

Participant Guide

Yes, I may have a bit of bias on at least one of these points.

General Etiquette:

Be Ready: Both you, your equipment, family and your environment.

Bathroom visits done, note pad and pen at hand, food eaten, TV off, kids elsewhere, etc. When you start, you should start as “Having Done” everything else, so you can focus on the Net.

Listen Before You Transmit: Always listen to ensure the air is clear before talking.

Follow the Net Control Operator (NCO): Follow all directions given by the NCO. Only transmit when asked to do so.

Do not try become NCO or direct things: unless asked to! Then be courteous and clear.

Keep Communications Clear and Concise: State your messages clearly, briefly, and avoid unnecessary chatter or jargon. If asked for phonetics, use the ITU phonetics, don’t make up your own.

Acknowledge Instructions: After receiving instructions, acknowledge them by repeating back key details to ensure accuracy.

Wait for Your Turn: The NCO will call for check-ins or specific reports. Be patient and wait for your call sign to be recognized before speaking.

Avoid Jargon over-using callsigns: Chances are most all know who you are. Just follow FCC guides – once every 10 min during, and then just your own, once, at the end of your communications. Don’t fill air-time just because you can.

Check In When Called: Wait for the NCO to request check-ins. When called, respond clearly with your call sign and first name. Use ITU Phonetics only if requested. If not requested - don’t.

Listen for Instructions: The NCO will assign specific tasks. This may include relaying traffic, providing weather reports, or participating in simulated emergency responses.

Be accurate: With what you say, what you write and what you do.

Take notes: You never know what may come up and the goal is to avoid calling for repeats because you didn’t write down something that was already shared.

Example Response Formats:

If asked to relay traffic:

“Net Control, this is [Call Sign], I have a message for [Station].”

If you have no message to send:

“Net Control, this is [Call Sign], no traffic.”