

Parks On The Air, 101

Most everything you always wanted to know

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POTA, Introduction

- Contact them at : parksontheair.com
- Create account at: <https://pota.app/>
- Started in early 2017 when the ARRL's National Parks on the Air special event ended
- So much fun, let's continue and expand
- Goal: contact and or activate as many POTA as you can
- International in scope
 - USA has 9772 parks
 - Canada has 6007 parks
 - England has 683 parks
 - North Korea no parks
- Impress your friends, spouse and family with awards
- POTA is a Special Event, not a contest
- Good learning for pileups
- Rag chewing

How does this work?

- There are 2 categories of operators: Activators and Hunters
- Activators operate portable from within POTA designated parks
- Hunters make contact with activators
- Also Park 2 Park contacts
- Each park has its own designator, USA parks are K, W, A, or N-XXXX
 - K-0034 is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Contacts on Voice, CW, Digital and smoke signal, all bands
- Not all parks are eligible

What qualifies as a Park for POTA

- All parks must be owned and operated by a State/Provincial or Federal/National agency.
- Does not include parks that have part/shared ownership, sponsorship, or are operated by private organizations or local governments
- To be considered for inclusion, the park must meet the above requirements and offer an informational website detailing current boundary maps.

Why do POTA?

- It is fun
- Collect awards
- Builds confidence in talking on HF
- Get over “Mike Fright”
- Non threatening learning experience
- Non competitive environment
- Can have a scripted or long response
- Not a contest but can be busy with pileups

How to get started

- As the hunter
- Open your account at <https://pota.app/>
- The home page is the spotting page.
 - Who is on the air.
 - What parks they are in.
 - What frequencies and modes they are operating on.

What next, as the Hunter

- Select the band
- Select the park to contact
- Tune to the frequency
- Answer the POTA CQ
- Start talking and make your contact
- POTA does not require a specific exchange in a QSO
 - Normally call sign and signal report
- Have a sip of your favorite beverage
- Repeat above
- Pat yourself on the back for a successful POTA day
- The activator records the contact and uploads it to POTA.

As the Activator

- Open your account at <https://pota.app/> and spot yourself
- Set up at the park, be within the boundary
- Start transmitting calling CQ
- Answer the CQs
- Insure you have a complete contact
- POTA does not require a specific exchange in a QSO
- Log the calls in an ADIF format
 - Minimum is date, time, frequency, band, and mode
- Submit the logs

Awards, Too Many to List

- Parks activated, many versions
- Parks Hunted
- Late Shift Activator Contacts
- Late Shift Hunter Contacts
- Park 2 Park
- Repeat Offender Activator, activate a park 20 times
- Repeat Offender Hunter, hunt a park 20 times

A Sample, Hold Your Applause

Arizona Agave

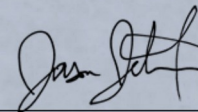


That
Paul A Sharp
KD8OPN

has submitted proof of working
100 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

100

Hunter Award



Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

12/22/2022

Date

A really good example! 1000

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid



That
Mark S. Crabtree
N8PEP

has submitted proof of working
1000 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

1000

Hunter Award

Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

10/24/2022

Date

Questions and Comments

- Go ahead and ask
- Our new VP has all of the answers