

Radio Contact with International Space Station astronaut planned during Youth on the Air Camp 2021 in West Chester



The first camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America will be hosted at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting July 11-16, 2021. One of the planned activities is to talk to an astronaut on the International Space Station.

WEST CHESTER, Ohio, June 27, 2021— A summer camp for licensed amateur radio operators ages 15 through 25 will take place July 11 through July 16, 2021 at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township (North Cincinnati), Ohio, according to an announcement today by the Youth on the Air (YOTA) committee in International Amateur Radio Union Region 2. The camp is being hosted by the museum and the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, callsign WC8VOA.

One of the biggest highlights will be the chance for selected campers to use amateur radio to talk to an astronaut aboard the International Space Station, thanks to the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) Program. This event will take place either Thursday, July 15 at 10:16 a.m. EDT or Wednesday, July 14 at 11:03 a.m. EDT, depending on the astronaut's work schedule. Live video of this event will be available and a recording of it will also be uploaded on the Youth on the Air YouTube channel. That channel can be accessed through the YouthOnTheAir.org website by selecting the "Connect" option in the menu. Due to COVID-19 concerns, interviews of participating campers can only be arranged by videoconferencing or scheduled individually outside the VOA Museum building.

In other activities, the camp will focus on building peer and mentor relationships and learning how to take amateur radio to the next level.

Campers will attend workshops and activities in multiple STEM-related subjects, such as radio contesting; electronic kit building; a digital radio mode known as D-STAR; and the Automatic Packet Reporting System, another form of amateur radio digital communications employed for transmitting and receiving data. Camp activities will also include satellite communications, antenna-building and radio direction finding and orienteering. A high-altitude balloon launch is also planned.

Campers will build teams and contesting skills by using amateur radio at nearby Kings Island Amusement Park.

The camp, a modified version of the popular Youngsters on the Air camps in IARU Region 1 covering Europe and Africa, is operated by Electronic Applications Radio Service, Inc. (EARS). EARS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to wireless technologies and activities. The camp is funded by sponsors and donations. IARU Region 2 includes North, Central and South America. Due to country border issues with COVID-19, all the campers will be from the United States this year.

The opening and closing ceremonies will be streamed live on the Youth on the Air YouTube channel. A daily highlight video will also be streamed, featuring the activities of the previous day.

More information about Youth on the Air in the Americas as well as the summer camp can be found at YouthOnTheAir.org, and on [YOTAregion2](#) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

To schedule interviews or obtain additional information, please contact Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG at director@youthontheair.org or at (812) 327-0749.

###