

ARES Level 1 Participant Training for Peoria County ARES (Illinois – District 6)

Paraphrased from the ARRL ARES Plan: **Level 1** - This is the primary level for those who choose a non-leadership role as well as those new to Amateur Radio or emergency communications. This introductory training is conducted by the local ARES group to meet their needs and those of their served agency or partners. This training introduces the ARES participant to the fundamentals of emergency communications and provide instruction on how participants are to conduct themselves while serving in the field or otherwise activated. Participants may elect to remain at this level, or any level, based upon the extent of their desired ARES involvement.

Level 1 Training is comprised of a series of tasks to perform, some repeat on a regular basis. Place a check next to each item completed at least 1 time. Feel free to ask questions of other ARES Members & Leaders.

- _ Complete and submit the ARRL Registration form. No charge to be part of ARES. See this link: <http://www.peoriacountyares.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/ARESform.pdf>.
- _ Read the Amateur's Code from the year 1928, at <https://www.qsl.net/isn/coc.pdf>.
- _ Study all the Operating Tips under "Making Your First Contact", found on the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/making-your-first-contact>. In particular, focus on the last section "FM Repeaters".
- _ Learn to program your VHF radios – by hand, and/or by computer (usually w/software called Chirp), see <http://miklor.com/> for much information on low-cost radios and programming them.
- _ Program at least the following repeaters/frequencies: W9UVI, K9PEO, W9BFD, & 146.535 simplex.
- _ Listen to and check-in to the Sunday Night Net on the W9UVI 075 VHF repeater, at 8:30 pm.
- _ Listen to and check-in to the twice a month ARES Nets, 1st and 2nd Wednesdays at 8:00 pm on 075.
- _ Attend monthly ARES Meetings at Red Cross, 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.
- _ Visit the Peoria County ARES website at <https://www.peoriacountyares.org>.
- _ Sign-up for ARES Connect at <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/il/>.
- _ Consider joining the ARRL. (optional) ~\$50/year, includes a monthly magazine. <http://www.arrl.org/>.
- _ Read the ARRL ARES Plan at <http://www.arrl.org/ares-plan>.
- _ Load Winlink Express (email without internet), and create a Winlink account, see "All About Winlink", at <http://www.peoriacountyares.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/All-About-Winlink.pdf>. (free)
- _ Participate in the Weekly Winlink Exercise (WWE), one time per week, new one usually every Tuesday.
- _ When you feel comfortable, take a turn running the Peoria County ARES Net.
- _ If you have HF radio, listen to Illinois ARES Net on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 4:30 pm, 3.905 MHz LSB.
- _ Consider joining a nearby Ham Radio Club, possibly the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club (PAARC).
- _ If you hold a Technician license, consider upgrading to General class, for more operating privileges.
- _ Attend Field Day (in June), to meet other hams, and have a chance to operate on HF.
- _ Attend Superfest (2 days in September), at Expo Gardens in Peoria.
- _ Attend Skywarn Storm Spotter Training (in late-winter), if that interests you. Free from NWS.
- _ If interested in Storm Spotting, get on the Code Red List through Jason Marks, Peoria County EMA.
- _ If interested in Storm Spotting, review our process at <http://www.peoriacountyares.org/weather-spotting-process/>.
- _ If interested in Storm Spotting, complete FEMA IC-100 and IS-700 at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>.
- _ Learn how to use the ARRL Radiogram for message handling – a helpful cheat sheet and forms are on our website at <http://www.peoriacountyares.org/message-handling/arrl-radiogram/>.
- _ Look at another ARES Website – <https://qst.net/nf4rd> – always something interesting found there.
- _ Complete the ARES Skills & Assets Survey (this is brand new for April 2019).

- _ SUM OF ALL ELEMENTS COMPLETED (27 available)