

NTS and Field Day

How to add more points and fun!

With Field Day planning on our minds by now, one thing to add to your activity is traffic handling. The official rules are below:

7.3.5. Message Origination to Section Manager: 100 bonus points for origination of a formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site. You should include the club name, number of participants, Field Day location, and number of ARES operators involved with your station. **The message must be transmitted during the Field Day period and a copy of it must be included in your submission in either standard NTS or ICS-213 format (or have the equivalent content) or no credit will be given. The message must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.**

The Section Manager message is separate from the messages handled in Rule 7.3.6. and may not be claimed for bonus points under that rule. **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.6. Message Handling: 10 points for each formal message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Copies of each message must be included with the Field Day report. The message to the ARRL SM or SEC under Rule 7.3.5. does not count towards the total of 10 for this bonus. **Messages claimed under this bonus must be in either standard NTS or ICS-213 format (or have the equivalent content). All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF. Available to all Classes.**

There are a variety of ways to add traffic handling to your operation. Here are some suggestions:

- Add traffic to a VHF/UHF station. (These stations are free) Messages can be transmitted to a pre-determined home station or to a scheduled traffic net.
- Have one of the HF stations change to a predetermined station and frequency operating from home and pass the message to be placed with an upcoming net.

- Information tables can have brochures on messaging with a setup using a handheld on a simplex channel that is 1000 feet or more away. Not only is this a good demonstrator, but you can use this as an educational bonus demonstrating the traffic message process and form.
- Don't forget digital! Demonstrate Winlink! What a thing to show how we can send emails WITHOUT the internet!
- Have a GOTA station? The above suggestions can also work well.

If you have any suggestions, we would love to add them to the list. Also, if you take pictures or have a Field Day story about Traffic handling send them to us! (Please include any permissions needed as we may use them in other publications)

We wish you luck in advance in your upcoming Field Day event. 73