

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Park List

The event is called “Georgia Parks on the Air.” Are all POTA-entities in Georgia eligible for activation for the event?

There are 203 entities listed for Georgia on the POTA website. However, only the “state parks” (not federal sites, wildlife management areas, historic areas, etc.) are recognized as locations for this event. The State of Georgia’s list of “state parks” had to be modified a bit because some Georgia state parks aren't POTA entities (like Reynolds Mansion) and some POTA entities (like Jekyll Island) aren't state parks. That's how we got to 50. The official list of entities can be found here: <https://gaparks.org/parks-list-and-schedule>.

Attached to this FAQ is a checklist of all Georgia parks.

Activations

It looks like several parks will have multiple activators. How will that work?

Activators should use the same methods and techniques used at other events where there are multiple operators: coordinate the timing of operations, the placement of antennas, bands, modes, use of band-pass filters, and so on. Feel free to contact other activators in advance to make such arrangements.

There's a park close by that I'd like to activate, but someone has already signed up. What do I do?

Sign up and activate it! There will almost certainly be numerous bands and modes that are available. If the other operator is on 20 meters, you can operate 40; if he's doing voice, you can do digital or CW; if he's operating early in the morning, you can take the afternoon shift. You may want to contact the other operator via email (his email address should be available on <https://qrz.com>) to coordinate in advance, and you'll want to take the usual steps to avoid interfering with each other, but it shouldn't be a problem. And remember, the goal is this event is not only to activate each park, but to have as many operators, on as many modes, for as much of operating period as possible. Everyone would appreciate it if you'd jump in and help out, no matter how other operators there are.

How should club activations be handled?

Just like the normal POTA process. The club should get a POTA account under the club’s call sign. Activation should occur using the club’s call sign but note the call sign of each individual operator in the “Operator” field of the club’s log. That way, both the club and each individual get credit for the contact.

I’m new to POTA and would like to see how activations are done. Can I meet up with one of the activators and learn the ropes?

Absolutely! You should probably contact the activator beforehand (his email address should be available on <https://qrz.com>) to get details on time and place of his activation. And understand that activators doing multiple parks may have only a short window at any given location. But POTA activators (and hams generally) are a very friendly bunch and would love to have you come by and, circumstances permitting, even jump in on the activation and get a few contacts yourself.

Scoring

If I contact the same park on two different days, does that count as one multiplier or two?

Each park only counts as one multiplier, no matter how many times that park is contacted.

However, each combination of operator and mode counts as a separate contact. See section 4.2 of the rules.

Identifying Participating Parks

There may be POTA locations in Georgia (such as federal parks) that coincidentally are being activated during the event weekend, but do not count as “state parks” for this event. How will one identify the “official” state parks?

To aid in identifying eligible parks, activators should append “/GA” to their call signs in the initial spot. E.g., K4AAA/GA. That way, the /GA designation will persist on the spotting page even as the location is respotted. In addition, activators should use an additional designation when calling CQ, such as “CQ Georgia POTA, CQ from Georgia Parks on the Air, from K4AAA...” when operating voice, or “CQ GAPOTA DE K4AAA” from operating CW. Alternatively, one can always compare the park identifier to the list of the official 50 sites.

How will the participating parks be identified on digital modes, such as FT8?

Unfortunately, the FT8 format does not leave sufficient space for park identifiers. The only option to match the FT8 CQ'ing call sign to the list of activators on the POTA spotting page.

Bands

Can we use the WARC bands (60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meters) just like in POTA?

No. By convention, the WARC bands are not used for “contests.” It is true that, because ordinary POTA activations are not contests but rather more in the nature of “special events,” use of the WARC bands for POTA activations is generally considered OK. However, our event has the “feel” of a contest, and therefore to both respect the convention and be courteous to other hams, the WARC bands are not available for contacts.

Digital Modes

How are separate digital modes (PSK31, RTTY, FT8, FT4, etc.) counted?

We would consider non-CW digital modes as all the same mode, so FT8, FT4, PSK31 would all be the same mode, and if the stations and band don't change would only qualify as one QSO for credit.

The park identifier is not part of the exchange in FT8/FT4. How will park-to-park contacts be handled?

Digital activators will need to include P2P park numbers (and their own parks number) in the ADI file they send to POTA. We don't want to add to this process, but require the same standard that is used for normal POTA activities.

Logging

A Cabrillo format may be difficult, especially for activators who activate more than one park. How should this be handled?

We've eliminated the requirement to submit a Cabrillo log. For activators, logs should be submitted in .adi format. (Cabrillo format is also acceptable, but we've eliminated that as a requirement.) For hunters, logs can be submitted in .adi format, in the body of an email as set forth below, or as a handwritten attachment to an email.

Hunters don't normally submit logs for their POTA contacts. How will this be handled?

Hunters should treat this event just like any other special event (or contest) where they submit logs for awards or scoring (such as 13 Colonies, state QSO parties, etc.). Simply keep a log of the contacts and send the log to us. Besides submitting the log as an .adi file, hunters can also submit a copy of a paper log or the same information in an email sent to scores@gaparks.org.

Submitting Scores

How should I submit my claimed score and contact logs?

Sample forms for claimed scores and logs are now attached to the rules. See the rules and those forms for further information. Whatever format is used, submissions should be made to scores@gaparks.org.

Worked	POTA #	POTA Park Name
	K-0636	Jekyll Island State Park
	K-2165	A. H. Stephens State Park
	K-2166	Amicalola Falls State Park
	K-2167	Black Rock Mountain State Park
	K-2168	Chattahoochee Bend State Park
	K-2169	Cloudland Canyon State Park
	K-2170	Crooked River State Park
	K-2171	Don Carter State Park
	K-2172	Elijah Clark State Park
	K-2173	F.D. Roosevelt State Park
	K-2174	Florence Marina State Park
	K-2175	Fort McAllister State Park
	K-2176	Fort Mountain State Park
	K-2177	Fort Yargo State Park
	K-2178	General Coffee State Park
	K-2179	George L. Smith State Park
	K-2180	George T. Bagby and Lodge State Park
	K-2181	Georgia Veterans State Park
	K-2182	Jack Hill State Park
	K-2183	Hamburg State Park
	K-2184	Hard Labor Creek State Park
	K-2185	High Falls State Park
	K-2186	Indian Springs State Park
	K-2187	James H. (Sloppy) Floyd State Park
	K-2188	Laura S. Walker State Park
	K-2189	Little Ocmulgee State Park
	K-2190	Magnolia Springs State Park
	K-2191	Mistletoe State Park
	K-2192	Moccasin Creek State Park
	K-2193	Panola Mountain State Park
	K-2194	Red Top Mountain State Park
	K-2195	Reed Bingham State Park
	K-2196	Richard B. Russell State Park
	K-2197	Seminole State Park
	K-2198	Skidaway Island State Park
	K-2199	Smithgall Woods State Park
	K-2200	Stephen C Foster State Park
	K-2201	Sweetwater Creek State Park
	K-2202	Tallulah Gorge State Park
	K-2203	Tugaloo State Park
	K-2204	Unicoi State Park
	K-2205	Victoria Bryant State Park
	K-2206	Vogel State Park
	K-2207	Watson Mill Bridge State Park
	K-3726	Kolomoki Mounds State Park
	K-3727	Hart State Park
	K-3728	Providence Canyon State Park
	K-7858	Dames Ferry Campground State Park
	K-7861	Suwannee River Eco-Lodge State Park
	K-7896	Standing Boy Creek State Park