

# Radio Scavenger Hunt

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 14 from 10:30 am – 1 pm (during Medina Days Carnival)

**WHERE:** Medina Park – look for the Medina Public Service Radio Group table

## Equipment needed:

Participants will provide their own **2-way hand-held radio with fresh batteries** (radios used for hiking or skiing, also known as walkie-talkies, walkabouts, or talkabouts).

Consider bringing a spare set of batteries, 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.

**Estimated time to complete activity:** 30 minutes

## Eligibility to participate:

Scavenger hunt is open to both children and adults.

Children under age 10 should have either

- the written consent of a responsible adult
- or be accompanied in activity by an adult



## Activity:

Using a provided map of Medina Park with numbered sites to visit, participants will explore the history and geography of the park and report their findings back to the radio “net control” operator at the base station, using a simple radio protocol.

Participants 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.

## Background:

Radios on the Family Radio Service (FRS) frequencies (“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.

This activity is sponsored by the City of Medina, the Medina Emergency Committee, the Medina Amateur Radio Emergency Net (MAREN) and the Medina Public Service Radio Group (MPSRG).