FLORIDA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
April 17-20, 2026

RULES

1. **Objective**. To encourage ham radio operators to visit Florida State Parks and experience the fun of Parks-on-the-Air activations. This is a fun contest only – the rules are minimal, the scoring is simple, and the main reward is simply the fun of getting on the air in a Florida State Park. The entire process is largely based on the honor system (although we may cross-check logs for the top activators).

2. **Contest Period**: 8:00am EDT, April 17 2026, through 7:59pm EDT, April 20, 2026 (i.e., 1200 UTC, April 17, to 2359 UTC, April 20). **OPERATING HOURS** are restricted to 8 am to 8 pm EDT each day. **No operations are allowed between 8pm and 8 am EDT the following day**. Operating hours are subject to park rules (e.g.,

3. **Locations**:

   3.1. Florida State Parks as shown on the published, [Official Florida State Parks on the Air List](#)

   3.2. The Florida State park must be open to the public on the days and hours of this event.   Logs submitted from a closed park will be rejected. It's the operator's responsibility to check and make sure the Florida State Park is open before you head out.

   3.3. Use POTA US-xxxx for logging.

   3.4. Activators and all their equipment must be inside the park boundaries. In the case of a trail or a designated river, the activator must be within 30.5 meters (100ft) from the edge of the trail or river.

   3.5. Activator use of remote stations and or repeaters is not permitted.

   3.6. There is no limit to how many individual stations can be operating from any given park, subject to courtesy, good operating practices and not interfering with each other

   3.7. Operators are encouraged to fan out across the state to activate as many parks as possible (100 bonus points per park activated),

   3.8. **Special Rule for San Pedro Underwater Preserve.** Due to the sensitive nature of the San Pedro Underwater Preserve, the "park boundary" for the purposes of this contest are defined as a circle with a radius of 0.75 (3/4) miles, centered at 24°51.802'N, 80°40.795'W (the site of the wreck). You must be within this circle for your activation to count. Any activators seeking to operate from within this State Park site must abide by ALL applicable boating,

mooring, and Florida State Park Service rules. Stay safe, do not interfere with the divers and other boaters around the wreck.

4.   **Modes, Bands, and Exchange**:

4.1.   Since this is technically a "contest," operations on the WARC bands (12, 17, 30 and 60m) are not permitted. Bands above 6m are excluded (no V/UHF allowed).

4.2.   Bands allowed for the contest are: 160, 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6m.

4.3.   All modes of operation are permitted. Each band/mode/operator counts as a separate contact. Example: Contacting K4AAA at US-1857 (Don Pedro Island State Park) on CW and then again on SSB counts as two contacts. Likewise, contacting K4AAA at US-2171 and K4BBB at US-2171 counts as two contacts.

4.4.   Observe all standard band plans.

4.5.   FT8 and other digital modes (PSK, RTTY) are permitted. Each mode (FT8, FT4, RTTY, etc.) counts as a separate contact. Fully automated QSOs are prohibited: Each contact must include direct action by both operators making the contact.

4.6.   Exchange

4.6.1. Activators will transmit merely a signal report, with or without the park identifier. E.g., "You are 59 in park US-1857" or "UR 599 BK"

4.6.2. Hunters should transmit a signal report and state. E.g., "You are 59 in Texas" or "599 TX TX BK". Foreign stations use "DX" for the state.

4.6.3. For FT8/FT4, use the standard exchange of signal strength and grid.

5.   **Entry Classes**.

5.1.   Operator Class:

5.1.1. For activators in Florida, there are only 2 operator classes

5.1.1.1. **Single Operator Class**. Single operator activator is one individual who makes a successful activation (10 or more contacts) from a Florida state park in the official Florida State Park List during the contest period. This is a single operator, single station activity with one band/mode signal on the air at any given time. A youth operator assistant (licensed or unlicensed) is allowed and encouraged to be used by a single operator and must make one QSO to qualify.

5.1.1.2. **Club Station.** A "club" is two or more persons operating with an FCC registered club call sign and can be using multiple transmitters (no limit to number). All club operators can only operate from a single park at any one time. Club stations may move to other parks during the contest period but all club operators must be in the same park for each separate park activation. Club station operators participating in an activation at the park may NOT use their personal call signs to make contacts with the club station. This is a multi-operator, multi-station club activity.

5.1.1.3. Team Station. A team is two or more persons operating physically next to each other at a single park and sharing a single transceiver. Each operator logs their contacts individually, and normally each operator will have an identical set of contacts (such as when using the standard POTA "stand by for second operator" procedure). Each team operator is considered as a **Single Operator Class** for scoring in this contest and must submit their individual log.

5.1.2. For **Hunters** there is only one operator class.

5.2. Power: There are two power classes: Low Power (100W or less) and QRP (10W or less) in any mode (SSB, CW, Digital). "QRP" means that **all contacts** at all parks meet the QRP power limits. Both designations are on the honor system.

6. **Scoring**.

6.1. For Florida park activators:

6.1.1. **Base Score** = sum of the scores from each park, with the score from each park being 1 point for each SSB or Digital QSO and 2 points for each CW QSO.

6.1.2. **Activated Park** = 10 or more QSOs must be made from the park to consider it activated.

6.1.3. There are **no multipliers** and **three bonuses** available. They are intended to encourage activations of multiple parks and to involve youth operators or assistants in the POTA experience. To the Base Score, apply the following:

"Per Park Bonus": 100 points for each park activated during the entire event. May only be claimed once for any given park regardless of how many times you activated that park.

"First Time Activator" Bonus: 100 points if a successful activation was the first time the activator ever activated any POTA entity. Only one bonus may be claimed for the contest.

"Youth Operator" Bonus: 100 points if you had a youth (under 18 years of age) operator or assistant with you at the park during an activation of that park. The youth may be licensed or unlicensed. ONLY one bonus can be claimed one time during the entire event. Single Operator Class can claim this bonus if they have a youth "assistant" working with them at the park during an activation. The youth operator must complete at least one QSO to qualify for the bonus.

6.1.4. Examples:

6.1.4.1. K4AAA operates from one park, makes 40 SSB and 10 CW contacts. Base Score = (40 x 1) + (10 x 2) = 60 points. This was his first POTA activation and he only activated the one park. He gets the 100 point bonus for first time activator and the 100 point bonus for the one park worked. His total score is 60 + 100 +100 = 260 points.

6.1.4.2. K4AAA operates from three different parks during the contest period. He makes a total of 60 SSB and 20 CW contacts combined for all 3 parks. Base Score = (60 x 1) + (20 x 2) = 100 points. His park bonus score is (100 x 3) = 300 points. He had no youth operator and was a seasoned POTA activator. His total score is 100 + 300 = 400 points.

6.2. For park hunters:

6.2.1. Hunters are not required to register in advance or to submit logs. Your call signs, the number of QSOs made, and the number of Florida parks contacted will be tabulated from all of the activator logs received for the contest.

6.2.2. There are no bonuses available for the hunter class. Hunters have no restrictions on power.

6.3. The activator scoring process is illustrated on the worksheet on the fspota.org website. However, the actual score submissions will be done online here: https://fspota.org/logging/

7. **Log Submission**.

7.1. Logs are due within 14 days of the close of the contest (i.e., NLT 2359 UTC, May 4, 2026). **ONLY** ADIF formatted logs will be accepted for this contest.

7.2. One separate log is required for each park activated. NO multiple activation log files will be accepted.

7.3.   ALL times must be recorded in UTC….NO local times allowed!

7.4.   ADIF format must conform to the recommended POTA log format.

7.5.   For activators, there is a simple, two-step process:

7.5.1.   Step 1: Prepare your log(s) for submission. (1) You must indicate the park you activated in a filename formatted as for POTA: **CALL@USPARK_ID-DATE** (ex. W1RCP@US-2195-20260418)

7.5.2.   Step 2: Go to the logging page on the fspota.org website and complete the information form to claim the applicable bonuses, and upload the log(s). The instructions are self explanatory.

7.5.3.   **One ADIF format log file must be submitted for each park activated. Combined log files for multiple parks will not be accepted.**

7.5.4.   If you encounter any difficulties in preparing the logs or uploading them, we have several organizers who are available to help. Contact anyone on this list: info@fspota.org.

7.5.5.   Activators are also encouraged to submit their ADIF logs to POTA.app for the usual credits there.

7.6.   For hunters, there is no need to submit a log. Your score will be calculated automatically from the submitted activator logs.

7.7.   Since this is just a fun event based on the honor system, logs and scores will generally be accepted as submitted, except that the top scorers in each category may have their logs cross-checked, and the organizers reserve the right to check any other log just for the fun of it.

7.8.   If any of the automatically generated logs or scores do not match your calculations, please contact info@fspota.org and we will work with you to resolve the issue.

8.   **Awards**

8.1.   Within each operating class, the top 3 scores in each of several categories will receive a recognition on our website when the event results are published indicating your standing in the event. As described above, there are SEVEN award categories among the two operating classes:

8.1.1.   Florida Activator – Individual – Single-Park -- LOW Power
8.1.2.   Florida Activator – Individual – Single-Park – QRP
8.1.3.   Florida Activator – Individual – Multi-Park – LOW Power
8.1.4.   Florida Activator – Individual – Multi-Park – QRP
8.1.5.   Florida Activator – Club - LOW Power

8.1.6. Florida Activator – Club - QRP

8.1.7. Hunters

8.2. Every station participating in the event will have their scores tabulated and reported on the website results page.

9. **Miscellaneous**.

9.1. Use of spotting networks is permitted. In particular, Florida parks will be spotted on the POTA.app website.

9.2. By participating in this contest, you agree to the use of your name, call sign, score, and all other publicly available information in connection with the contest or otherwise.

9.3. Observe all park rules. If you intend to use a park pavilion, be sure to follow the park's requirements for reservations, payment, etc. Only activate Florida Parks that are open to the public.

9.4. Obey all instructions from park officials. If a park ranger asks you to relocate, keep the noise down, turn off the lights, whatever, please comply.

9.5. Be courteous to all visitors and take time out to explain the POTA program and how ham radio operates. This is a great opportunity to promote our hobby and if history holds true to form, lots of people will wonder what you're doing and will want to talk about it.

9.6. The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club event managers reserve the right to arbitrate any issues regarding these rules and all decisions are final and binding on participants. Remember….we are doing this to HAVE FUN! SO, HAVE FUN.

Attachments:

1. Official Florida Parks List
2. Score Calculator Worksheet
3. Frequently Asked Questions