

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2024 Georgia Parks on the Air

### Changes from 2023

What are the changes in the rules for the 2024 event?

The rules are very similar, although we made a few changes based on the comments we received. Almost everyone suggested that the rules provide separate classes for those who activate one park versus those who activate several parks. That was a great idea, so we made that change. Other changes include a separate class for QRP operators. We have also added special bonuses for “repeat offenders,” first-time activators, and those who hike in to a remote location in the park and activate with equipment they lug in. See the rules for the specifics of these changes.

### Park List

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

No. Although there are 202 POTA “reference areas” in the state of Georgia, 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. Merging the two is how we got to 50. The official list of entities can be found here: <https://gaparks.org>.

A checklist of the event’s Georgia parks is also attached to this FAQ.

### 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, use of bands, modes, band-pass filters, and so on. Feel free to contact other activators in advance to make such arrangements. Email addresses can usually be obtained at <https://qrz.com>.

There is 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 the other operator is doing voice, you can do digital or CW; if the other operator is operating early in the morning, you can take the afternoon shift. You may want to contact the other operator via email to coordinate in advance. Email addresses can usually be obtained at <https://qrz.com>. You will want to take the usual steps to avoid interfering with each other, but it shouldn't be a problem. Remember, the goal of 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 jump in and activate the park no matter how many 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 (the email address should be available on <https://qrz.com>) to get details on time and place of the planned activation. Please understand that activators doing multiple parks may have only a short window at any given location. POTA activators (and hams in general) 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. Note, first-time activators get a special bonus. Go for it!

## 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 re-spotted. 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 is to match the call sign with 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?

All digital modes count as separate modes. That is, each contact counts as a unique QSO as long as each QSO's mode is unique. For example, a park activator could work one hunter repeatedly on the same band but using different digital modes, such as PSK31, RTTY, FT8, FT4, etc., on the same UTC day.

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

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

Hunters do not need to submit logs. At the conclusion of the contest, go to the hunter submittal page (<https://gaparks.org>), enter the applicable information and click <SUBMIT>. Your log will be automatically generated.

## Submitting Scores

How should I submit my claimed score and contact logs?

Activators should go to <https://gaparks.org>, follow the link to the page for activator submissions, enter the applicable information, attach the .adi files for their activations, and click <SUBMIT>. Scores and all applicable bonuses will be calculated automatically, except for the hike-in bonus. If applicable, you must claim this bonus for it to be awarded.

Hunters do not need to submit logs. At the conclusion of the contest, go to the hunter page (following the link on <https://gaparks.org>) and enter the applicable information. Your log and all applicable bonuses will be automatically generated.

How do I claim the bonuses?

At the conclusion of the contest, go to <https://gaparks.org> and follow the appropriate link to the activator or hunter pages. Activators will submit their logs there, and all applicable bonuses will be credited automatically, except for the "hiked-in" bonus, which must be claimed to be awarded. Hunters need only register their participation. Hunters need not submit a log (it will be generated automatically from activator logs), and all bonuses will be generated automatically.

What is the "hike-in" bonus?

In the inaugural event, some activators used equipment (often QRP equipment and simple wire antennas) that they carried back into the park and set up their activation in a remote area. We decided that such folks deserve a bonus of their own. This is the only bonus that must be claimed in order to be awarded. As is the practice for this event, the bonus is awarded based on an honor system. If you made an activation using portable equipment carried in and set up at

least one mile from the nearest vehicle access point, claim the bonus! Note that the bonus is awarded per-park and per-day; if you hike in for an activation on Saturday, hike out and then hike in again at the same park on Sunday, you get two bonuses. If you hike in at one park on Saturday morning, drive to another park on Saturday afternoon and hike in to do another activation, you get the bonus twice. And if you repeat that on Sunday, you can get the bonus four times, and you'll earn the admiration of everyone involved!

### **Post-Event Scoring/Submission Questions**

As an activator, I made several park-to-park contacts with out-of-state parks, some of which were two-fers (or more). How are those handled?

There is no "bonus" for contacting out of state parks, so they count just as regular contacts. As for two-fers, (where you contact someone at a location that constitutes two or more POTA entities) you should follow the normal POTA practice. Log two contacts, one for each POTA entity putting each entity's POTA identifier in the SIG\_INFO field.

It was very difficult to identify which parks were Georgia parks, and for FT8, for example, no way to get the park identifier information. Is there any way to deal with that?

Yes. If you sign on to pota.app and click on your call sign, then "My Hunter Log", it will give you the number and name for every park you contacted and, if you contacted that park while doing an activation, it will show a little blue P2P box on the left. Incidentally, some people say it's a violation of contesting norms to use online sources to supplement your log prior to submission. True enough, but this definitely is not that kind of a contest. It's just a fun event and an excuse to get on the radio. Feel free to use pota.app as necessary to supplement or correct your log.

I activated a park on both Saturday and Sunday. How do I log those?

You get full credit for all contacts on both days, even though there has been only one park activated. The POTA practice is to submit a separate .adi log for each day, feel free to do that for our event as well. Just attach both logs to your submittal.

I see that the scores will be calculated automatically for both activators and hunters. How do I assure that my score was correctly calculated?

We will publish the calculated scores automatically shortly after they are submitted. Please note that the rules include a score-calculation form that you can use to determine what you believe your correct score should be. Please feel free to double-check the calculated score and let us know if you believe we have made an error. Contact us at [info@gaparks.org](mailto:info@gaparks.org) and we will work with you to resolve the discrepancy.

## Georgia State Parks Checklist

Activated	Hiked-In	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