

Indiana Parks on the Air

General Rules and Guidelines

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1. Definitions: The following terms are defined with the definition after the term.

Term	Definition
INPOTA	Indiana Parks on the Air
Awards	Certificates given out to Activators, Chasers and Short Wave Listeners as defined by the Program rules
Chaser	An individual who participates in INPOTA by working Activators and submitting claims
Activator	An individual or group of individuals in a state park with the sole purpose of operating as an INPOTA
Management Group	The group charged with overall, worldwide administration of the <i>Program</i>
Mobile	A station operating with an antenna fixed and able to move with a vehicle for the sole purposes of INPOTA
Park Expedition	A single visit by an <i>Activator</i> or team of Activators to a Park in which at least the minimum number of QSOs specified in the <i>Program</i> are made

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Term	Definition
Participant	Any individual who is active within the Program, including <i>Activators, Chasers</i> and <i>Short Wave Listeners</i>
Portable	A station operating with an antenna erected in the park for the sole purposes of INPOTA
Program (The)	Indiana Parks on the Air abbreviated to INPOTA
Reference Exchange	A three letter identifier assigned to a Park within the program. Mainly used during contests but not limited to.
Reference Number	A reference in the form IN001 which uniquely identifies a Park within the program
Short Wave Listener	An individual who participates in INPOTA by logging the activities of an Activator and submitting a log with his or her claims
State Park	A recreational facility designated as a state park by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
WISP	Worked Indiana State Parks (Award)

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2.1 Program Operation

The Program is managed via the Internet, using web sites and e-mail to keep costs to an absolute minimum. The Program is self-funding through charges for certificates, etc. The worldwide INPOTA web site is at <http://www.inpota.com>.

2.2 Program Start Date

The Program commences on 1 Jan. 2010. Parks can be claimed at any time after the start date for accreditation.

2.3 Participants

There are three Classes of participant: Activators, Chasers and SWLs. Teams may be formed to participate in the Activator Class. Points are awarded in each Class and awards are available recognizing specified levels of achievement.

2.4 Reference System

Each park is assigned a unique three-character identifier as well as an assigned number in the range 001 to 025 in alphabetical order. The three-character identifier has been developed to be used during contests to identify the park.

2.5 Rules for Activators

All Expeditions must comply with any local rules regarding use of the land. In particular, Activators must ensure they have all necessary permission to operate within the park. Note particularly that it may not be acceptable to drive on grass in areas near shelters or campgrounds, without permission from the **head** park ranger.

2.5.1 Criteria for Valid Operation

For an Expedition to be considered valid, the following criteria must be met:

1. The Activator must hold an appropriate transmitting license.
2. All operation must comply with the amateur radio licensing regulations and must use the permitted amateur radio bands.
3. Mobile operators can be in, or in the vicinity of a motor vehicle but the antenna must be connected to and able to move with the vehicle.
4. All equipment must be transported to the site by the Activator team.
5. All equipment can be operated from a portable power source (batteries, solar cells, etc). Operation is permitted using permanently installed power sources or fossil-fuel generators of any kind.
6. All operation must comply with any limitations on the use of transmitting equipment that may exist for the Park.
7. At minimum five QSO must be made from a park to qualify as Activated. Each QSO is to be with a different station.
8. QSOs with others within the same park do not count towards the QSO total.
9. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count towards the QSO total.
10. Multiple operators of the same station and call sign may claim the same park activation. Each individual operator must make the minimum number of QSOs stated above in order to claim a park.
12. Activators must submit a log from each park to claim credit. In the event that a claim is not to be made, Activators are still asked to submit logs so a Chaser can substantiate his claim to a park. Logs may be submitted by filling in an entry form on the INPOTA web site. Full details are on the INPOTA web site.

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13. All INPOTA operations are expected to be conducted in the spirit of the program.

14. With effect from 01-Jan-2010, an Activator will be given credit for a Park with the minimum number of QSOs.

2.5.2 Scoring

The Activator claims the park of an expedition based on the minimum number of QSOs as stated above. Parks may be activated as often as desired but only once to be claimed for accreditation. QSL cards are not required

2.6 Rules for Chasers

1. The Chaser must hold an appropriate amateur radio license.
2. The Chaser must make a QSO with the Park Expedition, in which at least call signs and two-way reports are exchanged. Wherever possible, the INPOTA Reference Number (IN001 to IN025) should also be obtained as part of the QSO.
3. With effect from 01-Jan-2010, only one QSO with a given Park on any given day counts for a park credit.
4. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count for points.
5. Chasers who wish to participate in the award scheme must submit a log showing details of all QSOs with Expeditions for which they wish to claim points.
6. QSL cards are not required.
7. An Activator may claim Chaser points for QSOs made with Activators at other Parks during his Expedition.

2.6.1 Scoring

1. The Park is claimed with a single QSO made with the Expedition.

2.7 Rules for Short Wave Listeners (SWL)

1. Anyone can participate in the SWL section, whether they hold an amateur radio license or not.
2. The SWL must receive a QSO between the Park Expedition and any other radio amateur, during which at least call signs and two-way reports are exchanged. This information must be recorded by the SWL. Where the INPOTA Reference Number is given as part of the QSO this must be recorded.
3. With effect from 01-Jan-2010, only one QSO with a given Park on any day will be accredited.
4. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count for points.
5. SWLs who wish to participate in the award scheme must submit a log showing details of a QSO heard with Expeditions for which they wish to make a Park claim.
6. QSL cards are not required

2.7.1 Scoring

The Park credit is claimed for hearing a single QSO with the Expedition.

2.8 Modes and Bands

All modes and amateur radio bands are valid for the Program.

2.9 Scoring System

Each Park is worth one point and is awarded to each Chaser for a QSO with an Activator. A point is awarded to each SWL recording a QSO between a Chaser and Activator. Similarly an Activator earns one point per park meeting the requirements of the minimum number of five QSO's.

2.10 Awards – Worked Indiana State Parks (WISP)

There is a Basic award to each Activator, Chaser and SWL. The basic award can be earned Mixed, Phone, CW and QRP. To qualify for the basic award the Activator must make the minimum number of QSO's from 2 separate State Parks. For the Chaser to qualify for the basic award a contact must be made with an Activator from two different State Parks. Likewise, the SWL station must record the exchange between the Activator and Chaser from two different State Parks. Endorsements will be given for each additional park worked in increments i.e. 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21 and ALL

2.11 Activator Location, Station, Antenna and Power Source

The location of the transmitter and antenna must be on the premises of the state park. Battery power and AC power, if available can be used as well as generated power. Permission to operate from shelters should be cleared with the Park Authorities before proceeding. Permission to use generator power should be obtained so as not to interfere with campers and picnickers.

2.12 Park Behavior

It is highly recommended for Activators to contact the head park ranger and or management prior to an operation. This pertains to using either a fix or mobile station. Explain what Parks on the Air is and ask where the best location is to operate, to comply with park rules and regulations. Be mindful of others by locating antennas in a safe location away from others especially little children. Setting up in an area least accessible to others is recommended.

2.13 Submission for Awards and Fees

Submission for awards can be made by emailing to the Awards committee at inpota@gmail.com. To claim an award state the number of parks involved as an ACTIVATOR, CHASER or SWL. The awards committee will review the logs made out on-line and send via email a handsome certificate which can be printed out. A certificate can be requested to be sent by mail but will require a 5 dollar charge for printing, shipping and handling. Send your request to 5577 Victoria Ct. Newburgh, Indiana 47630.

All endorsement stickers will be mailed and will cost \$1 for each endorsement. The endorsement stickers are to be added to the basic award.

2.14 Revision Date: September 1, 2011.