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May 12, 2025 - LeeCARES Training Net:
Getting Youth Involved

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We have discussed getting youth involved in HAM radio as a way to do outreach to the community and gain more interest and participation in ARES. We have also had lots of ideas for activities to engage youth in ham radio.

Here's a quick look at a few more ideas to get kids involved:

1. Local Ham Clubs:

Look for clubs in the area that offer classes and activities for kids, including learning about basic electronics, operating radio equipment, and even getting licensed. We can get ideas from them or encourage participation in those club activities. It may also require multiple local areas to combine their efforts to create events.

2. ARRL Youth Resources:

The ARRL offers resources and programs specifically for youth, including "Kids' Day" events and outreach to schools. They also have information on how to start a youth club and find mentors.

3. Amateur Radio in the Classroom:

The ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP) provides resources and training for teachers to incorporate ham radio into their curriculum. This can be a great way to learn about radio science and technology.

4. Getting Licensed (for older kids):

The FCC's Technician Class license is a good entry point for beginners, and the ARRL provides resources for preparing for the exam. Many clubs offer licensing courses that can help kids prepare.

5. Other Resources:

HamStudy.org is a great online resource for studying for the Technician Class license exam.

The ARRL's Learning Center (LC) also offers courses on various aspects of amateur radio.

6. Making it Engaging:

Consider incorporating fun activities like "fox hunting" (using a radio to find a hidden transmitter) or building simple radio projects.

Encourage kids to experiment with different modes of communication, like Morse code or digital modes.

Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge offers a structured program for kids interested in ham radio. The Boy Scouts are much more community minded in their program and could be a good source of future ARES members