



**Youth on the Air
Americas Camp 2025**

Thornton (Denver), Colorado, USA

HANDBOOK

EARLY



EDITION

YOTA Americas Camp 2025 Handbook

Table of Contents

Camp Overview.....	1
Doubletree Suites Information and Additional Rooms & Meals.....	7
Foreign license info.....	9
Code of Conduct.....	10
Schedules.....	12
Things To Do Before or After Camp.....	15

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Youth on the Air (YOTA) Americas Camp Handbook 2025

Updated December 9, 2024

Camp Overview

Things to do before camp:

- [Register](#) for D-STAR
- Return all 6 forms completed with signatures
- Download and install the **Telegram AND Discord** messaging apps and 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: Youth with a current amateur radio license ages 15-25 (under 26) who are residents of North, Central, and South America (geographic area same as ITU/IARU Region 2)

* Applicants within 1 year of the age range will be considered upon recommendation

Up to 50 campers

20 full week staff members (1:4 ratio of adults to campers or lower)

What: A week-long camp for young hams to meet other young hams, participate in unique experiences with radio related technologies that may not otherwise be viable, and build relationships with mentors and peers.

When: June 15-20, 2025 **Time Zone:** Mountain Daylight Time (GMT-6)

Where: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7945, 10217 Quivas St, Thornton, CO 80260

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/s1TYLDQXskesDtTJ9>

APRS: WØY Grid: DM79LV91AQ Lat/Lon: 39°52'55.41" N 105°00'28.94"W
(39.882107, -105.008106)

Talk-in Repeater: 449.350 -5MHz tone 100.0

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 camper, plus transportation to and from Denver, CO, USA and related expenses (see “other expenses” below). If you can not afford the fee, you can apply for a scholarship to assist with the cost.

Transportation: Campers are responsible for their own transportation to and from Denver. (Airport code: DEN) Ground transportation (school bus) to/from the airport and the camp hotel will depart the airport at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm MDT (2000 and 2200 UTC) on Sunday, June 15 and from camp at noon on Friday, June 15. The airport is about 30 minutes from the hotel. Bus pickup and dropoff will be in front of the hotel. Airport pickup will be at “[Shared Ride Services](#)”, Island 5 outside doors 505 and 512.

For local public transportation, visit <https://www.rtd-denver.com>.

Everyone is expected to be at check in no later than 4:30 pm Mountain Daylight Time (2230 UTC) on Sunday.

Everyone is expected to stay at camp through the end of camp (Noon MDT/1800 UTC) on Friday. 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 Sunday, we will provide all transportation needs until Friday afternoon. Due to liability and insurance concerns, licensed transportation services (school bus) will be used to transport campers to and from locations designated on the camp schedule. Camp staff are not allowed to drive campers.

If you need assistance with travel, contact the camp director at director@youthontheair.org for information about fundraising ideas and possible support from donors. We do not want the travel expenses to be the only thing keeping you from attending.

Lodging: Housing will be at Doubletree Suites, 83 E 120th Ave, Thornton, CO 80233.

- Standard room: 2 campers & 2 queen beds per room, separated by gender and age group, unless staying with accompanying parent
- Single occupancy is available for an additional fee (add additional \$450 USD)
- Guest rooms will include bedding, towels, and basic toiletries (shampoo/soap/toilet paper)
- Laundry facilities are available in the breezeway that connects to the ballroom. \$3.50 for wash, \$3.50 for dry per load. Cash only. Laundry soap is available at the front desk for \$3.00 (or we will have laundry soap sheets available from the camp director for free as long as he doesn't forget to ship them :))

Pre-arranged rooming can not be canceled after May 1, 2025. Rooms may be added or traded until June 1, but will be subject to availability.

Extra nights (before and after camp due to travel) and parent rooms are at your own expense, and are payable *to the camp*. **See page 7 for more information reserving and paying for rooms and meals before and after camp and for parent rooms.**

Camp staff will typically share a room with another staff member, but a few will not share a room according to need. Camp staff will not be required to pay fees. Staff may receive financial assistance for travel if needed.

Campers under 18 years old will be assigned an adult chaperone. Chaperones will check the rooms each night, and place a security strip on the outside door. Doors should not be opened after that time unless there is an emergency. Strips will be checked and removed by the chaperones each morning. If you want to go to bed early or get up early, contact your chaperone to have the security strip removed. Chaperones are required to knock on the door, identify themselves, and ask the camper to open the door.

Meals: All meals from Sunday evening through Friday 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 several ham radio T-shirts, including 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, emergency medical authorization, waiver of liability, photo/video consent, ARISS, and transportation consent. **ALL 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

Software Defined Radios (SDR)

D-STAR Workshop

Contact an Astronaut on the International

Space Station

Kit/Antenna Building

Special Event Station WØY Operating

Buc-ee's On The Air Activation

Tracking Balloon Launch

Satellite Operations Workshop

Train the Trainer

WWV Tour

Planned Social Activities (subject to change):

Dinner & Shopping in Denver

Pizza & Pool Party

Board & Card Games on campus

License Testing: If you are interested in upgrading your USA amateur radio license - or reside outside of the USA and would like to get a USA license - Denver Radio Club will have a testing team available one evening so you can take the exam. Additionally, Ham Radio Prep has donated free preparation materials exclusively for YOTA campers. E-mail director@youthontheair.org for a free access code to this online license preparation program (good for all USA class licenses).

ARRL Membership: Free student membership signups for the American Radio Relay League will be available at the opening ceremony. Colorado ARRL Section Manager Amanda Alden, K1DDN will be on hand to sign you up in person! This no-cost, Associate membership option is available to full-time students aged 21 or younger. Applicants must be a resident of the US, its possessions, or Puerto Rico. Free Student Membership excludes access to the ARRL E-mail Forwarding Service, and Associate members may not vote in ARRL elections. Other restrictions and exclusions may apply.

Special Event Station: WØY will be the callsign of the official special event station. As many as 5 operating positions will be available for use throughout the week. The stations can be used between sessions, as well as a few dedicated times. Some stations will be available by remote. HF rigs will be the IC-7300 or IC-7610. Satellite stations will use IC-9700s. ICOM Dual Band D-STAR HTs and IC-705s will be available for campers to use for the week as well. The WØY callsign is only to be used when using camp 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 Camp will be 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 Denver Radio Club..

Equipment Sponsors: All radio equipment for the camp will be provided by gracious donations from ICOM America, Heil Sound, X-Tronic, and Begali Keys. ICOM will provide all HF, VHF, and UHF gear listed above. Heil Sound has donated Pro 7 headsets and Pro 3 headphones. X-Tronic has donated temperature controlled soldering stations.

Financial Sponsors: At the time of printing, major financial support to make this camp possible and affordable is coming from: Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF), the Yasme Foundation, DX Engineering, Frankford Radio Club, Radio Club of America (RCA), and Ham Radio Prep. The remainder of the funding is from hams across the world that believe in our cause.

Things you should bring: Comfortable clothes (NOTE: you will be getting several T-shirts to wear from the sponsors upon arrival!), running/walking shoes, toiletries (except soap/shampoo/toilet paper), light hiking shoes (if doing the SOTA option), necessary medications, sunscreen, a notebook, and writing utensils. Dress for all events, including the opening banquet, is casual. Campers should bring their own laptop computer or tablet if

possible, with access to Google Drive. Each camper will receive a drawstring backpack upon arrival. Also, bring a swimsuit if you would like to swim in the hotel pool.

All suites are provided with linens; bedding, towels, and toiletries (shampoo/soap/toilet paper).

We will have plenty of ham gear, but you may bring your own if you wish. 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 WØY 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 frequency (147.550 tone 123.0) or the YOTA Camp Telegram channel. Digital communications should be on 147.500.

YouTube Coverage: The opening and closing ceremonies and the space station contact will be streamed live on the [Youth on the Air YouTube Channel](#). A short, recorded highlight video will be posted on YouTube each day. Impromptu live streams may also appear throughout the week. Family and friends are encouraged to watch these daily.

[Link to playlist of 2025 videos](#)

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.

Our working group has already arranged for the workshop leaders, most of whom are also campers or under the age of 30. We have both male and female chaperones for minors.

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.

YOTA Americas 2025 Camp Planning Working Group:

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Sam Rose, KC2LRC (sam@youthontheair.org)

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Doubletree Suites Information and Additional Rooms & Meals

Doubletree Suites, 83 E 120th Ave, Thornton, CO 80233

Contact Information:

Phone: +1 (303) 920-8000

Hours of Operation: 24 hours

Reservations:

Camper rooms for Sunday through Friday & staff rooms for Saturday through Friday already have reservations. For additional nights and/or visitor rooms, do not contact the hotel directly. Contact the Camp Director Neil Rapp at director@youthontheair.org by May 1 to add additional rooms and/or meals.

The prices below are ONLY for visiting parents and campers who want to add on days before or after camp beyond the provided days. Campers do NOT pay for rooms & meals for Sunday evening through Friday afternoon. Staff and invited volunteers do NOT pay for rooms & meals for Saturday evening through Friday afternoon. These are paid by the camp.

Features:

- Indoor Pool
- Fitness Center

ALL ROOMS

- 300 thread count sheets
- Large screen HDTV
- Air conditioning
- Clock Radio w/ MP3 Connection
- Ergonomic Desk Chair
- Bathroom amenities

- Braille room numbers
- Coffee maker
- Hairdryer
- Free WiFi High Speed Internet
- Iron/ironing board
- Mini refrigerator
- PrinterOn Remote Printing
- Tea/Coffee Making Facilities
- Telephone-with Speaker phone
- Alarms - Visual Strobe
- Automatic Door Closer
- Safe

Two Queen Beds - \$152 for 1 person, add \$10 for each additional person (+tax)

One King Bed - \$152 for 1 person, add \$10 for each additional person (+tax)

Linens & Toiletries:

All rooms are provided with linens; bedding, towels, and basic toiletries (shampoo/soap/toilet paper). Laundry facilities are available in the breezeway that connects to the ballroom. \$3.50 for wash, \$3.50 for dry per load. Cash only. Laundry soap is available at the front desk for \$3.00 (or we will have laundry soap sheets available from the camp director for free as long as he doesn't forget to ship them :))

Parking:

Parking is free.

Additional/Guest/Parent Meals:

Meals will vary depending on location and expense. Typically we budget \$10 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch, and \$20 for dinner (payable to the camp)

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Foreign license info



If your license is issued in:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada¹, 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 WØ/yourcallsign while in the USA. No application is necessary. Just bring IARP or CEPT documentation with you.

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

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

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

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 WØY with a control operator present.

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

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

Schedules

ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME (GMT-6)

When you arrive at DoubleTree, 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 your luggage into the room. Wait for the shuttle from the hotel to the VFW Hall. Then, proceed to the VFW Hall.

Sunday, June 15, 2025

Everyone should check into the camp at the YOTA registration table at the VFW Hall on Sunday afternoon between 1 and 4:30 pm (even if you checked into your room early). You will receive your name badge and bag of swag.

1:00 pm Camp check in begins and continues until 4:30 pm
Led By: Katie Campbell, KE8LQR

2:00 pm Shuttle from DEN airport
and 4:00 pm Led By: Orren, N7WDA & Rebecca, KI7TXO Squires

4:30 pm Check in ends

4:45 pm Meet in Hotel Lobby for shuttle to VFW

OPENING CEREMONY

5:00 pm **Official Welcome** - VFW Hall
(2300Z) Led By: Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, Camp Director (will be
streamed on the [Youth on the Air YouTube Channel](#))
National Anthems
Opening comments
Welcome from Hosts, Meal instructions

5:20 pm Meal begins

6:00 pm **The Future of YOTA** - VFW Hall
Led By: Neil Rapp, WB9VPG Camp Director
Recognition of sponsors, staff, volunteers (Live Stream Resumes)

6:30 pm **Keynote Speaker** - **Gregg Marco, W6IZT** - Youth in DXpeditions

Things to Bring

Pen or pencil
This book

7:00 pm Break

7:15 pm **Rules of the Road** - Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, Camp Director
Code of Conduct, Shirt days & Camp Photo, Video & Photo Booth,
Ham Radio Safety

END OF OPENING CEREMONY

8:00 pm **Ice Breaker / Team Building** (Live Stream Ends)

8:30 pm **Shack Orientation, Logging Tutorial & Operating Time**
Led By: Taylor Laub, KE8KWZ (Shackmaster), Jules Benkemoun, F4IEY, Asst.
Shackmaster, Jack Roberts, W9RFT (Logging), ICOM Rep, Local Host Team

10:00 pm Return to DoubleTree

11:00 pm Everyone Should Be in Assigned Room

11:30 pm Lights out

**Monday through Thursday
schedules will be in an upcoming
revision!!!**

Friday, June 20, 2025

- 8:00 am Everyone should be awake by now!
Breakfast in DoubleTree Restaurant
- 8:45 am Shuttle leaves for VFW Hall
- 9:00 am Team Check In & Announcements - VFW Hall
- 9:05 am Rig Return - ICOM
Led By: ICOM Representative
- Finish Public Relations Team interviews / Meet Young Ham features
Led By: Katie Campbell, KE8LQR & Jack Roberts, W9RFT
- 10:00 am Closing Ceremony
Led By: Neil Rapp, WB9VPG
(will be streamed on the [Youth on the Air YouTube Channel!](#))
- December YOTA Month information
Led By: Kees Van Oosbree, WØAAE & Blake Pearson, KN4VKY
- Prizes & Giveaways
- Post-Camp Survey
- 11:15 am Move Out/Clean Up
Bus Leaves for DoubleTree
- 11:45 am Shuttle Bus Leaves for DEN Airport from DoubleTree
Retrieve your luggage if you stored it in the Breckenridge Room
Led By: Orren, N7WDA & Rebecca, KI7TXO Squires
- 12:00 pm Camp Officially Ends
- 12:01 pm Staff collapses from exhaustion
- 12:10 pm Staff Clean Up and Pack Up

Things to Bring

Your radio
(including all
accessories)

Pen or pencil

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!

Things To Do Before or After Camp

- See the official Denver Visitor Guide at <https://online.publicationprinters.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=54fd4702-b81c-4b98-bade-5a3debc7f6f6>

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