



Public Open House



Rockford Amateur Radio Association—ARRL Field Day 2026

A 24-hour Emergency Communications Exercise and Demonstration

Field Day is amateur (ham) radio's annual 24-hour emergency communications exercise. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary, off-grid transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and the nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. The Field Day Emergency Communications Exercise has been an annual event since 1933 and remains ham radio's most popular. The Rockford Amateur Radio Association has been serving the community for over 70-years.

We invite and encourage the public to attend on Saturday, June 27, 2026 between the hours of 1:00pm and 6:00pm.

When:	Saturday, June 27, 2026—1:00pm to Sunday, June 28, 2026—12:00pm (noon)
Public Hours:	Saturday, June 27, 2026—1pm to 6:00pm
Where:	YMCA Camp Winnebago 5804 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103



What to expect during your visit:

- ⇒ See portable antenna setups and radio stations making contacts via voice, morse code and digital modes. *When the grid fails, we still communicate!*
- ⇒ Experience “Getting on the Air” with the guidance of a licensed, experienced ham providing an overview and assistance to help you experience ham radio.
- ⇒ Learn more about the Winnebago County Skywarn Program and the role trained volunteer ham and GMRS operators play during times of inclement weather.
- ⇒ Learn more about this important hobby and community service from some of the most experienced hams in the Greater Rockford area.

For more information, email: w9axdrara@gmail.com or visit us at rockfordara.org