



**Youth on the Air**  
**Junior Camp USA 2025**  
**West Chester Twp. (Cincinnati), Ohio**  
**July 25-27**  
**HANDBOOK**



# YOTA Junior USA Camp 2025 Handbook

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# Youth on the Air (YOTA) Junior Camp USA Handbook 2025

Updated April 5, 2025

## Camp Overview

### Things to do before camp:

- ☐ Return all 3 forms completed with signatures
- ☐ Sign up for Remind <https://www.remind.com/join/yotajr> or text @yotajr to 81010
- ☐ Download and install the **Google Drive** app to your phone, if you have one.
- ☐ If outside of the USA or Canada, bring your IARP or CEPT documentation if possible.
- ☐ Bring QSL cards/Local Club Swag/Small Food Items representing your area to share
- ☐ Check your email for updates at most 1 week before camp.

**Who:** Any amateur radio operator under the age of 15 that resides in North, Central, or South America. Space is limited to 15 campers and accompanying parents/guardians. Campers must be licensed amateur radio operators. At least one parent or guardian must also accompany the camper but does not need to have an amateur radio license.

**What:** A 3 day weekend camp for young hams to meet other young hams, participate in unique experiences with radio related technologies, and build relationships with mentors and peers.

**When:** July 25-27, 2025 **Time Zone:** Eastern Daylight Time (GMT-4)

**Where:** National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting, 8070 Tylersville Road,  
West Chester, OH 45069 (North Cincinnati)  
Google Maps: <https://g.page/VOA-Museum?share>

Exit I-75 at Tylersville Road. Proceed 1 mile east of I-75. The museum is on the north side of the road.

**NOTE:** If you are using GPS, you will get a much more exact location if you enter Crosley Blvd as the street address. It's the front driveway of the museum.

APRS: WC8VOA-N Grid: EM79TI75FI Lat/Lon: 39°21.34' N 84°21.39' W

Talk-in Repeater: 145.390 (-600) no tone needed

YOTA Simplex Frequency: 147.550 tone 123.0

YOTA D-STAR/Digital Frequency: 147.500

**Why:** Our goal is to serve already licensed hams to enrich their amateur radio experience, add to and refine their skills, and to provide mentoring possibilities.

**Cost:** \$100 USD per person (youth and adult(s)) plus transportation to/from Cincinnati. Includes: Meals, one hotel room per family, admission fees, camp T-Shirts, and local transportation for camp activities. Any expenses outside of camp opening and closing are not included; however, hotel discounts may be available for early arrivals and late departures.

**Transportation:** Parents & campers are responsible for transportation to and from West Chester, OH. Airports nearby are: Northern Kentucky & Greater Cincinnati (**CVG**) or Dayton (**DAY**). A shuttle van/bus will be secured to make one trip to the **CVG** airport on Friday at 11:30 am and one trip to the airport on Sunday at 12 noon (arriving at CVG about 1 pm) for the entire group for your convenience. The hotel shuttle is also available between the hotel and the VOA museum. Ridesharing will be used for the offsite social activity Saturday evening.

Everyone is expected to be at check in no later than 1:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (1700 UTC) on Friday.

Everyone is expected to stay at camp through the end of camp (Noon EDT/1600 UTC) on Sunday. Any early arrival or late dismissal must be approved by the camp director at least one month before the camp unless it is an emergency.

Once you are at check in on Friday, we will provide all transportation needs until Sunday afternoon. Due to liability and insurance concerns, camp staff are not allowed to drive campers without a parent.

If you need assistance with travel, contact the camp director at [director@youthontheair.org](mailto:director@youthontheair.org) for information about fundraising ideas. We do not want the travel expenses to be the only thing keeping you from attending.

**Lodging:** Lodging will be at the [Holiday Inn Express, 7750 Liberty Field Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069](#), which is across the street from the Voice of America campus.

- Standard room: 2 queen beds per room to be shared by the camper and his/her family
- A limited number of 1 king bedrooms with pullout sofa bed are available upon request
- Guest rooms will include bedding, towels, and basic toiletries (shampoo/soap/toilet paper)
- All rooms come with a mini fridge, microwave, hair dryer, tea/coffee maker, TV, safe, and ironing board
- On site laundry machines are available. Detergent is sold in the lobby store.
- Indoor pool and fitness center
- Breakfast will be provided

**Pre-arranged rooming can not be canceled after June 30, 2025.** Rooms may be added or traded until July 15, but will be subject to availability.



Extra nights (before and after camp due to travel) are at your own expense, and are payable to *the hotel directly*. Contact Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG at [director@youthontheair.org](mailto:director@youthontheair.org) by June 30 if you wish to add such extra nights to your stay.

**Meals:** All meals from Friday evening through Sunday lunch will be provided. Participants with dietary restrictions or allergies must alert the staff in advance so that proper provisions can be made.

**T-Shirt:** All participants will receive an official camp T-shirt.

**Other expenses:** Meals, lodging, admission fees, and local transportation are provided by the camp. Souvenirs or any other purchases, outside of all meals and the provided snacks, will be the responsibility of the camper.

**Alcohol:** Alcohol is not allowed at camp functions.

**Forms:** Required forms will include code of conduct, waiver of liability, and photo/video consent. **ALL adult staff members and volunteers working with campers will also need a background check and Youth Protection Training, which is provided by the camp.**

**Planned Activities (subject to change):**

Introduction to YOTA  
Contesting  
Computer Logging  
Kit Building

Special Event Station W8Y Operating  
Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF)  
VOA Museum Tour  
Social Outings

**Special Event Station:** W8Y will be the callsign of the official special event station. As many as 4 operating positions will be available for use throughout the weekend. The stations can be used between sessions, as well as at dedicated times. Some stations will be available by remote. The W8Y callsign is only to be used when using locally provided equipment either in person or by remote. If you use your own radio or other remotes, please use your own callsign instead.

**Sponsors:** Youth on the Air Camps are operated by Electronic Applications Radio Service, Inc. (EARS - W9EAR), a 501(c)(3) Indiana not-for-profit educational amateur radio organization. The camp is hosted by the West Chester Amateur Radio Club (WC8VOA) and the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting..

**Financial Sponsors:** Expenses for YOTA Junior USA 2025 are paid in full by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC). YOTA operating expenses are funded by hams across the world that believe in our cause.

**Things you should bring:** Comfortable clothes, running/walking shoes, toiletries (except soap/shampoo/toilet paper), necessary medications, sunscreen, a notebook, and writing

utensils. Dress for all events is casual. Each camper will receive a drawstring backpack upon arrival. Also, bring a swimsuit if you would like to swim in the hotel pool.

We will have plenty of HF gear, but you may bring your own if you wish. Please bring your own analog capable handhelds for VHF/UHF if possible. If you are flying, keep in mind that customs and security agents may question your equipment. If you have your own HF setup, please keep in mind that the camp provided stations may receive co-site interference from your station. The W8Y callsign should only be used when operating an official camp station.

**Things you shouldn't bring:** Firearms, illegal drugs, alcohol, weapons, bed sheets, and bad attitudes.

**Communications During Camp:** For transparency and safety, all communications between campers or between campers and staff should be conducted on the camp simplex frequencies (**147.550 tone 123.0 for analog and 147.500 for digital**) or the YOTA Camp Telegram channel.

**YouTube Coverage:** Selected events and highlights will be streamed on the [Youth on the Air YouTube Channel](#). Family and friends are encouraged to watch.

**What is YOTA?:** This camp is heavily modeled after the Youngsters on the Air camp that has been held since 2011 in IARU Region 1 (Europe/Middle East/Africa/Northern Asia). Two of our working group members, Sterling Mann, NØSSC and Sam Rose, KC2LRC, attended the Region 1 camp in Austria in 2016 with the intent to learn about the camp in an effort to replicate it in the US. We are working with the YOTA Region 1 organizers to coordinate our efforts, but also realize some changes are necessary due to cultural and legal differences.

YouthOnTheAir.org is our official website, and we have social media accounts (yotaregion2) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. The "official" hashtag is #YOTAR2.

Questions? Contact Neil Rapp, WB9VPG at [director@youthontheair.org](mailto:director@youthontheair.org).

YOTA Americas 2025 Camp Planning Working Group:

Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, Director ([neil@youthontheair.org](mailto:neil@youthontheair.org))  
Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, Assistant Director ([ruth@youthontheair.org](mailto:ruth@youthontheair.org))  
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Jocelyn Brault, KD8VRX ([jocelyn@youthontheair.org](mailto:jocelyn@youthontheair.org))  
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Samantha Lytch, KM4NSF ([samantha@youthontheair.org](mailto:samantha@youthontheair.org))  
Sterling Mann, NØSSC ([sterling@youthontheair.org](mailto:sterling@youthontheair.org))  
Anderson Ray, K4RAY ([anderson@youthontheair.org](mailto:anderson@youthontheair.org))  
Jack Roberts, W9RFT ([jack@youthontheair.org](mailto:jack@youthontheair.org))  
Sam Rose, KC2LRC ([sam@youthontheair.org](mailto:sam@youthontheair.org))

# Foreign license info



## **If your license is issued in:**

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada<sup>1</sup>, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela. (IARP)

Or

Participating for France: Corsica, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, St. Bartholomew, St. Pierre and Miquelon, St. Martin, Reunion and its Dependencies, Mayotte, French Antarctica, French Polynesia and Clipperton, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna (CEPT)

You can operate independently as W8/yourcallsign while in the USA. No application is necessary. Just bring IARP or CEPT documentation with you.

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## **If your license is issued in a country on this list:**

<http://www.arrl.org/reciprocal-permit>

You can operate independently as W8/yourcallsign while in the USA. No application is necessary. Just carry your license and proof of citizenship with you.

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**If your license is issued in a country not on either of the two above options**, you will have to take a US license exam in order to operate independently. You can operate W8Y with a control operator present.

<http://www.arrl.org/foreign-licenses-operating-in-u-s>

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**For all of the above**, when using the W8Y callsign, once an hour the station must be identified as W8Y/WB9VPG.

# Code of Conduct

Camp Faculty, Adult Staff, & Campers  
Youth on the Air

The following guidelines are designed to make your experience at Youth on the Air Camp satisfying to you and to all others attending. The individual rights, safety and property of others must be respected.

## **1. Respect the rights and property of others.**

- Do not touch other camper's belongings without checking first.
- Disrespectful and/or abusive language will not be a part of camp
- Do not damage or deface camp facilities or property.
- Rudeness, lack of courtesy, and disrespect for authority will not be tolerated.
- Fighting and threatening physical abuse is not acceptable behavior.
- Boys are not allowed in the girls' rooms; Girls are not allowed in the boys' rooms
- All clothing worn shall be within the bounds of decency.
- Do not take inappropriate pictures/video/audio of others or yourself
- Do not post inappropriate pictures/video/audio to social media

## **2. Be concerned for the safety of campers and staff.**

- Campers under 18 cannot leave the directed areas on the camp schedule without an adult and must have the Camp Director's or staff's permission.
- Campers under 18 must have a chaperone, and should not be isolated 1 on 1 with camp staff at any time.
- Campers should be with at least one other camper at all activities - **EXCEPTION: If the camper has graduated from high school and is 18 or older** (noted on name badge)

## **3. YOTA Camp is a fun experience and everyone is to participate in the planned activities.**

- Be on time and ready to participate.
- Don't spend excessive time on your phone unless part of the activity itself
- If ill, report to the camp staff.
- Be a positive team member for your group.
- "Lights Out" means quiet and in bed.
- Everyone must check in/out with the Camp Director or Staff if leaving or coming into camp is necessary.

**4. The following items and activities are not allowed** at the camp facilities: alcoholic beverages, knives, firearms, fireworks, illegal drugs, matches, and tobacco. Exception: adults may smoke in designated areas only.

Gambling or betting with money, over-display of affection between anyone, fighting, threatening/physical abuse, stealing, tampering with emergency equipment, and being under the influence of drugs are NOT allowed at camp. Those over drinking age are not to provide alcohol to minors in any case, and alcohol is not permitted at any and all camp functions due to liability concerns. Boys are not allowed in the girls' rooms; Girls are not allowed in the boys' rooms.

Campers, teen counselors and adult staff having or doing anything in section 4 will be sent home at the first infraction and at their own expense.

**CONSEQUENCES:** The following steps will be followed if a camper or adult staff member does not abide by the rules (except for section 4, which is immediate dismissal)

*1st Infraction:* Discuss the inappropriate behavior with an adult staff member and clarify the rule.

*2nd Infraction:* Camp Director or staff will discuss the inappropriate behavior and give a "time out" or appropriate consequence. Camper's appropriate attitude and/or behavior will be discussed.

*3rd Infraction or Any Behavior Listed in Rule # 4:* Camp Director or staff will request the parent to pick up the camper and take him/her home at their expense and camp fee will not be refunded. Adult Staff members will be asked to leave camp immediately. Additional consequences may include: releasing the individual to the nearest law enforcement agency, assessing the cost of damages and repairs in the event of destruction of property, and barring the individual from future YOTA activities. Parents will be notified of any action taken.

# Morse Code Alphabet

A	•- -	N	- • -	0	- - - - -
B	- • • •	O	- - -	1	• - - - -
C	- • - •	P	• - - •	2	• • - - -
D	- • •	Q	- - • -	3	• • • - -
E	•	R	• - •	4	• • • • -
F	• • - •	S	• • •	5	• • • • •
G	- - •	T	-	6	- • • • •
H	• • • •	U	• • -	7	- - • • •
I	• •	V	• • • -	8	- - - • •
J	• - - -	W	• - -	9	- - - - •
K	- • -	X	- • • -	.	• - • - • -
L	• - • •	Y	- • - -	,	- - • • -
M	- -	Z	- - • •	?	• • - - • •



# Schedule

ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME (GMT-4)

**When you arrive** at the VOA Museum, you can store your luggage until the evening shuttle to the hotel. Once you arrive at the hotel, check into your room by visiting the front desk and giving the clerk your name and tell him/her that you are in the Youth On The Air room block. Once you receive your key, move into the room. (Rooms are typically not available for check in before 3 pm.)

## Friday:

11:30 am	Airport shuttle bus loads at pick up point #4 for those flying into CVG
12 pm	Check-In begins
1 pm	Opening Ceremony, Flag Raising, Camp Photo
2:30 pm	Ice Breaker
3 pm	Logging & Contesting (Eyeball Sprint)
4 pm	Shack Orientation & Operate Special Event Station
5:30 pm	Dinner (catered)
6:30 pm	Operate Special Event Station
9 pm	Return to Hotel (hotel shuttle)
10 pm	Sleep

**Saturday:**

8 am	Breakfast at hotel
9 am	Leave for museum (hotel shuttle)
9:30 am	Kit Build Session
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	ARDF presentation
2:00 pm	ARDF competition
4:00 pm	Operate Special Event Station
5:00 pm	Depart for Dave & Buster's (share rides)
5:30 pm	Dinner at Dave & Buster's
8:30 pm	Return to Hotel (share rides)
9:00 pm	Swim/Operate Remote/Games
10:30 pm	Sleep

**Sunday:**

8 am	Breakfast at hotel
9 am	Leave for museum (hotel shuttle)
9:30 am	Museum Tour
11 am	Closing Ceremony/Survey
12:00 pm	Lunch/Camp Ends (hotel shuttle/airport shuttle depart)



# Maps







[www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net)  
[info@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:info@YourMetroParks.net)

**Voice of America MetroPark**  
 7850 VOA Park Drive  
 West Chester, OH 45069

### Legend

- Restroom
- Shelter
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Fishing
- Fire Pit
- Vehicle Entrance/ Exit Gate
- Athletic Fields
- Parking Lot
- Paved Bike-Pedestrian Path (2.4 mi)
- XC Route (1.5 mi) Nat. Surface
- XC Route (2 mi) Nat. Surface
- XC Route (3.1 mi) Nat. Surface
- Lakes/Ponds
- Park Roadways
- Public Roads
- Inactive Service Road

0 120 240 480 720 Feet



Map updated September 11, 2015  
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## Things to Do Before or After Camp

Liberty Center: Outdoor Shopping Mall <https://www.liberty-center.com/>

I-Fly: Indoor Skydiving <https://www.iflyworld.com/cincinnati/>

TopGolf: <https://topgolf.com/us/west-chester/>

Jungle Jim's International Market - more than just a giant supermarket!  
<https://www.junglejims.com/>

Main Event Entertainment Center: Food, Bowling, Games, and more  
<https://www.mainevent.com/locations/ohio/west-chester/>

Dave & Busters: Food, Video Games, Carnival Games, Pool  
<https://www.daveandbusters.com/locations/cincinnati-springdale>

R&L Electronics: Local Ham Radio Store <https://www.randl.com/>

A little further away:

Newport Aquarium <https://www.newportaquarium.com/>

Cincinnati Zoo <https://cincinnati-zoo.org/>

BB Riverboats: Ohio River tours <https://bbriverboats.com/>

Cincinnati Museum Center: Several Museums in the former train station  
<https://www.cincymuseum.org/>

American Sign Museum: A collection of signs of all types  
<https://www.americansignmuseum.org/>

# Camp Faculty, Staff, and Support Staff

THANK YOU to each and every one of you for volunteering your time, money, and talents to make this weekend a success!

## STAFF & SUPPORT

### ADMINISTRATION

- Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, Director
- Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, Asst. Director
- Abby Kimi Matsuyoshi, KK7CFJ, Asst. Director

### BUILD

- Jocelyn Brault, KD8VRX???

### MULTIMEDIA

- Brian Esche, WB9QVR????

### SHACK

- Taylor Laub, KE8LWZ, Shackmaster???

### CHECK IN

- Katie Campbell, KE8LQR

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Katie Campbell, KE8LQR, Manager
- Taylor Laub, KE8KWZ, Asst. Manager
- Jack Roberts, W9RFT, Webmaster

## FACULTY

### SESSION LEADERS

- ARDF: Bob Frey, WA6EZV & Dick Arnett, WB4SUV
- Contesting: Katie Campbell, KE8LQR???