **Objective:** Help participants complete contacts on various bands and modes.
- Start with **Search & Pounce (S&P)** mode, where participants listen for signals and make contact.
 - Beginners will start with easier contacts, gaining confidence in operating the station.
- Once participants are comfortable, they can begin **Calling CQ** for SOTA activation.
 - Guide them through handling a pile-up, as it's almost guaranteed on a summit.
- **Backup Activities:**
 - For those waiting to operate the HF station, provide other activities like:
 - **Hiking** or exploring the summit.
 - **Geocaching** if the area supports it.
 - **Animal watching** or **nature exploration**.
 - **Stargazing** after dark (depending on weather).
- **Satellite Operations (Optional):**
 - Teach participants how to work SOTA via satellite, explaining how to track satellite passes and make contacts.

4. Dinner and Evening Activities:

- **Dinner:** Cook a simple meal together as a group.
- After dinner, relax and socialize around the campsite.
- **Night Activity:** Continue operating the HF station or satellite, giving participants the opportunity to make night-time contacts.

Day 2 (Morning - Pack Up and Departure):

1. Morning Activity:

- Clean up and pack away all radio equipment and antennas.
 - Ensure all logging is completed and saved.
 - Review the basics of how the station was disassembled for future reference.
2. **Camp Pack-Up:**
 - Pack up tents, clean the site, and ensure no trash is left behind.
 - Make sure the camp area is left better than it was found.
 3. **Departure from Summit:**
 - Travel back down the summit together, reflecting on the weekend's achievements.

Learning Objectives:

- Teach participants how to properly set up a ham radio station for SOTA activation.
 - Provide hands-on experience with antenna setup, radio operation, and logging.
 - Help beginners gain confidence in making contacts, including handling pile-ups and calling CQ.
 - Encourage teamwork through shared camp setup and maintenance activities.
 - Introduce satellite communications as an additional fun and educational activity.
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