WHY YOU SHOULD GIVE AMATEUR RADIO A TRY

Make Global Connections

Meet great people all over the world, from every walk of life and every generation. Over 2 million smart and inspiring people are on the amateur airwaves and eager to talk to you!

Get Involved in Public Service

Community events, such as parades and road races, require radio communications along their routes for logistic support, scoring, and first aid.

Explore Technology

Discover how radio works by building projects and experimenting. Build a simple radio receiver and make a wire antenna to listen for far-away signals.

Compete & Win

From "foxhunting" for hidden radio signals to on-the-air contests for awards, amateur radio offers many challenging & fun ways to compete.

Make a Difference

When cell phones, the internet, and other systems are down, amateur radio still gets the message out. It is a vital service that can save lives when regular communication systems fail.

Expand Your World

Talk through satellites and with astronauts on board the International Space Station.

Get Creative

Design, build, and test your gear, whether from scratch or a kit. Challenge yourself to make a one-of-a-kind electronic project.

Develop New Skills

Don't be afraid to try new things and learn new skills. Through amateur radio, you can develop communication skills to improve your career, friendships, and life!

Enjoy the Great Outdoors

Get outside and on the air or take a hike to make contacts on the summit of a mountain.

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. You can use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the internet or cell phones. It's fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.

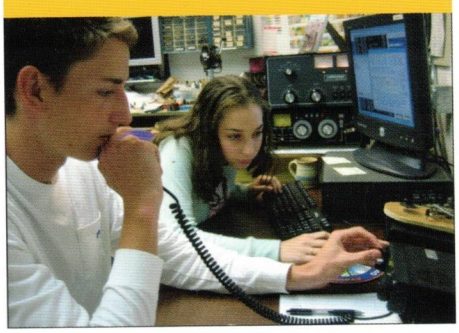
Who are Hams?

There's no one type of person who becomes a "ham"—from doctors to students to celebrities, all ages and lifestyles are linked by their interest in wireless communications and technology.

Get Started — Get Licensed!

There are three classes of amateur radio licenses in the US—Technician, General, and Amateur Extra, each with increasing airwave privileges. The Technician-class license is the entry-level license and requires passing an exam with 35 questions on radio theory, regulations, and operating practices.

With this license, you can communicate locally and often throughout North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF (also called "shortwave") bands used for international communications.



Want to Learn More? Discover the ARRL Community

ARRL is the national membership association for amateur radio operators. We provide opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve your local community. No other organization works harder than ARRL to promote and protect amateur radio!

ARRL has over 100 years of experience supporting hams in pursuing their interest in amateur radio. Visit us today at **www.arrl.org/new-ham-resources**.

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