

National Parks on the Air (NPOTA)



Licensed amateur radio operators associated with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program are authorized to set up and operate small, individual, amateur radio stations with antenna within the boundaries of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Individuals and groups of 10 or less do not need to apply for a Special Use Permit. Groups larger than 10 should contact the Commercial Services Office to see if a permit is required (559-565-4235). This authorization is valid for 2016 only. The following regulations must be followed:

- 1) **Park Regulations:** Participants must abide by all park regulations. Information regarding park laws and policies and safety information can be found at the following links:
<https://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/safety.htm>
- 2) **Park Fees:** Participants must pay the appropriate entrance and campground fees if applicable.
- 3) **ARRL Rules:** Radio operators must abide by ARRL rules for the 2016 NPOTA event. Rules may be found at the following link: <http://www.arrl.org/npota>
- 4) **Authorized Areas:** Radio operators are authorized to use areas within the parks that are open to the general public during their normal operating hours. Areas operated under contract by the park concessioner are not permitted to be used.
- 5) **Visitor Safety:** Amateur radio operators must consider visitor safety when determining location and set up of their radio station.
- 6) **Exclusive Use:** Permission for this activity does not guarantee exclusive use of an area. The area will remain open to the public during park visiting hours. Activities must not interfere with other park uses and visitor enjoyment of the area. Participants will at no time impeded the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicle traffic during the activity.
- 7) **Visitor Encounters:** Visitors will be allowed to observe the activity when conducted in a public area. Participants will communicate and interact with visitors in a courteous and professional manner at all times. ARRL interpretive brochures may be available to visitors on site at no charge if provided by the participant.
- 8) **Sales and Solicitation:** Participants are not authorized to sell, merchandize, or solicit business inside the park.
- 9) **Parking:** The NPS cannot guarantee parking availability or access to parking locations during peak hours or weather related events. All vehicles must be parked safely in designated areas; vehicles may not block emergency access and must be legally parked at all times. Parking on or blocking roads or sidewalks is strictly prohibited. Driving off roadways or entering closed or restricted areas is prohibited.
- 10) **Noise Regulations:** Participants will comply with all noise regulations. The Code of Federal Regulations CFR-36, 2.12 (a)(1) prohibits the playing of audio devices in a manner that exceeds a noise level of 60 decibels. No amplified music or public address systems are allowed.
- 11) **Equipment Set Up:** Radio stations that include antennas set up outside of a self-contained vehicle may not be left unattended when the operator is not on site. All antennas set up in a campsite must be moved to a

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safe location at night when operations have completed in order to protect other campers from accidentally walking into equipment in the dark.

- 12) **Location Restrictions:** Radio stations may not be set up in meadows or at the base of sequoia trees. When operating in a campsite, the operator must abide by all campground rules including, but not limited to, quiet hours and generator use.
- 13) **Area Conditions:** All park areas utilized under this authorization must be left in the condition that existed prior to the activity with no disturbance or adverse effects on natural, historic and/or cultural resources.
- a) Participants are prohibited from collecting, moving, or destroying any natural, historic, and/or cultural artifacts including, but not limited to, arrowheads, rock mortars, petroglyphs/pictographs, glass bottles/jars, or similar artifacts. Rocks, plants, and parts of plants (alive or dead) as well as other natural resources may not be removed. Digging, scraping, chiseling, or defacing natural and man-made features is prohibited.
 - b) Set up of equipment will be conducted in such a manner as to avoid trampling or damaging the natural habitat. Vegetation may not be removed or cleared.
 - c) Feeding, capturing, harassing, or harming of wildlife is prohibited.
 - d) Creating new trails, marking trails or other locations by flagging, rock cairns, removing vegetation or dead wood, or by use of marking paint of any kind or by any other means is strictly prohibited.
- 14) **Food Storage:** Park regulations require that all food and scented items be properly stored throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Food and scented items must be stored in a bear resistant food locker unless within arm's reach. Food includes all edible items and beverages. In addition, all trash, toiletries, and other scented items must be properly stored as well. Participants will avoid accumulation of garbage on site. All food and scented items brought to an activity site by the participant must be removed by the participant at the end of the activity.
- 15) **Termination of Permission:** This authorization is revocable without notice if park regulations are violated. This authorization will be revoked if damage to resources or facilities is threatened or if there is a clear danger to public health and safety.

Note: Visitation to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is expected to be high during 2016 for the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary year. Participants should expect weekends and holidays to be incredibly busy. Participants may want to consider visiting mid-week or during off-peak months when visitation is lower. Questions regarding this authorization may be directed to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Commercial Services Office:

Email: seki_concessions@nps.gov
Phone: 559-565-4235