

## Thunderbase 2014 Amateur Radio Activity K2BSA/8

We have an exciting Amateur Radio program prepared to help each scout understand the principles of radio and have a life time of service and fun using Amateur Radio. Through Amateur Radio there are no boundaries, and you can make new friends all over the world. You can help and support your local emergency responders and provide communication needs for your community. With the program that we are setting up for Thunderbase, we will have HF radios set up to talk long distance using voice and Morse Code, as well as digital communication using computers to talk to people all over the world. There will be radios set up to send pictures using Amateur Radio Television (ATV). We will have UHF and VHF radios set up to transmit through Echolink, connecting repeaters through computers all over the world. Also we will have an Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) set up so we can track people using radios and computers.

If you know Morse Code and want to qualify to get your Morse Code strip we will have an area set up for you. We will be holding two amateur radio merit badge classes May 2 at 1pm and May 3 at 9am. Each class will last about 3 hours. If you are interested please e-mail Jim Birk at [birkj@columbus.rr.com](mailto:birkj@columbus.rr.com) . You will need to get a radio merit badge book before the class.

We will be offering two amateur radio test sessions during Thunderbase 2014. The Laurel VE team from Fayette County <http://larcmd.org/vec/> with the support of the Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club <http://www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html> will be offering these sessions **FREE** of charge to all scouts and scout leaders. What a great opportunity this will be if you ever wanted to get your amateur license. The testing date and time will be May 2 at 5pm and May 3 at 1pm. The location will be in the same building where the amateur radio stations are set up. You will need to study before hand to prepare for these test sessions. They will be offering Technician, General and Extra class license tests. The question pools for all three classes are at <http://www.arrl.org/question-pools> . You can find practice testing at <http://arrl.org/exam-practice> .

You will need to bring certain things with you to be able to take the test, they are at <http://arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session> . You will need to provide your social security number or obtain a FCC Registration Number (FRN) for identification before the test, you can find information for the FRN number at <http://arrl.org/universal-licensing-system> . We need to know by April 1, 2014 who would like to take these tests so we can have all the material ready for you. Please email John R. Hartmus II, [wb8grx@arrl.net](mailto:wb8grx@arrl.net), to let him know what test you would like to take. If you need any additional information please contact Clyde F. Morrow, Sr. KE8DQ at [ke8dq@yahoo.com](mailto:ke8dq@yahoo.com) or 937-644-9410, Jim Birk KD8HVX at [birkj@columbus.rr.com](mailto:birkj@columbus.rr.com) or 614-875-5255, Scott Hixon KC8ITN at [kc8itn@arrl.net](mailto:kc8itn@arrl.net) or 740-474-5293.