

# Kids Day 2008: Fun for All Ages!

*Who ever knew that shouting out your favorite color could be so much fun?*

## On

June 21, kids around the continent will be riding the waves! One week before the immensely popular Field Day event, where *everyone* will be riding the waves, youngsters will experience the magic of radio as they make new friends over the air.

With more than 10 years of activity, Kids Day events, created by the Boring Amateur Radio Club (BARC), have gained in popularity year after year. Nearly 500 kids shouted their favorite color into a microphone during the 2007 running of Kids Day!

We suggest using the same frequencies that the Scouts use during Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). With propagation conditions that accompany the bottom of the sunspot cycle, we need to spread out to find bands where everyone can participate.

### Have Fun? You Bet!

Want some ideas to help you make this event even more enjoyable? Ward Silver, NØAX, provides some great hints:

#### For the parent ham or host

- Use a CW reader program such as *CWGet* ([www.dxsoft.com/micwget.htm](http://www.dxsoft.com/micwget.htm)).
- Have the kids make and exchange their own QSL cards.
- Make a special log-book for each kid.
- Be sure to request the participation certificate from BARC (see sidebar).

#### For the radio club host

- Have an open house at the club station.
- Promote Kids Day in your newsletter.
- Give out your own certificates and blank logbooks.
- Sponsor a pizza party after the event.

#### For the kids

- Mic fright? Make up cue cards and point to each thing to say.
- Bored? Share the station with a friend, operate in short stretches.
- “What’s That Do?” Construct a “pretend radio” with knobs and switches.
- Break the ice by arranging a schedule with another local family.

The Kids Day operating events are the first Sunday in January and the third Saturday in June; this year it is scheduled for June 21. Make that personal connection that could result in a new licensee. You just might find that you are re-infected with the enthusiasm that you once had with ham radio. Don’t forget to further the fun and invite the kids to Field Day the next weekend!

Find out more about Kids Day by visiting [www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html](http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html). Don’t forget to check out the certificate at [www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html](http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html). We are always looking for pictures of the kids operating your station so that we can share them with others, so send them to [kidsday@arrrl.org](mailto:kidsday@arrrl.org).



ARRL member Ger McNamara, EI4GXB, enjoyed Kids Day in January with his 7 year old daughter Aoibhinn. “We had lots of fun and hope to take part again in June,” he wrote.

## Kids Day Rules

**Saturday, June 21, 2008**

**Purpose:** Kids Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with children.

**Date:** Saturday, June 21, 2008.

**Time:** 1800-2400 UTC.  
No limit on operating time.

**Suggested exchange:**  
Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call CQ KIDS DAY.

**Suggested frequencies:**  
3.740 & 3.940 MHz  
7.270 MHz  
14.290 MHz  
18.140 MHz  
21.360 MHz  
24.960 MHz  
28.390 MHz and 2 meter repeater frequencies (with permission from your area repeater sponsor). Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

**Awards:** All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child’s personalized sales brochure on ham radio). Please visit [www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html](http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html) to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page. You can also send a 9×12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009. 