



School Amateur Radio Club - Proposal

Purpose:

A School Amateur Radio Club (SARC) is a fun, school lunch-time activity for a select group of students who would rather be tinkering with electronic gadgets and exploring the air waves than dodging footballs or watching the cricket. It is a neat way for them to get in an extra shot of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), while exercising their on-air conversational skills and tuning up their enquiring minds. It will expand their horizons, build their confidence, harness their creativity and help them develop new skills. Each week there will be different activities to whet their appetites. SARC members learn to work together as a group and to help each other through some pretty exciting challenges. SARC is a free collaboration between educators and volunteer Amateur Radio enthusiasts.



Background:

Modern Amateur Radio is a community-aware, technology-based and rewarding hobby. The purpose of Amateur Radio is largely self-education and technical experimentation, but through the medium of radio communications, many operators around the world form long-term friendships, thereby fostering international good will. Recently, there has been a resurgence in Amateur Radio participation due to simplified licencing conditions, the availability of low-cost radio equipment and no minimum age requirement. This has provided a new opportunity for primary school students, as young as nine, who have successfully obtained their own Amateur Radio foundation licence.

Format:

A small, safe, portable Amateur Radio station will be set up in the school library and operated at lunch time. Each term a different group of up to 12 interested students will be selected to participate in supervised club activities. Each session will include some learning, practice, hands-on and an on-air experience. Resources provided will include posters, booklets, videos, games, electronic kits, Morse practice sets, badges and certificates. Graduates of the club can return each term to mentor others.

Requirements:

The Amateur Radio station is completely safe and transmits less power than a light bulb (10W). It requires a simple shortwave wire antenna, about 20 metres long, suspended from the library building, across the playground to nearby trees about 8 metres high. The antenna is safe and is professionally installed. The students will need written permission to talk on-air and to be photographed using the equipment. Photographs may be published in school newsletters, Amateur Radio magazines and on web sites to promote the club and to encourage needed participation from other primary schools.

Setup and Operation:

The Amateur Radio station will be provided free of charge by Julie Gonzales VK3FOWL, who is licenced by the Australian Communications and Media Authority and is a member of the Wireless Institute of Australia. Julie is a qualified Library Technician and holder of a current Working with Children Card. The antenna will be professionally installed by Joe Gonzales VK3YSP, who is a professional communications engineer.



More Information:

For complete details of the program, including a reference from a school principal, please visit the School Amateur Radio Club Network website at www.sarcnet.org.