

Tips and Tricks

You control the pace As an activator, you control the pace. If you're speaking faster than you can log, slow down. If you're unsure of the callsign, say, "I heard KC3 something, can I have the suffix?". We're in the park to have fun, not stress, so keep the pace at what you're comfortable with

Radio is unreliable Operators expect to not be heard well. There are a multitude of reasons why someone can't be heard. Don't be afraid to ignore a station because you couldn't hear them. Don't be afraid to ask someone to repeat themselves. Hunters will understand. The rude hunters who are not understanding, don't deserve a QSO.

You only need 5 things from a contact for a POTA QSO to be counted. Everything else is for your own purposes.

1. **Their callsign**
2. **UTC date**
3. **UTC time**
4. **mode,**
5. **band**

Always confirm their callsign The hunter won't get credit if you write down the wrong call sign. So confirm their callsign.

Check their signal level on the confirmation The call sign confirmation is a good time to watch the S-meter for their report. The signal report is not required for POTA, but they are customary to exchange.

Signal Report Sent vs Receive Sent is the report you sent them, receive is what they give you. Sent is first, Received is second. If the log has 55 59, then 55 is what you told them. 59 is what they told you. 55 is sent, 59 is received.

Only write down what changes When using a paper log, you don't have to write down everything. If the hour is the same as the previous QSO, just right down the minute. If the band is the same, skip it. Just write enough to be able to reconstruct the 5 required fields later.

Paper logging is error-prone Be very careful when writing down a callsign. Always confirm the callsign. Make sure the callsign is written unambiguously. I ' s don't look like L ' s ; D ' s don't look like O ' s , Ø ' s are slashed, 2 ' s don't look like Z ' s , etc.

Time is allowed to be fuzzy In POTA, only the activator uploads their log. QSOs aren't matched with the hunter's log. For the purposes of POTA, time accuracy is not super important. If you forget to log the time, write down a time between the previous and next QSOs.

As long as you are within ± 30 minutes of the hunter's log entry, you'll match their QSO in LoTW and QRZ.com if you choose to upload your log there.