

# Why You Should Attend Youth On The Air!

## Jack Roberts, Dylan Romero

Youth on the Air

### Abstract

**Why I believe that any young ham who's licensed and is within 15-25 years old, whether you've done it all or just got licensed, should go to YOTA camp!**

### Introduction

My name is Jack Roberts, W9RFT. I am 19 years old and currently serve as the Youth on the Air Webmaster and PR specialist.

I was first introduced to radio when I was 9 years old, and I received a pair of walkie talkies from my grandparents. Fast forward to January 2020, I received my Technician license and shortly after that my General license.

I found YOTA because I was researching opportunities in Amateur Radio for younger people and stumbled upon YOTA's summer camp and applied. I have attended 2 camps so far in Cincinnati and Ottawa, Canada, but I will be talking about YOTA Ottawa for today's event.

### Why should you attend?

1. Camp is only \$100 plus travel expenses to attend for the entire week of camp.
2. You get the chance to meet 30+ other young hams with the same interest as you: Ham Radio!
3. YOTA camp is designed to be for Youth by Youth, every presenter during camp is just like you.
4. From POTA and satellite contacts to contesting and kit-building, you will learn so much during camp.
5. Even if you aren't young ham anymore, you can still help make YOTA camp great by volunteering at camp.



Jack Roberts, W9RFT, Leon Hellmich, DL3ON, and Stefan Teodorescu, VA3STQ posing in front of the Canadian Parliament during the "Northern Lights" lightshow

### What do you do during camp?

YOTA camp has a wide variety of activities over the week there's something for everyone. At YOTA 2023 in Ottawa, activities included building your own End-Fed Half-Wave antenna, an ARISS contact with astronauts on the International Space Station, a POTA activation using the antennas we built, and so much more.

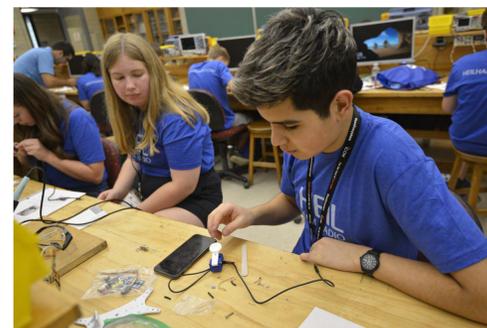
My personal favorite thing was being able to talk to an astronaut on the ISS. Standing up there at the podium and being able to ask them questions about life on the ISS and how amateur radio plays into it. I also was the presenter for the digital modes session, where I taught a room of about 15 campers about digital modes such as FT8, and RTTY and how they work.



Jack Roberts, W9RFT (me) during the ARISS contact



Anderson Ray, K4RAY and Jack Roberts, W9RFT during the ARDF session.



Theo Pastrana, LU1XOP building a straight key during the kit build session

### Conclusion

To wrap things up, Youth on the Air camp is a weeklong camp made by and for youth in amateur radio. At camp there will be something for everyone, whether you like kit-building, POTA, or CW, there's something for you at camp. I am so lucky to have been able to attend and continue attending camp each year. I continue to learn new things about our hobby each year.

Applications for the 2024 YOTA Americas camp in Halifax, Nova Scotia are still open until May 31, 2024. Camp is only \$100 and includes housing for the week, excluding travel. If you or someone you know would be interested in attending camp, scan the QR codes below to visit YOTA's website!



2023 YOTA Americas Official Camp Photo

### References

YOTA Americas  
Official Website



Halifax 2024  
Info



YOTA Official  
YouTube Channel

