

What is Kid's Day?

Kid's Day is a five-year-old and a three-year-old fighting (politely, of course) over possession of a microphone for rights to make the next contact.

Kid's Day is a proud father coaching his nine-year-old son through his first few short, structured conversations on the air, then watching the child operate for the next two hours with virtually no assistance.

Kid's Day is a 10-year-old girl telling her dad, "Now I know why you like to spend time on the radio!"

Kid's Day is a 16-year-old from Texas putting out a general call. Suddenly, literally dozens of stations respond at once, necessitating an intense sorting process to respond to as many of them as possible.

Kid's Day is *fun*.

On the Air, Enjoying Amateur Radio

Originally sponsored by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, and now by ARRL, Kid's Day has grown from a few dozen participants to several hundred in just three years. The whole idea is for young people to hit the airwaves and talk to each other and their elders, exchanging some basic information (call sign, name, age, location and favorite color) and then talking about...anything! One group began a "favorite Beanie Baby" thread; others shared names of favorite pro sports teams. Many conversations were short, with kids reading from scripts to help battle mike fright. "Small voices, short sentences, long pauses" is a good description of some of these. In other cases, the chat stretched out for half an hour or more.

The vast majority of kids will operate under the watchful eyes of older licensees. While many of these mentors are parents of the youths involved, kids are also recruited for the event by grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, Scout leaders and youth group sponsors. Most operations take place at established home

stations, but others originate at Scout jamborees, museums, backyard barbecues and local parks. Even the simplest, temporary station location will be sufficient to give a young person the chance to "talk to the world."

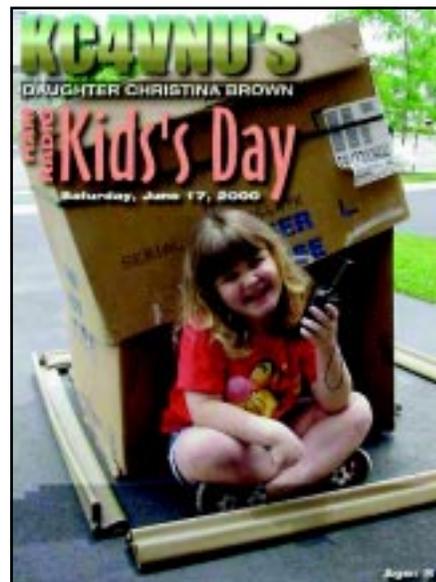
Not only young people get a charge out of Kid's Day. Many hams making contacts with these kids are young at heart. "It's wonderful to hear so many high-pitched voices on the ham bands," remarked one 70-year-old. Older hams spent time encouraging kids to get a license in order to continue to experience the magic of ham radio. When asked if he had a license of his own, one 12-year-old replied, "Not yet, but I'm gonna get it!"

Perhaps these comments from a father and his six-year-old daughter said it best: "This is simply the most fun I have ever had with ham radio! When can we do it again?"

New Certificates For Kid's Day

Our young people are always very enthusiastic about Kid's Day, and we would like to give them another opportunity to "show off their stuff." We are asking these future hams to help us design future participation certificates. Think of the possibilities. Organize a school contest, a homework assignment, or a group effort.

Computer clipart or original artwork is acceptable. The artwork you use should



Christina Brown, (daughter of Gary Brown, KC4VNU) "had a blast" during Kid's Day.

not be copyrighted by others. Remember to include the student's name, age, school and your name and contact information. Please e-mail submissions (as many as you like) to jwolfgang@arrrl.org, or send them by postal mail to: ARRL, Jean Wolfgang, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Kid's Day Rules

Purpose: Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with children.

Date: January 6, 2001

Time: 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time.

Suggested exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

Reporting: Logs and comments may be posted on the Internet to kids@contesting.com. You may review these postings at www.contesting.com/kids/. Those without Internet access may forward comments to the Boring Amateur Radio Club (see below).

Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized ham radio brochure). Send a 9 x 12 SASE to: Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009. More details may be obtained on the Web at www.jzap.com/k7rat/.

