

GEORGIA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
April 6-7, 2024

RULES

1. Objective. To encourage ham radio operators to visit Georgia State Parks and experience the fun of Parks-on-the-Air activations. Note: This is a fun contest only – the rules are minimal, the scoring is simple, and the main award is simply the fun of getting on the air. The entire process is largely based on the honor system (although we may cross-check logs for the top activators).
2. Contest Period: 8:00am EDT, April 6, 2024, through 7:59pm EDT, April 7, 2024 (i.e., 1200 UTC, April 6, to 2359 UTC, April 7). Note – unless activating from a campground, operating hours are subject to park rules (e.g., many parks close to non-campers at 10:00 pm). Obey all such rules.
3. Locations:
 - 3.1. Georgia State Parks as shown on the attached list. Stations must be located within the park in accordance with standard POTA rules.
 - 3.2. Stations should sign up on the gaparks.org website, although there is no limit on how many stations can be operating from any given park, subject to courtesy and good operating practices on not interfering with each other. However, if operators can fan out across the state to cover as many parks as possible, rather than bunching up at popular parks, that would be appreciated and help us reach the goal of having all the Georgia State parks activated.
4. Modes, Bands, and Exchange:
 - 4.1. Since this is technically a “contest,” operations on the WARC bands (12, 17, 30 and 60m) are not permitted.
 - 4.2. All modes of operation are permitted. Each band/mode/operator counts as a separate contact. Example: Contacting K4AAA at K-2171 (Don Carter State Park) on CW and then again on SSB counts as two contacts. Likewise, contacting K4AAA at K-2171 and K4BBB at K-2171 counts as two contacts.
 - 4.3. Observe all standard band plans.
 - 4.4. FT8 and other digital modes (PSK, RTTY) are permitted. Each mode (FT8, FT4, RTTY, etc.) counts as a separate contact. NOTE: As with POTA, automated contacts are prohibited. That means participants must disable WSJT-X (or other software) automatic exchange options, including options such as “Calling CQ Forces Call 1st.”
 - 4.5. Exchange. Use the standard POTA exchange.

- 4.5.1. Activators will transmit merely a signal report, with or without the park identifier. E.g., “You are 59 in park K-2171” or “UR 599 BK”
 - 4.5.2. 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.
 - 4.5.3. Park-to-park contacts should include the park number, especially if in another Georgia park.
 - 4.5.4. For FT8/FT4, use the standard exchange of signal strength and grid.
 5. Entry Classes.
 - 5.1. Operator class:
 - 5.1.1. For activators in Georgia, there are separate classes for single operators as either “Multi-Park” or “Single-Park.” There is also a class for activations by radio clubs.
 - 5.1.1.1. Club. Any club station must use the same call-sign during the entire event. If two single operators are operating together, they are considered two separate “single operators” and should use the standard POTA technique of having the first station make a contact, then say, “Stand by for a second operator...,” and then have the second operator make the contact.
 - 5.1.1.2. Single Operators. Single Operators can be either “Multi-Park” or “Single-Park” classes. A “Multi-Park” activator is one who makes successful activations (10 or more contacts) from more than one listed park during the contest period.
 - 5.1.2. For hunters in Georgia, there is only one operator class.
 - 5.1.3. For hunters outside of Georgia, there is only one operator class.
 - 5.2. Location. There are two location classes: In-Georgia (activator or hunter) and out-of-Georgia (hunter). Note, there is also a special bonus for in-Georgia activators who hike to the activation location (see below).
 - 5.3. Power: There are two power classes: Low Power (less than 100W max) and QRP (less than 5W CW and digital; less than 10W phone). “QRP” means that all contacts at all parks meet the QRP power limits. Both designations are honor system.
 6. Scoring.
 - 6.1. For Georgia park activators:

6.1.1. Base Score = (number of parks activated) x (sum of the scores from each park), with the score from each park being 1 point for each QSO, plus an additional 5 pts for each QSO each distinct GA park.

6.1.2. Examples:

6.1.2.1. K4AAA operates from one park, makes 40 SSB and 10 CW contacts, of which 6 were with distinct Georgia parks. Base Score = $(50) + (6 \times 5) = 80$ points.

6.1.2.2. K4AAA operates from a different park on the second day, where he makes 75 contacts, of which 12 were with distinct Georgia parks. Base Score = first day score $(50) + (6 \times 5) = 80$; plus second day score $= (75) + (12 \times 5) = 135$; times number of parks activated $2 \times (80 + 135) = 430$ points

6.1.3. There are several bonuses available, all of which are intended to encourage activations. To the Base Score, apply the following:

“Repeat Offender” Bonus: 50 points for 2 successive years of Georgia Parks on the Air successful activations/hunting and log submissions;

“First Time Activator” Bonus: 50 points if a successful activation was the first time the activator ever activated any POTA entity.

“Hike-In” Bonus: 100 points per park per day if each activation is made using portable equipment carried in and set up at least one mile from the nearest vehicle access point. The point of this bonus is to recognize those who legitimately make an effort to operate in more remote locations in Georgia parks. Again, it’s an honor system, use your judgment, don’t game the system, and have fun. (NOTE: To receive this bonus, you must claim it on the website at the time you submit your log.)

6.2. For Georgia park hunters:

6.2.1. Base Score = (number of state parks hunted) x (total number of contacts with Georgia state parks). Note – some parks may have multiple activators. Every combination of band/mode/activator counts, even at the same park. E.g., contacting K4ABC on CW, K4ABC on SSB, and K4DEF on SSB, all at the same park, counts as three contacts.

6.2.2. Example: K1XYZ makes 45 contacts in various modes with 28 Georgia parks. Base Score = $(28 \times 45) = 1260$ points.

6.2.3. “Repeat Offender” Bonus: Apply to the base score 50 points for 2 successive years of hunting and submitting logs in the Georgia Parks on the Air event.

- 6.2.4. Two-Day Bonus: Hunt Georgia Parks on both UTC days for a 100 point bonus.
- 6.3. The scoring process is illustrated on the Score Sheets attached to these rules. Note, however, the actual score submissions will be done online here: <https://gaparks.org>.

7. Log Submission.

- 7.1. Logs are due within 14 days of the close of the contest (i.e., NLT 2359 UTC, April 21, 2024).
- 7.2. For activators, there is a simple, two-step process:
 - 7.2.1. Step 1: Prepare your log(s) for submission. (1) You must indicate the park(s) you activated in a filename formatted as for POTA: CALL@K-PARK_ID-DATE (ex. W1RCP@K-2195-20230401); and (2) note this additional requirement, for all in-Georgia park-to-park contacts, you must enter that park number in the <SIG_INFO> field. Many logging programs will do this automatically (ACLog by N3FJP, for example, if properly configured), but if these fields are not entered automatically, it is quite easy to add them using any text editor.
 - 7.2.2. Step 2: Go to this site: <https://gaparks.org>, complete the information, claim the applicable bonuses, and upload the logs. The instructions are self-explanatory. Note that you can combine all your logs into one file, or submit logs separately and they can be merged online.
 - 7.2.3. Once you submit your log(s), they will be automatically checked and any errors or discrepancies will be noted. You are free at that point to correct the logs and resubmit them. Previous logs will be automatically overwritten.
 - 7.2.4. 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@gaparks.org.
 - 7.2.5. Activators should also submit .adi logs to POTA for the usual credits there.
- 7.3. For hunters, there is no need to submit a log. Simply go to this site: <https://gaparks.org> and register your participation. Your log and score will be calculated automatically from the submitted activator logs. Again, if you encounter any difficulties in completing your registration, feel free to contact anyone on this list: info@gaparks.org.
- 7.4. 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.

- 7.5. If any of the automatically generated logs or scores do not match your calculations, please contact info@gaparks.org and we will work with you to resolve the issue.

8. Awards

- 8.1. Top 3 scores in each category will receive a certificate indicating the award. As described above, there are SEVEN award categories:

Georgia Activator – Individual – Single-Park -- Low Power

Georgia Activator – Individual – Single-Park – QRP

Georgia Activator – Individual – Multi-Park – Low Power

Georgia Activator – Individual – Multi-Park -- QRP

Georgia Activator -- Club

In-Georgia Hunter (whether individual or club)

Out-of-state Hunter (whether individual or club)

- 8.2. Every station participating in the event and submitting a log will, upon request, receive a Certificate of Participation. The certificates will have endorsements for “Repeat Offender,” “First Time Activator,” and “Hiker.”

9. Miscellaneous.

- 9.1. All standard POTA rules apply.
- 9.2. Use of spotting networks is permitted. In particular, Georgia parks will be spotted on the pota.app website.
- 9.3. Contacts through repeaters, digipeaters, internet gateways, etc., are not permitted.
- 9.4. By participating in this contest, you agree to the use of your name, call sign, score, and all other publicly available information in connection with the contest or otherwise.
- 9.5. Observe all park rules. If you intend to use a park pavilion, be sure to follow the parks requirements for reservations, payment, etc.
- 9.6. 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.
- 9.7. 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.

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
Total:	Total:	Total:		

2024 GEORGIA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
SCORE SHEET – ACTIVATOR – MULTI-PARK

[NOTE: This score sheet is for information purposes only and indicates how the scores will be calculated. We expect this process to be automated by the time of the 2024 event and it will not be necessary to submit this form.]

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Power: _____ Low Power (<100 watts)

_____ QRP (<5W CW/dig, 10W phone)

Claimed Score:

Number of Georgia State Parks activated:

_____ (A) (shown on checklist)

Total number of contacts:

_____ (B)

Distinct Georgia State Parks contacted:

_____ (C) (shown on checklist)

Contact Points: $B + (5 * C)$:

_____ (D)

Base Score: $D * A$:

_____ (E)

Repeat Offender Bonus: I activated one or more parks and submitted an activator log in the 2023 Georgia Parks on the Air Event: [] Yes—add 50 _____ (F)

First-Time Activator Bonus: This is the first time I ever did a POTA activation! [] Yes—add 50 _____ (G)

Hike-In Bonus: For each park indicated as “Hiked-In” on the checklist, I used portable equipment that I carried more than one mile from my access point to perform the activation: [] Yes
_____ Parks x _____ days x 100 pts ea _____ (H)

Total Bonus Points: $(F + G + H)$ _____ (I)

Claimed Score $(E + I)$: _____

2024 GEORGIA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
SCORE SHEET – ACTIVATOR – SINGLE-PARK

[NOTE: This score sheet is for information purposes only and indicates how the scores will be calculated. We expect this process to be automated by the time of the 2024 event and it will not be necessary to submit this form.]

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Power: _____ Low Power (<100 watts) _____ QRP (<5W CW/dig, 10W phone)

Claimed Score:

Georgia State Park activated: _____ (K-_____)

Total number of contacts: _____ (A)

Distinct Georgia State Parks contacted: _____ (B) (shown on checklist)

Contact Points: A + (5*B): _____ (C)

Repeat Offender Bonus: I activated one or more parks and submitted an activator log in the 2023 Georgia Parks on the Air Event: [] Yes—add 50 _____ (D)

First-Time Activator Bonus: This is the first time I ever did a POTA activation! [] Yes—add 50. _____ (E)

Hike-In Bonus: I used portable equipment that I carried more than one mile from my access point to perform the activation: [] Yes—add 100 x the number of days hiked in: _____. _____ (F)

Total Bonus Points: (D + E + F) _____ (G)

Claimed Score (C + G): _____

2024 GEORGIA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
SCORE SHEET – HUNTER

[NOTE: This score sheet is for information purposes only and indicates how the scores will be calculated. We expect this process to be automated by the time of the 2024 event and it will not be necessary to submit this form.]

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Operations: Inside Georgia Outside Georgia

Claimed Score:

Number of Georgia State Parks contacted: _____ (1) (shown on checklist)

Number of contacts with Georgia State Parks: _____ (2)

Based Score = (1) x (2): _____ (3)

Repeat Offender Bonus: I hunted one or more parks and submitted a hunter log in the 2023 Georgia Parks on the Air Event: [] Yes – add 50.
_____ (4)

Two-Day Bonus: I hunted parks both UTC days of the event (April 6 & 7, 2024): [] Yes – add 100
_____ (5)

Claimed Score: (3) + (4) + (5)
