



MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

An overview of new ARES and ACS requirements
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1

AGENDA

- Purpose of volunteering
- ARRL – ARES® Changes
 - Levels of ARES Qualifications
- ACS – Auxiliary Communications System
 - Levels of ACS qualifications and requirements

2

A VOLUNTEER FORCE



- The purpose of volunteering to be an ARES or ACS member, is to maintain a willingness and readiness to deploy and operate, or otherwise augment communication systems as designated by a higher authority, in support of an on-going emergency operation or other incident
- Members must display a personal professional appearance, attitude, and experience that reflects favorably on you, ARES, ACS and the Amateur Radio community in general
- **Reminder:** Full membership in the local ARES program may require additional training*

* Refer to the ARES Manual: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf>



3



4

ARES – ARRL BACKGROUND OF CHANGE



- New ARES plan adopted by ARRL at the January 2019 Annual Meeting
- To provide a more clearly defined mission, goals, and objectives; specific training requirements, and a system for consistent reporting and record-keeping
- To provide alignment with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-plan-aligns-ares-with-the-needs-of-served-agencies>



ARES – QUALIFICATIONS LEVELS



- New ARES STANDARDIZED TRAINING PLAN TASK BOOK
- Qualifications based on Skill Levels
 - **Level 1** - Entry level into ARES, includes skills learned when obtaining an Amateur Radio license
 - **Level 2** - Set of skills desired by ARES obtained through coursework and training
 - **Level 3** - Increased skill set that opens path to leadership positions and assignments

<http://www.arrl.org/ares>



ARES – LEVEL 1 REQUIREMENTS



- ARRL Requirements
 - Technician Class or higher license
 - Join an ARES Group (completed and approved ARES application)
 - Obtain an ARES Task Book (print your own)
- This level only allows limited deployment

<http://www.arrl.org/ares>



ARES – LEVEL 2 REQUIREMENTS



- ARRL Requirements (add to level 1)
 - IS-100.c - Intro to Incident Command System*
 - IS-200.c – ICS for Single Resource*
 - IS-700.b – Introduction to National Incident Mgt. System*
 - IS-800.c – National Response Framework*
 - ARRL EC-001 Intro to Emergency Communications
 - Program Frequency, Offset and Tone into an HT
 - Write and send an ICS-213 message (voice or digital)
 - Minimum Quarterly directed net check-in

*Minimum requirements for ARRL – ARES deployment



ARES – LEVEL 3 REQUIREMENTS



- ARRL Requirements (add to level 2)
 - General Class Amateur License or above*
 - IS-120.c - An Introduction to Exercises*
 - IS-230.d - Fundamentals of Emergency Management*
 - IS-235.c - Emergency Planning*
 - IS-240.b - Leadership & Influence*
 - IS-241.b - Decision Making & Problem Solving*
 - IS-242.b - Effective Communications*
 - IS-244.b - Developing & Managing Volunteers*
 - IS-288.a – Role of Voluntary organizations in Emergency Mgt.
 - ARRL EC-016 Public Service & Emergency Communications Mgt*
 - Public Service Event Participation (Annually)

* Required for those seeking/holding leadership positions.



ARES – LEVEL 3 REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)



- ARRL Requirements (add to level 2)
 - Simulated Emergency Test or Exercise Participation (Bi-Annually*)
 - Serve as Net Control
 - Present a training session
 - Hold/held a leadership position in a group
 - Participate in PIO activities (PR-101 Qualifies)
 - Proficient in using ICS forms
 - Operate VHF Digital messaging station in Peer-to-peer mode
 - Operate HF Digital Mode Messaging Station
 - Program Frequency, Offset and Tone into HT

* Bi-annual defined as twice a year; Spokane ARES will treat this requirement as once every two years.





11

AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (ACS)

- The official volunteer resource utilized by Spokane Emergency Management to provide Operational Communications during disasters and major incidents
- Supplemental Training on government-owned communications systems
- Focus on use of NIMS and ICS
- Requirements built separate from those from ARRL – ARES (some overlap)
 - A County application must be submitted, and a background check must be passed
 - A local ACS Task Book will be used
 - Voice and digital proficiencies will be tested
 - Professionalism will be reviewed regularly



12

ACS OPPORTUNITIES

- Available types of working groups:
 - Use of County Radios
 - Satellite Communications
 - County Shelter setups
 - AREDN
 - SHARES
- ACS Deployments



ACS QUALIFICATIONS LEVELS

- **ACS New Member:** Anyone joining Spokane ACS and given one year to complete new member requirements*
- **ACS Radio Operator (RADO):** Completion of all new member training requirements and maintaining those requirements on an ongoing basis. Work toward Senior Radio Operator
- **ACS Senior Radio Operator (S-RADO):** Performance within leadership teams based on the requirements of an activation or event. S-RADO may advance to ACS Leadership positions as desired/needed. S-RADO may include more formal/advanced training
- **Active versus Inactive Status**
 - Active status requires members to remain current in all recurring requirements for New Member and RADO*
 - Members failing to maintain requirements on an ongoing basis will revert to inactive status
 - Members who are inactive for more than two years may be dropped from membership



* Required for County ID Card



ACS NEW MEMBER

- Mandatory requirements for issuance of a County ID card
 - IS-100.c - Intro to Incident Command System*
 - IS-200.c – ICS for Single Resource*
 - IS-700.b – Introduction to National Incident Mgt. System*
 - IS-800.c – National Response Framework*
 - Participate in ACS Radio Nets Quarterly*
 - Monthly Preferred; log your check-ins
 - Attend one ACS training event per quarter*
 - regular attendance is strongly encouraged
- Six months of participation in nets, meetings and exercises as deemed sufficient by ACS staff
- Pass County Background Check



* Required to maintain active status and County ID Card



ACS NEW MEMBER (CONTINUED)

- Additional Local Requirements (Spokane County ACS)
 - Minimum twelve (12) Weekly directed net check-ins during the year*
 - Minimum two (2) monthly group training meetings during the year*
 - Third Thursday Training meeting
 - Second Saturday Amateur Workshop
 - Participate annually in at least one of the following types of events*:
 - ACS Activations, and/or
 - ACS Exercises and/or
 - Community/Public Service events such as:
 - Lilac Parade
 - Bloomsday
 - Others



* Required to maintain active status and County ID Card



ACS NEW MEMBER (CONTINUED)

- Additional Local Requirements (Spokane County ACS)
 - Demonstrate experience with personal radio equipment
 - Basic voice simplex and repeater operation
 - Demonstrate the ability to maintain a radio operator message log
 - Prepare and maintain a Personal Preparedness Kit (Personal Go-Kit)
 - food, water, hygiene items, clothing, medication, etc.
 - 24-hour kit minimum, 72-hour kit recommended
 - Prepare and maintain a Radio Deployment Kit (Radio Go-Kit)
 - Radio(s), spare batteries, antenna, coax, connectors, small tools, etc.
 - Familiarization with HIPAA and Amateur Radio operations
 - Waivers to some requirements may be available on a case-by-case basis



ACS RADIO OPERATOR (RADO)

- Maintain all New Member requirements on an ongoing basis
- Perform as Net Control Operator on a directed ACS net at least once per year
- Maintain an Activity Log (ICS-214) during an exercise or activation
- Take ACS Communications Room Training and participate in net operations from the radio Communications Room
- The following is required to advance to S-RADO:
 - Complete the EMCOMM and AUXCOMM courses when available
 - Lead and/or assist as lead on an activation or event



ACS RADIO OPERATOR (RADO) (CONTINUED)

- Additional Local Requirements (Spokane County ACS)
 - Minimum eighteen (18) Weekly directed net check-ins during the year
 - Minimum four (4) group training opportunities
 - Participation in at least two (2) public service events during the year
 - Participation in at least one (1) quarterly exercise
 - Demonstrable experience with personal radio equipment
 - More advanced technical topics as determined locally (TBD)
 - Waivers to some requirements may be available on a case-by-case basis



ACS SENIOR RADIO OPERATOR (S-RADO)

- Strongly encouraged to take one or more of the following:
 - Communications Unit Leader (COML)
 - Communications Unit Technician (COMT)
 - Incident Communications Manager (INCM)
 - Other training as may be directed such as ICS-300 and 400



ACS SENIOR RADIO OPERATOR (S-RADO) (CONTINUED)

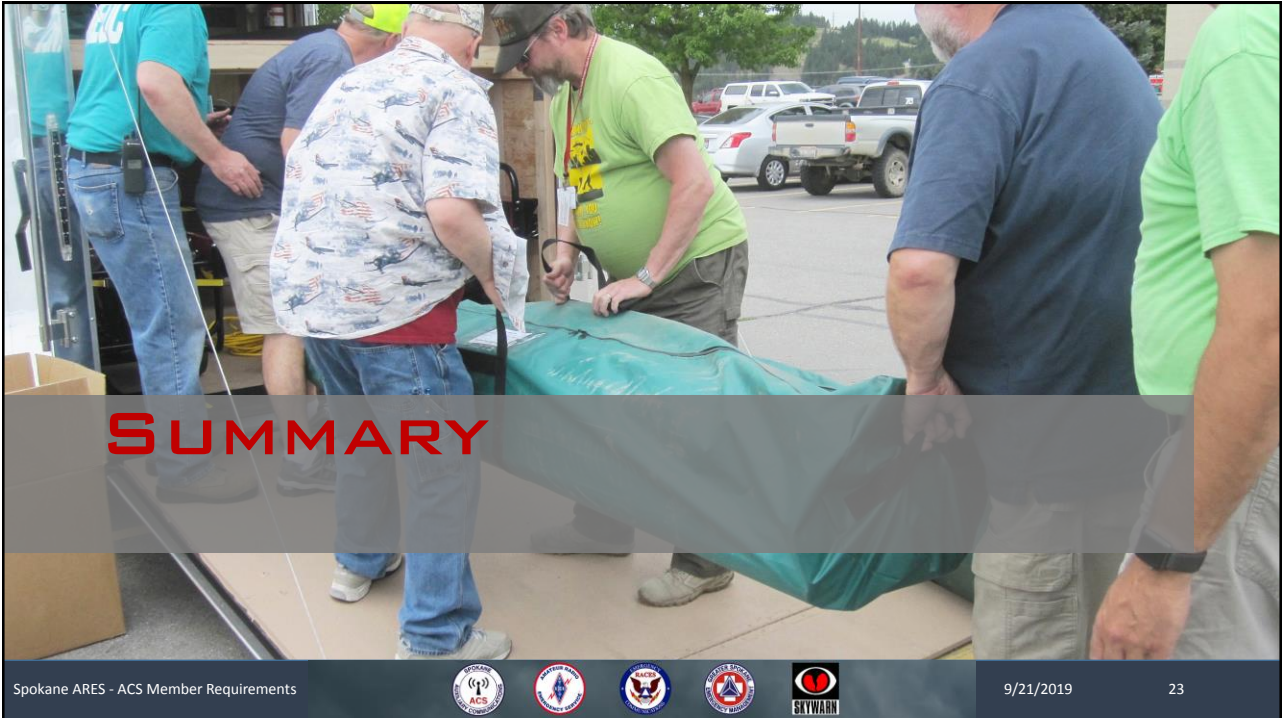
- Additional Local Requirements (Spokane County ACS)
 - Minimum thirty-six (36) recognized weekly directed net check-ins during the year
 - Such as: ARES-ACS, WSEN, KBARA, 0730 Bunch
 - Minimum eight (8) monthly group training opportunities
 - Participation in at least three (3) public service events during the year
 - Participation in at least two (2) quarterly exercises
 - Demonstrate experience with personal radio equipment
 - Operate and maintain VHF/UHF/HF radio links, antennas and power systems
 - More advanced technical topics as determined locally (TBD)
 - Waivers to some requirements may be available on a case-by-case basis



WHAT'S NEXT FOR SPOKANE COUNTY ARES AND ACS

- The Spokane County ARES Leadership team in conjunction with Spokane County DEM are developing the local ACS Task Books
- Expect more focused training on Task Book objectives
- Expect periodic reviews of requirements and demonstrable experience
 - Inventory of your Go-Kits and radio capabilities
 - Demonstration of radio skills
- Expect reconciliation of yearly activities to adjust membership status





SUMMARY

Spokane ARES - ACS Member Requirements



9/21/2019

23

23

WE NEED -YOU-

- Volunteer resources are a valuable commodity
- The face of volunteer emergency communications is changing, we need you to change with it



Spokane ARES - ACS Member Requirements



9/21/2019

24

24

QUESTIONS

- <https://spokares.org>
- W7TSC@arrl.net

