

Medina Park Radio Scavenger Hunt

Description of activity: A fun, educational scavenger hunt using two-way family radios to find and identify assigned locations in Medina Park. Participants explore the history and geography of Medina Park, and then report their findings back to the radio “net control” operator at the base station, using a simple radio protocol.

Purpose: Participants in this activity, using family handheld radios, will learn important basic principles of emergency communication in a fun, relaxed setting. These skills can be invaluable in an emergency or disaster when usual communication channels (landline and cell phones) are disabled.

Radios on the Family Radio Service (FRS) frequencies (also known as “walkie-talkies”, “walkabouts” or “talkabouts” are an important part of emergency communications (EMCOMM). FRS is useful during an emergency or disaster to locate persons, to direct operations, to call for help, and to keep track of operations. The radios are a readily available source of reliable communications at a reasonable price. The power source is the ubiquitous AA battery. The radios can be heard for miles under good conditions. They are easy to learn to use. Some radios can be equipped with a built-in GPS so you can locate the position of other stations just by talking or “keying” up the radio.

In Medina, proper use of FRS can be a valuable addition to the city’s current emergency communications plan.

Eligibility to participate: Open to children and adults
Children under age 10 should have either the written consent of a responsible adult or be accompanied by an adult

Estimated time to complete: 30 minutes

Objectives:

- Identify stations on map of Medina Park
- Walk to and observe locations in the park
- Report by radio to Base Station when you reach each location
- Record what you see on your log
- Return to Base Station when you complete your log

Equipment:

- Participants will provide their own 2-way hand-held radio (used for hiking or skiing, also known as walkie-talkies, walkabouts, or talkabouts) with fresh batteries. (A spare set of batteries would be good to have, as well.)
 - Typically purchased at sporting goods store or Costco, a license is not required to operate on the Family Radio Service (FRS) frequencies
 - Some radios have GPS and we can use that function in an optional activity
- Map of park (provided)
- Log sheet (provided)
- Pencils or pens (provided)
- Sign-in sheet and assignment of “call sign”.
- Base station log sheet for participant check-off
- Colored ribbon to identify each station
- Information flyers for concert
- Sign “Medina Public Service Radio Group” (MPSRG)
- Information on amateur radio licensing (MAREN), and citizen participation in MPSRG.
- Souvenir of participation (clipboard with emergency sticker)
- Certificate for each participant to be handed out at Beach Party

Stations:

(Practice station): Tennis court sign

1. “Windsong” sculpture: Read date on plaque (1990) Recognize any names?
2. Medina Park plaque “Dedicated to the People of Medina, August 28, 1971.
3. Dog watering hole at South Medina Lake: report any facts: (date installed, Eagle Scouts; Troop 600)
4. Dog leash sign (southwest park): Look at the closest building, (the City Shop, about 100 feet away) What do you see on the roof?
5. Granite sculpture (report from information card) What color is it?
6. Bridge with salmon ladder: how many steps do you count?
7. Dog watering hole at East parking lot: How many dogs can you see? Do you know any dog breeds?
8. South Lake Overlook: How many ducks do you count?
9. Formal planted area: (Report any facts) “Paper-Bark Maple, In memory of Robert Lund, Mayor of Medina, 1970-1974.”
10. Bridge at north end of North Medina Lake; Do you know the name of this stream that runs through Medina Park? It’s the same stream that you crossed at Station 6.

Concept of operations:

- Participant signs in at Base Station
- Call sign (initials or other choice) is assigned on log sheet, participant is given clip board with personal log, pencil and map of park
- Orientation to radio protocol and exercise
- Radio check-out at practice site
- At each station, participant calls in with call sign and station number, is asked to give information about station.
- Upon completion of log, participant returns to Base Station to sign out and is given a clipboard (and possibly other items) as souvenirs.
- Each person who completes a log will be given a certificate awarded at the Beach Party (or mailed, if not planning to attend). Special awards are also being considered.

(There will be a column on sign in "Planning to attend Beach Party? If not, please add your mailing address.")

Sponsors:

- City of Medina
- Medina Emergency Committee
- Medina Amateur Radio Emergency Net (MAREN). MAREN consists of Medina's FCC-licensed volunteer amateur radio operators.
- Medina Public Service Radio Group (MPSRG). MPSRG is an emergency radio network, open to citizen volunteers, using city equipment to conduct weekly emergency preparedness radio exercises.

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