



Guide to running a successful camp with radio scouting activities

Jamboree-on the Air Jamboree on the Internet JOTA-JOTI

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world every year with 1,000's of JOTA stations and up to 1.8 million scouts taking part. It is a fantastic opportunity to introduce scouts to STEM topics, Radio Scouting and Amateur radio.

Radio Scouting Ireland (RSI) is an amateur radio club and was set up to:

- Promote and support Amateur Radio, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities in a fun and interesting way across the scout and guiding troops of Ireland, particularly the annual global JOTA-JOTI scouting event
- Provide a focal point for amateur radio equipment donations and distribute on loan or on a permanent basis such donations to scout troops who wish to take part in amateur radio and radio scouting activities
- Contribute to IRTS, Scouting & ComReg consultations in order to help promote Radio Scouting activities in Ireland



Radio Scouting Ireland have worked hard over a number of years experimenting to figure out how to give the best experience for youth members of scouting & guiding. We can summarise our learning in the following 6 points.

1. Less talk and more doing! – it is not much fun standing around watching, make it as interactive as possible. Get the scout to tune the radio and find CW, Data, SSB/Voice signals, get them to listen and log QSO's as an swl, get them identify the country on the map, get them to use the radios and make a qso!
2. Gamification - Make the use of radios fun e.g. See - Mission Impossible, Callsign spy hunt etc.
3. Brief intro to the very basics – Introduce the language of Amateur Radio, Q-code, phonetic alphabet, Callsigns relative to scouting woggles, neckers, pioneering etc or a sport like golf birdies, eagles, holes in one
4. QSO Cheat sheets – Get them to write out their name using the Alpha Numeric alphabet
5. 1st QSO badges – really helps combat mic shyness and encourages that 1st qso

Radio scouting Ireland have developed some resources and are developing more resources to help licensed amateurs and scout leaders who want to give a good radio scouting experience to youth.

- 1.) Badges! What scout or even scout leader doesn't like a badge! Scouts can be mic shy but there is nothing like the possibility of earning a badge to motivate! Jota-Joti Badges can be purchased year on year for JOTA-JOTI events and RSI also can help you with 1st QSO button badges circa €1/each



2.) Other activities. I can be boring and frustrating for a group of 20 or more standing around watching someone operating the radio when all they want to do is have a go! For the best radio experience, we recommend 2-3 or less per radio and for the licensed operator to actively get them to tune the radio, use the logging software to log a QSO, make a QSO pin some contacts on the map. Having a logging program like Log4OM online that shows them where in the world the other station is. Having a map up where they can pin up their contacts gives another dimension. In order to make small groups it is necessary work with the scout leaders and encourage them to break the group up into smaller groups and have other activities/bases to occupy them while waiting to take their turn. E.g. Walkie talkie games, Semaphore, Making Tin can telephones, or other traditional scouting bases, backwoods, pioneering etc.

3.) Mic Shy Cheat sheet! Consider printing off a cheat sheet where the scouts can write out there their name phonetically and have some easy things to say and questions to ask.

4.) Consider doing an introductory presentation to help give them an understanding of the basics before the camp or JOTA-JOTI event

For a copy of the cheat sheet or My 1st QSO graphic for order badges, a draft presentation you can edit or any other support request around JOTA-JOTI or radio scouting activities you can check out the Radio Scouting Ireland resources page <https://www.radioscouting.ie/resources/> and or email radioscoutingireland@gmail.com



Radio Scouting Ireland – 1st QSO? Mic Shy?

When meeting new people on the radio it can feel a bit challenging sometimes to know what to say! Once you have got the other persons call sign and signal report, here are a few conversation starters for meeting new friends all around the world. Write out your name here with the Phonetic Alphabet, for example. My name is John - Juliet, Oscar, Hotel, November - John

Phonetic Alphabet	
A - alpha	N - november
B - bravo	O - oscar
C - charlie	P - papa
D - delta	Q - quebec
E - echo	R - roman
F - foxtrot	S - sierra
G - golf	T - tango
H - hotel	U - uniform
I - india	V - victor
J - juliet	W - whiskey
K - kilo	X - x-ray
L - lima	Y - yankee
M - mike	Z - zulu

Share some info about you:

Hello, My name is... (Name – Phonetic Spelling – Name)

I am from Country/City/Town

I am, years old and I am in the scout troop

This is my 1st time using a ham radio, **OVER** – Over invites the other operator to speak

General Conversation Questions

- What country and city or town do you live in? **OVER**
- What language(s) do you speak? **OVER**
- What sports are popular in your country? **OVER**
- What is the typical dish of where you live? **OVER**
- What is the weather like where you live? **OVER**
- What is the main sport where you live? **OVER**
- How long have you been a radio ham? **OVER**

Scouting Conversation Questions

- How long have you been a scout? What is your scout troop name? **OVER**
- What colour is your Scout group's scarf/neckerchie? **OVER**
- What is your favourite Scouting activity? What badges do you have? **OVER**
- Have you done JOTA-JOTI before? **OVER**
- Are you on camp for JOTA-JOTI? **OVER**

Remember to say **OVER** and release the push to talk button when you are finished speaking.

When you want to finish your conversation, say "Thank you for the nice QSO, 73!"