



## Amateur Radio Foundation Course 2024

Are you interested in radio? Do you like technology? Would you like to explore radio, electronics and wireless communications? Would you like to earn your Amateur Radio Qualification?



Scouts WA and Ham College have partnered to provide a low-cost Foundation Amateur Radio course exclusively for Scouts WA members.

Date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> (8.00am to 9.00pm) and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June (8.00am to 5.00 pm)

Venue: Branch HQ, 133 Scarborough Beach Road, Mt Hawthorn

Cost: \$50

Includes: Theory book and Saturday evening meal

Bring: Lunch Sat/Sun, notebook and pen.

It will cover all the theory and practical aspects required to complete the assessment for the Foundation Licence and will include on air radio practise. The theory assessment will be held after lunch on Sunday, and the practical assessments will be conducted throughout the weekend.

The course cost for Scouts WA members is \$50 which includes the theory book, and Saturday evening meal. The course itself is provided by Ham College for no cost to Scouts WA members. (Normally \$50 per person). Places are limited.

At the end of the course participants will have the opportunity to sit the Theory Assessment if they choose to do so. There is no cost to sit the assessment.

To register please complete the registration form on ScoutMap. If you cannot access ScoutMap please speak with one of your leaders.

### FAQ's

How old do I have to be?

There is no age limit – it is open to all youth and adult members of Scouts WA, however, it is recommended that youth members be in the Scouts section or higher. Joeys, and most Cubs, would find the content to be beyond their level of reasoning.

Do I have to have any previous radio experience?

No. There is no level of knowledge assumed. An interest in radio, electronics, computers, physics or similar endeavours would be beneficial.

Is this a residential course?

No. It will run from 8am – 9pm Saturday and 8am – 5pm Sunday. However, country participants should contact the Radio Team and see what arrangements can be made.

Do I need to attend the whole time?

Yes. There is no “part time” option.

Do I have to do the assessment?

No. You can choose not to complete the assessment.

Can I count this towards my Award scheme?

Participating in the course may be able to count towards one of your SIA badges (eg STEM and Innovation). The course will go for about 16-18 hours over the weekend which is more than enough to cover the Scout and Venturer SIA requirements. Make sure you get your plan OK'd by your Unit Council, though.

Can I get a badge?

If you pass the assessment you are eligible to wear the *Amateur Radio Badge* on your uniform.

Is the qualification officially recognised?

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is the Commonwealth regulator for radiocommunications services. Scouts WA and Ham College have voluntary assessors accredited by the ACMA to assess candidates for Amateur Radio qualifications.

The ACMA issues the qualification and callsigns, upon the payment of the correct fees, and on the advice of the voluntary assessors.

What do I get if I pass the course?

You will receive an *ACMA Recognition Certificate (Foundation)* – note you need to apply for the qualification and pay the prescribed fee (currently \$42.50) to the ACMA to receive your official certificate. The *Foundation* level is the lowest level of the three Amateur Radio qualification levels. The other levels are *Standard* and *Advanced*. These higher levels of qualification give holders access to extra frequencies, modes and other privileges.

Can I start to use Amateur Radio equipment if I pass the course?

Not straight away. You need an *ACMA Recognition Certificate* issued by the ACMA, and then you can either use a Scout Callsign at Scout events, or you can apply for your own callsign to use anywhere.

The *ACMA Recognition certificate* is the qualification allows you to apply for a *callsign* which then allows you to use the Amateur Radio equipment for transmitting. You do not need a licence if you want to receive only.

It's a bit like driving a car. You need a licence for the car driver (this is the *radio qualification* part) and a paid registration for the car with a number plate (this is the *radio callsign* part which gives you a callsign).

Do I have to apply for a recognition certificate and callsign if I pass the course?

No. You the assessment is valid for life, so you can apply for a recognition certificate and callsign at any time in the future.

Is there a cost to hold an Amateur Radio licence if I pass the course?

If you successfully pass the theory and practical assessments you will be able to apply for an *ACMA Recognition certificate* and *Callsign* to allow you to use Amateur Radio equipment, either your own, or Scout equipment.

The cost for the ACMA recognition certificate is \$42.50.

The cost for the callsign is either \$42.50 (to choose your own letters) or \$30.15 for the next available callsign (no choice).

As of February 2024, there is no annual fee for an Amateur Radio 'licence' after the payment of the recognition certificate and callsign issue fees.

Can I upgrade to a higher level of licence later?

Yes. You can sit any level of assessment at any time. There is no requirement to complete them 'in order'. This course will cover the content specifically in the Foundation level.

When you change levels of qualification, you still need to apply for a new ACMA recognition Certificate, but you will keep your current callsign for life.

Ham College offers face-to-face courses in Perth, and there are other options available on line and for self-paced study.

If I can't make it for this course, will there be another?

There are no further course dates scheduled at this time that are specifically for Scouts WA members, however, we do intend to offer them in the future.

Ham College run several courses throughout the year and Scout members are welcome to join these courses which are open to the public. The course content is the same. Further details are available on the Ham College website ([www.hamcollege.org.au](http://www.hamcollege.org.au)).

There are also on-line options eg Radio and Electronics School [www.res.net.au](http://www.res.net.au) and other local radio clubs offer courses from time to time.

Note that all training and qualifications for Amateur Radio are different depending on the country in which you live (ie Australia is different to the USA or NZ, for example), so you need to find Australian specific resources and courses.

I need more information...

Reach out to the Scout Radio & Technology team at [radio@scoutswa.com.au](mailto:radio@scoutswa.com.au)  
For course booking queries contact [events@scoutswa.com.au](mailto:events@scoutswa.com.au)