



## DECT/MARC FIELD DAY 2025

Amateur Radio [ARRL Field Day](#), a national emergency communications exercise, will be held June 28 and 29, 2025. Thousands of amateur radio operators across the United States and Canada will be participating. Locally, the [Damascus Emergency Communications Team \(DECT\)](#) and the [Montgomery Amateur Radio Club \(MARC\)](#) will take part in Field Day at the

**Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activities Center Pavilion  
10211 Lewis Drive in Damascus, Maryland  
(39.2907°N, 77.2130°W)**

***The public is invited to visit!***

This is the twelfth year that DECT and MARC will be partnering for this most popular Amateur Radio event of the year. As we practice our emergency communications skills, we invite the public to see what we do, ask questions, view our radio equipment and witness the latest in radio science and technology. Kids, as well as their parents, will get an opportunity to operate on the air, always a fun experience—as well as a great way to introduce science to young people.

### 24-HOUR CONTESTING

#### **What and why 24-hour contesting?**

24-hour contesting is an integral activity of Field Day. The goal is to contact as many other stations as possible. Points are awarded and stations across the United States and Canada recognized for the number of contacts made. It is great fun but also has a serious purpose—to practice emergency communications preparedness. Because the ARRL Field Day rules



restrict contesting stations to operate on alternative power in austere environments, it is also practice in operating radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. We use these same skills when we help with non-emergency events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums.

### **24-Hour Contesting at the DECT/MARC Field Day**

Dedicated operating positions will be set up for 10 meters, 15 meters, 20 meters, 40 meters and 80 meters to take advantage of improving band conditions and allow the use of single band antennas to help reduce interference. We will also operate a 6 meter station if there is an interest.

Several of these stations to be dedicated radio stations available for any ham to operate, so the operator does not have to bring his own radio equipment. Scheduling times will be made available before Field Day. Of course, hams are welcome to bring their own equipment to operate their own station as well. Scheduled times will also be made available to contest from the MARC Communications Trailer. The public information table will operate a 2 meter radio station for call-in and public demonstrations.

### **SCOUTING AMERICA RADIO MERIT BADGE PROGRAM**

The Radio Merit Badge Program allows a Scout to complete all requirements for the Radio Merit Badge in one day at one location. It will be Saturday, June 28, at the DECT/MARC Field Day site in Damascus, Maryland.

The program covers the knowledge requirements for the Radio Merit Badge with a PowerPoint presentation beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday morning. Lunch is provided by MARC and DECT. Following lunch, the requirements for a visit to a radio installation and a QSO are covered at one of the Field Day stations.

Here's how you can help:

- If you will be at the Field Day site Saturday morning, you can help with registration and distribution of instructional materials.
- If you will be at the Field Day site Saturday afternoon and operating a station, be set up and ready by 1:00 pm to show the station to the Scouts and help them make QSOs.
- If you will be at the Field Day site Saturday afternoon but not operating a station, bring a handheld radio and help the Scouts make QSOs through one of the repeaters.
- If you will be at home Saturday afternoon, monitor the 146.955, 442.750, and 443.900 repeaters and help the Scouts make QSOs.

## **AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC EXAM SESSION**

Sunday morning at 10:00 am, MARC will be conducting free Technician, General, and Amateur Extra examinations in the Pavilion. Advanced registration is required by email to [education@marcclub.org](mailto:education@marcclub.org) . Current hams send email with their callsign and a phone number that can receive text messages. Prospective hams send email requesting information on obtaining an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and submitting a Form 605.

## **VOLUNTEER FOR DECT/MARC FIELD DAY 2025**

Please consider volunteering to assist at DECT/MARC ARRL Field Day 2025. A successful Field Day depends on members pitching in to help. Some of the activities we are looking for help with:

- Set up Friday and take down Sunday
- Station operators and loggers
- Satellite QSO
- Public Outreach
  - Media Publicity
  - Public Information Table
  - Social Media
  - Invite elected officials and heads of served agencies
  - Escort public/VIPs as required
- Bonus points for messaging
- Message Origination to Section Manager
- Message Handling
- W1AW Bulletin
- Alternate Power
- Solar
- Generators
- Batteries
- Educational activity
- GOTA Bonus/Logging
- Youth Participation
- Safety Officer.

- Scout mentoring and training

To volunteer or if you have any questions, contact Paul, N3RQV at [N3RQV @ arrl.net](mailto:N3RQV@arrl.net)

Additional information is at:

- [\*\*presentation by Aleks, W3JAG on DECT/MARC Field Day 2025 planning\*\*](#)
- [presentation by Marc, N4DR on operating a Yaesu FT-991A transceiver](#)
- [presentation by Dennis, KD6DPR on the N1MM Logger+ logging program](#)

updated: May 5, 2025