

How many operators can be in one park at the same time?

The simple answer is...it depends. It depends on the size of the park and the ability of contestants to operate on different bands and modes and to use band filters to minimize QRM. Everyone needs to be cooperative and be good, courteous operators. Start by posting your planned activation date, time, and location to the pota.app to make your planned activations known to others and to spot yourself when activating. Operators are encouraged to fan out across the state to activate as many parks as possible (100 bonus points per park activated), rather than bunching up at popular parks. This will be appreciated and help us reach the goal of having all the Florida State parks activated during the contest period.

Our club plans to activate 3 parks during the contest. Can we do all 3 at the same time?

NO. Only one park can be activated at a time, and ALL club operators must be within the boundaries of that park and using the club's call sign. Period. Club members may NOT use their personal call signs to make contacts with the club station during the contest.

Can our Club claim the First Time Activator bonus of 100 points?

YES. Club's are eligible to claim this bonus if it is the first time that a club call sign has been used to activate a Florida park. This can easily be verified by checking the pota.app website for your club's call sign activation history.

How should our club submit the log for a Club Station activation?

Submit your log as one club station log using the club call sign, park number, and activation date in the file name. If you use multiple logs from different operators participating in the club's activation, it is the club's responsibility to combine all such separate logs into just one .adi file for submission. Be sure that the STATION_CALLSIGN field for each claimed QSO is the club's call sign. Each individual operator should identify themselves in the log using the OPERATOR field. In that way, when the club submits their log to the pota.app website for national credit not only the club, but each individual operator, will get POTA credit for their activation QSOs. Individual operators participating with a club station may NOT submit individual logs to FLPOTA for credit in the contest. We will only count the club STATION_CALLSIGN contacts for contest activation credit.

I will be camping in the park overnight during the contest. Why can't I continue to make contacts for contest credit while in the camp overnight?

This would give campers an unfair contest advantage over those contestants who cannot or choose not to camp in the park. Hence, NO contest contacts will be credited between 8:00 pm and 7:59 am local time on each contest date. You may make POTA contacts during the night time hours for normal POTA credit; but NOT for contest credit.

If a park ranger refuses me entrance, asks me to relocate, not to hang anything from a tree or park infrastructure (post, fence, etc.), or to leave the park....must I comply?

Yes YOU MUST! Park Ranger enforcement of Florida State Park rules carries the weight of LAW. Not only that, but we want everyone to be respectful of our parks and each other during the contest. You MUST follow all directions from park rangers, ALWAYS.

If a park is listed on the State Parks website as being CLOSED, but I am able to use the parking lot at the park entrance, may I still operate from this park?

Simple answer...NO. If the park is listed as being closed on that day we will not score any QSOs from that park during the contest. Same applies to portions of a park that may be closed to the public. Please do not enter or operate from those locations either. The honor system applies here as we have no way of knowing exactly where you operated from within a park.

Why are park-to-park (P2P) contacts not being incentivized in the 2026 contest?

We decided to allow FTx operating modes to count as a data mode contacts for the contest. Customary logging software for such contacts does not provide for capturing the park number (SIG_INFO) of the contact. We did not want to disadvantage FTx operators by preventing them from acquiring extra contact points or bonus points that other mode operators could claim. Yes, we know there are "ways" to compare logs submitted and by matching QSOs we could determine an FTx P2P contact. This being our first contest to administer, we have decided to keep it simple s.... (KISS).

What is the difference between a "Club" station and a "team effort"?

Only two operating classes are recognized for this contest: **Individual** and **Club**. A **Club** must operate under their club call sign (CALL). Each club member may log themselves as an operator (OPERATOR) under the club stations call sign; but for scoring purposes, only QSOs made by the club station call sign will be counted for

the club's score. A **Team Effort** is two or more individuals who get together and activate a park from the same park and the same time. This is a very common operating situation for couples, families, and good friends who just want to share the experience together. For contest purposes, each team member, operates as an **Individual** class operator and must submit a separate log to enter the contest for a score to be reported.

How are winners determined and recognized?

The top three scoring **Individual** and **Club** call sign operators will be recognized on our website by name and score achieved in each of the following sub-categories:

- Single Park Activation, LOW power and QRP
- Multiple Park Activations, LOW power and QRP
- **Club** Activations, LOW power and QRP

The top three **Hunter** class participants will be determined by review of all the submitted logs from activators. A .pdf certificate of recognition will be emailed to each winner. The website [results page](#) will also list all activator participants by call sign and score achieved. For 2026 we have decided to not offer certificates of participation beyond those given to the 21 winners defined above.

I live out of state. How can I participate in the contest?

You are more than welcome to visit Florida during the contest, operate from any of the parks on the Contest's [Official Parks list](#), and to submit a log or logs for those activations. Florida residency is not required to participate as an activator (**Individual** or **Club**) You just need to be physically located in a Florida park on the list. Out of State and DX **Hunters** are welcomed and encouraged. You do not need to register in advance or submit a log for contest credit. We will pull Hunter participation scores from a review of all activator logs submitted for the contest.

Is spotting and self-spotting allowed?

You bet. It is allowed and encouraged. Use the [POTA app](#) like normal to spot yourself and also spot yourself on our [flspota groups.io message service](#). We will not be tracking or posting spotting information on the website during the contest.