FLORIDA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
April 16-19, 2027

RULES V 1.4 10-27-26

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 event 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. **Event Period**: 8:00am EDT, April 16 2027, through 7:59pm EDT, April 19, 2026 (i.e., 1200 UTC, April 16, to 2359 UTC, April 19). **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. All Parks within the state of Florida with a POTA park number as shown on the published list, example US-1909. Reference the Parks on the Air list and Parks on the Air Map

    3.2. The Florida Park must be open to the public on the days and hours of this event and have a POTA park number listed on the POTA.app website. Operator(s) and equipment must be within the park boundaries and within the state of Florida 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 park number for logging.

    3.4. Activators and all their equipment must be inside the park boundaries and within the state of Florida. 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 (50 bonus points per park activated),

4. **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 event 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.

5. Multi Park Reference, Parks Within Parks, 2-fers…

5.1. We will follow the POTA.app rules for activation. Here is the POTA.app Multi Park References. Use the link to familiarize yourself with the rules. Note: Borders shared by neighboring parks are NOT valid for multi-park activation! If you straddle a border you are not 100% inside either park and neither can be considered valid.

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

6.1. Operations on the WARC bands (12, 17, 30 and 60m) are not permitted. Bands above 6m are excluded (no V/UHF allowed).

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

6.3. 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.

6.4. Observe all standard band plans.

6.5. 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.

6.6. Exchange

6.6.1. 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”

6.6.2. 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.

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

7. **Entry Classes**.

7.1. Operator Class:

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

7.1.1.1. **Single Operator Class**. Single operator activator is one individual who makes a successful activation (10 or more

contacts) from a Florida Park with a US-XXXX park number during the event 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.

7.1.1.2. **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 event 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.

7.1.1.3. Team Station (pass the mic). 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 event and must submit their individual log.

7.1.1.4. Each operator class will be further broken down by single and multi park, power level and club activation. See awards section.

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

7.2. 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.

8. **Scoring**.

8.1. For Florida Park activators:

8.1.1. **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.

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

8.1.3. 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": 50 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 event.

"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.

8.1.4. Examples:

8.1.4.1. 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 50 point bonus for the one park worked. His total score is 60 + 100 + 50 = 210 points.

8.1.4.2. K4AAA operates from three different parks during the event 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 50 x 3) = 150 points. He had no youth operator and was a seasoned POTA activator. His total score is 100 + 150 = 250 points.

8.2. For park hunters:

8.2.1. 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 event.

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

8.3. 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/

9. **Log Submission**.

9.1. Logs are due within 14 days of the close of the event (i.e., NLT 2359 UTC, May 3, 2027). **ONLY** ADIF formatted logs will be accepted for this event.

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

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

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

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

9.5.1. Step 1: Prepare your log(s) for submission. (1) You must indicate the park you activated in a filename formatted as for POTA: **CALL@US-PARK_ID-DATE** (ex.W1RCP@US-2195-20260418.adif) **If the file name is not in this format you will need to manually rename the file to the required format**

9.5.2. Required fields in ADIF file, Reference POTA.app requirements
<STATION_CALLSIGN> or <OPERATOR>Club/group logs must include both <STATION_CALLSIGN> AND <OPERATOR> fields for each QSO, with the <STATION_CALLSIGN> field containing the club or group's callsign. Individual logs should contain the same call in both fields or include only one of the fields
<CALL>, The call sign of the hunter
<QSO_DATE>, The date of the QSO in UTC.
<TIME_ON>, The time of the QSO in UTC.
<BAND>, The band you were operating on for the QSO
<MODE> or <SUBMODE>

9.5.3. 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.

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

9.5.5. 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.

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

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

9.7. 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.

9.8. 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.

10. Awards

10.1. 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:

10.1.1. Florida Activator – Individual – Single-Park -- LOW Power
10.1.2. Florida Activator – Individual – Single-Park – QRP
10.1.3. Florida Activator – Individual – Multi-Park – LOW Power
10.1.4. Florida Activator – Individual – Multi-Park – QRP
10.1.5. Florida Activator – Club - LOW Power
10.1.6. Florida Activator – Club - QRP
10.1.7. Hunters

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

11. **Miscellaneous**.

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

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

11.3. 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.

11.4. 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.

11.5. 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.

11.6. 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. Find a Florida Park to activate POTA Map, POTA Park List
2. Score Calculator Worksheet
3. Frequently Asked Questions