



The Winter Field Association Presents
Winter Field Day 2024

January 27th - 28th

Starts 1900 UTC Saturday January 27th
Ends 18:59 UTC Sunday January 28th

Winter Field Day is brought to you by the Winter Field Day Association, a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization with support from the following:

Icom America, a world leader in the amateur radio market, makes amateur radios for use in long-range (HF) and short-range (VHF, UHF) communications. Icom, for the love of ham radio.

ClubGearOnline.com is a graphic design company specializing in ham radio-related products, including band plan charts, clothing, and gifts. ClubGearOnline.com is the largest designer of Parks On The Air merchandise.

AJKservices.com is the website designer for Winter Field Day. AJK Consulting Services are technology problem solvers providing IT, electronics, and engineering services.

Greetings,

At the Winter Field Day Association, our mission is to encourage emergency operating preparedness during the winter months when the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards may present unique operational challenges.

Each year, we sponsor the Winter Field Day Exercise to encourage you to test your emergency preparedness capabilities in various conditions and push yourself to new levels. Operating out in the field, away from the comforts of home, is the best way to increase your preparedness for disasters and improve your operating skills in subpar conditions.

WFD is a learning experience, and we hope at the end of this year's WFD exercise, you will feel more confident about your ability to adapt and overcome adverse weather conditions. Please read through the rules thoroughly. If you have questions, contact us on our website for clarification.

To be clear, WFD is an EMCOM exercise, so don't get too hung up on our rules. At the end of the day, your total points don't matter. What you learn during WFD and your ability to adapt and overcome sudden obstacles will help you during unexpected emergencies. As we continue with another year of the WFD exercise, we want to encourage participants not to chase the contacts or the points but to test their abilities and equipment. If you want to exchange signal reports, please give each other accurate information so the other station knows how well their station is working.

One thing you will notice this year is our "Bonus Points" have changed to "Objectives." These rotating objectives will change slightly from year to year. One of your goals should be to achieve as many objectives as possible during the event.

Finally, have fun with the Winter Field Day, talk about the temperature, meet new friends, and make memories as you continue to enhance your skills as an amateur radio operator.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to hearing you on the air in 2024!

Sincerely,

WFDA

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Notable Guidelines for Winter Field Day 2024

- All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.
- All logs must be in ADIF or Cabrillo format and submitted online at www.winterfieldday.com
- Mexico stations should use MX as their location identifier.
- Bonuses are now listed as objectives and are recorded separately.
- Multiple transmitters are allowed to operate on the same band/mode at the same time.

Objective: To set up an amateur radio field station and successfully make multiple contacts. Successful participants are those who can set up their equipment and correctly log the designated exchange during the operational period explained below. All participants are encouraged to complete as many objectives as possible and submit a log of stations worked.

Eligibility & Identifier: All licensed amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate in the emergency communications exercise known as Winter Field Day. Radio operators in the United States and Canada will use the designated location identifiers the ARRL and RAC field organizations set up. Operators in Mexico will use MX as their location identifier, and all other operators outside of North America will use DX as the location identifier.

Operational Period: Winter Field Day is held the last full weekend in January. For 2024, it will be held on January 27th and 28th. The 24-hour operational period starts at 1900 UTC on Saturday, the 27th, and ends at 18:59 UTC on Sunday, the 28th. Stations may begin setting up no earlier than 19:00 UTC (2 pm EST) on the Friday before. However, cumulative set-up time shall not exceed 12 hours.

Class: your class is a number designated by the number of transceivers at your location that are capable of transmitting simultaneously. 1,2,3,4, etc. This means you have the people needed to operate the number of transmitters you choose. Don't count a transceiver if it has to be left unattended in order to make contacts on another.

Categories: A WFD operation, regardless of the number of stations operating under one call sign, must be in the same physical location. All station equipment, including antennas, feed lines, and accessories used, must be located within a circular area whose diameter does not exceed 1,000 feet (300m).

You must choose which category you are going to operate in. If operating as a group under one call sign, all stations in your entry must fit the category you choose.

The categories are:

H = Home station: is defined as any station participating from their permanent livable residence or within 500ft of their Home regardless of operating inside or outside.

I = Indoor station: is defined as any station operating away from Home but from inside an insulated, weather-protected building or structure on a permanent foundation. Indoor stations typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, and running water. Church, EOCs, a club shack, a cabin, and community centers are all examples of an Indoor station.

O = Outdoor station: Outdoor stations operate from a partly or fully exposed building or shelter that does not typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, or running water available. Operating from a picnic table, park pavilion, tents, or under pop-up canopies are all places that could be considered Outdoor. These are locations where you may have to provide your own heat source and/or protection from the elements.

M = Mobile / Mobile Stationary: These stations are defined as operations from a mobile or potentially mobile structure like an RV, car, van, sailboat, cargo trailer, mobile EOC, ETC. These are operating positions that may offer some sort of built-in heating/cooling. Mobile Stations do not have to be mobile during the event. They are defined as having the ability to be mobile should it be necessary to move during the event. RVs and Cargo trailers with external antennas set up are still considered Mobile.

Exchange & Additional Information: The designated Winter Field Day exchange is your call sign, your Class and Category, and your location identifier. US and Canadian stations will use the ARRL / RAC Section as designated by those organizations. Mexico stations will use MX, and all other stations outside of the US will use DX. The goal is to copy and record the full exchange accurately. Because we use the Exchange as a cross reference when looking at the logs, your Class, Category, and Identifiers must remain the same throughout the whole event. If your location changes sections during the event, such as a long-haul trucker, your section is the first section you made a contact from. Note: Signal reports and other additional information are not a required part of the exchange; however, it is encouraged to practice exchanging additional information, which may include- signal reports, temperature, weather conditions, antenna configurations, etc. In an emergency, you may be asked to relay anything from a list of supplies to GPS coordinates. Collecting and correctly copying down this information is an important skill that should be practiced during Winter Field Day.

Bands: All Amateur bands may be used except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. To qualify as a band worked, at least 1 valid, two-way QSO must have taken place on the said band during the contest.

Modes: All modes, CW, Phone, and Digital, may be used. CW and Phone include SSB, AM, FM, DMR, C4FM, etc. If the end result is voice, it's Phone. Digital includes PSK, RTTY, Olivia, Packet, SSTV, ATV, JS8Call, and other soundcard modes except for FT4 & FT8. If the end result is text or a picture, it's digital.

QSO Points: Phone contacts count as one point each, and all CW and digital modes count as 2 points each. Logging incorrect data will be penalized by two points for each missed exchange or call sign. Duplicate contacts (same call, band, and mode) will not be counted nor penalized.

Point Multipliers:

The total number of points will be multiplied by two numbers. The first number is the Power Output Multiplier of 1 or 2 and the second number will be the Band / Mode Multiplier.

Power Output Multipliers: QRP stations are defined by transmitting less than 5 watts on CW or 10 watts on phone and will get a multiplier of 2. All other stations have a multiplier of 1. The maximum permitted power is 100 watts measured from the output of the final amplifier.

Band / Mode Multipliers: Each mode worked on each band counts as 1 multiplier. If you worked both CW and Phone on 20 & 40 meters, your total multiplier would be 4. If you operated CW and Phone on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters, CW and PSK31 on 20m, FM on 2 meters & 440 you would have a total multiplier of 12x.

Calculating Points: Scores are based on the total number of QSO points x Power Output Multiplier x Band / Mode Multiplier.

$$\text{Total Score} = (\# \text{ of QSOs} \times \text{PO}_{\text{MX}} \text{ B/M}_{\text{M}})$$

Additional Objectives:

More than points, achieving objectives should be your primary goal during WFD, these objectives, combined with your own, should be your main focus during the exercise.

Operate 100% on alternative power: This means any power not connected to the commercial power grid. Generators, batteries, solar power, and wind are all possible alternative power sources. Batteries in use should only be recharged using alternate power. When not in use, batteries may be charged by any means available. WFD stations should run all station equipment, accessories, lights, heaters, etc., from the alternate power source, except the logging-only computer, which may be connected to the power grid or any power source available. . If you use a laptop for Digital modes, this should not be connected to the power grid but should also be powered by batteries.

Operate away from Home: Get out of the house and operate from any other location more than a 1 mile from your home. Do you have the ability to walk into any shelter, parking garage, hospital, or community center and set up a portable Amateur radio station? Now is the time to start planning what you will do if your home location is destroyed during an emergency.

Deploy multiple Antennas: Pre-installed antennas are defined as any antenna attached to anything that could be used day to day or was set up before the WFD set-up time. This includes home antennas, antennas installed on vehicles, cargo trailers, and RVs, or, any other antenna that would be considered permanently installed. Now ignore all pre-installed antennas and deploy multiple antennas; this could be a dipole and a hex beam or an EFHW and a 2meter J-pole. No matter how you do it. Are you capable of deploying multiple antennas for different bands?

Make a Satellite contact¹: See the appendix below for more information on satellite contacts.

Operate on at least six different bands: Conditions may change throughout an event. Can you operate HF, VHF, and UHF? Do you ever use 1.25 meters (220)? It's a great band for local emergencies.

Send and receive at least 1 Winlink email: Winlink has been proven to be useful during emergencies and is a digital mode.

Operate 6 continuous hours during the event: Emergencies may last days or even weeks. If you are operating alone or in shifts, you may be expected to man a radio station between 4-12 hours. Are you able to sit and operate of extended periods of time with enough backup power? This does not necessary mean you are making contacts the whole time, but you are in front of the radio, monitoring and ready to pick up a microphone if you were called.

Objectives are not included in your final score. You do not need to place them in the soapbox. When you submit your log, we will ask you to select your completed objectives. Additional Objectives are percentage-based. These will be displayed separately in the WFD Results.

Miscellaneous Statements:

- All rules governing amateur radio at your location must be observed throughout the event.
- All participants submitting a single entry must be using one callsign.
- Any mode used must be able to fully transmit the exchange intact and must be able to pass additional information.
- Stations can only be worked once per band, per mode.
- Entrants may not count for QSO credit any contact with anyone who is or was a participant in their WFD operation or is present at their WFD location.
- QSOs may only be solicited during the contest and only via the airwaves. The use of spotting clusters, the RBN, APRS, and Winlink to solicit contacts will be allowed during the contest.
- Cross-band contacts are not permitted (satellite QSOs cross-band contacts are exempted).
- No repeater contacts are allowed, including DMR, that may be transmitted through a repeater on the receiving end.

Submitting a Log

To receive a certificate, all logs must be submitted on our website by filling in the form and uploading a Cabrillo log or ADIF file containing the proper exchange data. Logs must be submitted by 11:59 UTC on March 1st to be considered. Late entries cannot be accepted. If you find an error in log after submitting, just correct your log and resubmit. The corrected version will replace the original you submitted.

You must submit your entries at www.winterfieldday.org

Once you click submit a log, you will receive a confirmation email.

All official results will be posted on the Winter Field Day website.

Appendix

LSatellite QSOs do not count as a regular QSOs credit. Satellite contacts do not count as a new band / mode multiplier. Adding a satellite transmitter station does not increase or count toward the number of transmitters used to decide your category.

A simple CQ is sufficient. The designated WFD exchange does not and should not be used. Satellite QSOs follow a different protocol. You should be prepared to give a signal report and your Grid Square to the other station. The other station will likely not be a WFD participant, and will want a confirmation of the contact afterward. Please be considerate and comply.

The following format is provided as an example. However, we can also accept an ADIF file. Just answer the questions on the website and upload the ADIF file.

Cabrillo Formatting Example

Notes: There MUST be at LEAST one space between fields. Each line in the log must end with a carriage return and line feed. There must be at least one space following a colon in a line. The frequency for HF must be in kilohertz rounded to the nearest kilohertz. 3753 is fine, 3753.20 is not. Frequencies above 50 MHz are specified as the band. Examples: 50, 70, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1.2G, 2.3G, 3.4G, 5.7G, 10G, 24G, etc.

The mode should be one of the valid Cabrillo modes. CW, PH, FM, RY, DG. It is preferred that you use RY or DG.

If your logging software is NOT connected to your radio, any in-band frequency is fine. Date and times need to be in UTC and do not need to be exactly accurate.

Additional notes in the soapbox area are unnecessary and can be left blank. We will send you a link where you can leave comments. All comments are reviewed by the team after the event and used to improve the contest for next year.

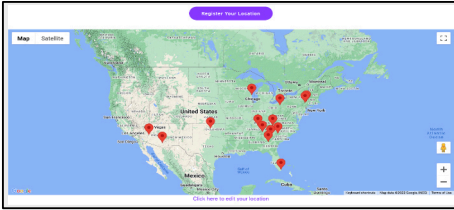
The callsign in the file name for the log MUST be the same as the callsign USED in the contest. If your event call is N8LOG, make sure your file name is N8LOG.log or N8LOG.txt

The main body **must** follow this format:

START-OF-LOG: 3.0
LOCATION: [WTX](#) (Arrl Section) or [MX](#) or [DX](#)
CALLSIGN: [N8LOG](#)
CLUB: [K4ARC - Riverdale ARC](#)
CONTEST: [WFD](#)
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: [SINGLE-OP](#) or [MULTI-OP](#)
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: [ASSISTED](#) or [NON-ASSITED](#)
CATEGORY-BAND: [ALL](#)
CATEGORY-MODE: [MIXED](#)
CATEGORY-POWER: [HIGH](#) or [LOW](#)
CATEGORY-STATION: [FIXED](#) or [MOBILE](#)
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: [ONE](#) or [TWO](#) or [UNLIMITED](#)
CLAIMED-SCORE: [xxxx](#) (your calculated total score including bonuses)
OPERATORS: [W1CALL](#), [W2CALL](#), [W3CALL](#), etc.
NAME: [Mike Smith](#) (contact person)
ADDRESS : [123 Main Street](#)
ADDRESS-CITY: [Anytown](#)
ADDRESS-STATE: [TN](#)
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: [13791](#)
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: [USA](#)
X-EXCHANGE: [1O](#)
SOAPBOX: [can be left blank](#)
EMAIL: [mike@gmail.com](#)
QSO: [3750 PH 2017-01-07 1911 N8LOG 1O OH WB9XH IL](#)
QSO: [14070 DI 2017-01-07 2131 N8LOG 1O OH K6XXX14I LA](#)

END-OF-LOG: (add a space after the colon)

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Best practices for adding your WFD location to our map system.

When you know where you will be operating from and what category you will fall under, consider adding your location to our map. If you are operating from a public site and the general public is invited to stop, this is an excellent way to publicize your location.

Follow these general guidelines to get the most out of the WFD location map.

Get your GPS coordinates: The mapping system will ask you for your GPS coordinates. To get your coordinates, go to www.google.com/maps and zoom in on the location you will be operating from. Right-click on the map, and it will give you the Latitude and Longitude. Copy these down.

Required Questions:

Email Address: Provide an email you can access. We will send you a confirmation email with a link in it. This link allows you to edit your site in the future if needed.

Your Name: This is your first and last name. Do not enter your club name in this area.

Your Call Sign: This is your personal call sign. It does not mean, you are going to be using this call sign for Winter Field Day.

Category: Select your Category from the list. If you are unsure what category you are in, pick the one you think you might fall under.

Latitude & Longitude: Add the GPS coordinates for your location. The GPS coordinates tell the mapping system where to place the pin on the map. Try to be as accurate as possible.

Is this site for a Club & Open for visitors? If either of these apply, toggle on additional information by sliding them to the right. When filling out additional information, keep in mind some of the points on the next page.

After you have filled out as much information as you can provide, click the blue submit button and you will see a Green confirmation message.

Location Submission Received

You will also receive an email from webmaster. Keep this email as it will let you update your information if you need to do so.

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Additional Information for Public Sites

To best promote your public site, consider the following.

Directions: Is your location hard to find? Consider adding directions or a description of the place. Do they need to know that they have to turn down the 2nd dirt road? Are you at the pavilion at the top of the hill? Do you have a campsite number or other identifying feature that will let people know they are in the right place? Be sure to add all of these details to your page.

Set up and operating times: Let people know when you will arrive and leave. When is the best time for people to visit? Are you spending the night? Will you have more people available to be ambassadors during the day? Are they welcome to stay for dinner? Would you like advanced notice if someone wants to stop by?

Contact information: A talk in frequency is great, but what if an unlicensed person wants to visit and see what WFD is all about? Do you have an email or phone number of a person they can contact? How good is the cell phone service where you will be operating from? Do you have a website or Facebook page with additional information on how they can get a hold of you before or during the event?

Two to three paragraphs of what is happening at your WFD location, not only helps the public find you, it helps them make an informed decision on when to stop by and what to do if they can't find the location. It also helps us here at the Winter Field Day Association. We look at the participation levels and use them to set future objectives. Knowing how you operate your WFD station helps us promote the event and make improvements each year. Thanks for your participation!



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I change my location on the map?

A: When you registered your location on the map, you received an email from webmaster@winterfieldday.org. The subject line was [WFDA] Location Submission. The last line of the email says click here to edit your entry. You can change or modify any field from your original registration using that link.

Q: Why isn't FT8 allowed for WFD?

A: We set our objectives around ensuring that WFD remains an exercise in emergency communications. Though we recognize FT8 is a legitimate digital mode, it cannot pass even simple emergency traffic. WFD is not about how many contacts you make or the points at the end of the day. It's about whether or not you can successfully relay emergency information back and forth in adverse conditions. That single concept, along with our core principles, is what we use to develop the objectives and guidelines for the WFD event. While many people enjoy FT8, and it may help improve your digital skills, we encourage you to use those skills to practice passing information back and forth using other digital methods during WFD.

Q: What do I do if I discover an error after I submit my log?

A: When you submit your log, you will receive a confirmation email. If you find an error after submitting your log, return to the submission page and resubmit a new log. The new log will overwrite the old one. You can only change your log until 11:59 UTC on March 1st. We shut down the submission page at that point, and all logs become final.

Q: What category should I use?

A: Which category you use is very discretionary. You will not receive any penalties if you use the wrong category. Follow the general guidelines in the rules while keeping in mind the spirit of the event. WFD is about pushing yourself to new limits. Suppose you are operating in a communications trailer. In that case, that might be considered Mobile, but if you are within walking distance of a club member's house. You have all the conveniences of home, like nearby heat, running water, appliances to heat up chili, or a couch to chill on during your downtime; you really should not consider yourself an Outdoor or Mobile station. That same communications trailer could be just as quickly parked in a parking lot somewhere, and now you have more obstacles to overcome.