

## **Young amateur radio operators from several countries converge in Thornton, Colorado for ham radio camp**



*The fifth annual camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America will be hosted at the Thornton VFW Hall June 15-20, 2025.*

THORNTON, Colorado, June 5, 2025— A summer camp for licensed amateur radio operators ages 15 through 25 will take place June 15 through June 20, 2025, at the VFW Post 7945 in Thornton, Colorado, according to an announcement today by the Youth on the Air (YOTA) Americas working group. The camp is being hosted locally by the Denver Radio Club.

Thirty-two young amateur radio operators from 15 states and five other countries will spend a week learning how to take amateur radio to the next level, building relationships with other young operators. Campers will attend workshops and activities in multiple STEM-related subjects, such as radio contesting; electronic kit building; and satellite communications.

The campers will participate in a high-altitude balloon launch into near space (about 100,000 feet) on Monday, June 16. The balloon will record video and send back real time tracking and scientific data over amateur radio. Smaller balloons, called pico balloons, will be launched on Tuesday, June 17 with the intent of circumnavigating the Earth. Data will also be collected from those balloons over amateur radio. The launches are being performed in a collaboration between campers and the local non-profit Edge of Space Sciences.

One of the biggest highlights during the camp will be the chance for selected campers to use amateur radio to talk to astronaut Nichole Ayers, KJ5GWI, who calls Colorado Springs as home, aboard the International Space Station thanks to the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) Program. This radio contact is currently scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:25 AM MDT. The ARISS contact will be

conducted using a satellite station built by one of the campers from Thornton, Lyle Strachan, KEØZNV. Live streaming video and a recording of this event will be available 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.

Campers will also enjoy making radio contacts from atop a mountain, within a national wildlife refuge, and on the grounds of NIST radio station WWV in Fort Collins – where they will also take a guided tour.

The camp, a modified version of the popular Youngsters on the Air camps in Europe and Africa, is operated by Electronic Applications Radio Service, Inc. EARS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to wireless technologies and activities. The camp is funded by sponsors, grants, and donations, and is open to participants in North, Central and South America and guests from elsewhere.

The opening and closing ceremonies will also be streamed live on the Youth on the Air YouTube channel. A daily highlight video will also be posted, 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, X/Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

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

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