

# How to get started with the POTA program

- Read the official rules from the POTA program at <http://parksontheair.com/rules/>.
- Decide if you want to operate **QRO** (more than 10W SSB/5W CW/DIGI) [more weight to carry] or **QRP** (less than 10W SSB/5W CW/DIGI) [less weight to carry].
- QRO** – Get a 100W portable transceiver like a Yaesu FT-891/857D, Kenwood 480SAT, or Icom 7300.
- QRP** – Get an Elecraft KX2/KX3 or a Yaesu FT-817.
- QRO** – Get a 100W antenna like a SuperAntenna vertical, Buddipole, or high power end fed.
- QRP** – Get an Alex Loop, or a low power end fed. LNR Precision provides a lot of choices for end feds.
- QRO** – Get a 12V 30/20Ah Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery (PVC, BLF-1230A) from <http://www.bioennopower.com> is a good choice.
- QRP** – Get a Zippy Flightmax 5000 mah 3S1P 20C battery from Amazon or Hobby King.
- Register on the POTA site by following the steps at:  
To be announced soon!
- Locate a POTA entity near you by going to the parksontheair.com site and enter your state in the search box (e.g. US-MD for Maryland). Also, you can click on the map and zoom in to find borders/points. Click on them to find the entities reference information (e.g. K-0010).
- Announce where you are going, and when via our Facebook page. Join it at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parksontheair/>
- Drive out to the entity and get within the official borders. You can operate from your vehicle, or take your setup on foot and find a place on the ground/bench.
- Go to <http://dxsummit.fi> and spot yourself. In the "info" box, please be sure to enter "K-XXXX", replacing the X's with the entity's reference number.
- Call like this for example, "CQ CQ CQ 20 Meters...CQ CQ CQ Parks on the Air... This is [call sign] from kilo-zero-zero-one-zero standing by and listening."
- Document the call signs, signal reports, and time via any log software of your choice. At least use pen and paper to enter them in later.
- Export the proper portion of your log in .ADIF format. Please visit the <http://parksontheair.com> site and send it to a Regional Manager on the list based on your call sign.
- Once you have documented enough QSOs as a hunter/chaser, or activator, you will be able to click on the applicable button on the POTA site to qualify for a new award. Once the log has been reviewed and approved by the national award program manager, your PDF will be sent back via e-mail.