

# Mississippi YOTC/USA250 W1AW/5

## Guidelines for Activators

- **General info**

- Use of the W1AW call sign (just as you would with your own call sign) is a privilege, and you want to show best practices and courtesy when operating. Operators must be polite at all times. Operators must operate using the privileges granted only by their personal license class serving as a control operator (or within the operator privileges of the highest-class Control Operator present and observing operations – Eg, a Novice/Technician Class license holder, however, can operate on General Class or above bands provided a properly licensed Control Operator is present with them at all times.)
- Activity is encouraged on as many bands (including WARC band) from 2200 Meters LF through all of HF; all of VHF/UHF/SHF, all of the Microwave bands and via Light (**excluding 60 Meters**), on each of the three modes (CW/Phone/Digital). Please balance CW and Phone activations against the ease of just making digital contacts.
- While the object of the WAS-250 Worked All States event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/Portable States as possible, operators are encouraged to explain the celebrations of 2026 (Semiquincentennial ARRL WAS-250 Worked All States Award {together with the Year of The Club and 100th Anniversary of the Field Organization} to the degree that your operating time may allow. Encourage other operators to get on the air, make contacts, and have fun. Calling “CQ WAS-250” on CW or Phone only (not on Digital) is a great way to draw attention.
- You **MUST** utilize electronic logging. Any logging program that allows you to export an ADIF log file will be fine. Examples, N1MM+, N3FJP ACL, WINLOG32, HRD, WSJT-X, JTDX, etc, etc. I suggest creating a new log file in your software at the beginning of the event to keep it separate from your personal log. There will be an online form for operators to submit their ADIF files after the event. Individual operators will not upload W1AW/5 logs directly into LoTW and no certificate is required on your end.
- If your CW/SSB run frequency gets busy with lots of callers, consider going to “Split” mode like many DXPedition stations do. It helps keep your run frequency clear and lets you spread out the pile a bit. Digital (FT4/FT8) activators may consider using the Multi-Stream version of WSJT-X (MSHV). However, please take into consideration band activity. If you pick one of the non-standard FT8/4 frequencies enter that info into the spreadsheet either as a note or with your call to make it easier to be found. The link to MSHV info and software is <http://lz2hv.org/mshv> .
- As stated above, when using WSJT/JTDX (FT8/FT4 etc) Digital Modes, **EXCLUDE** in your CQ reference to 250. “CQ 250 W1AW/5” does not decode. The “250” is seen by the receiver as the call sign. So instead on Digital Modes just use the standard “CQ W1AW/5” where # is your call area.

- Continue to watch your email and monitor the MS Section website at <https://arrlmiss.org> as additional info will be posted there as we get closer.
- Most importantly... HAVE FUN!!!
- **Using the scheduling spreadsheet**
  - The Google Drive link you were provided by the event coordinator provides the ability to make changes to the schedule and it should be kept private. You do not need to have a Google Drive account to use this link. ONLY Mississippi stations who will be activating W1AW/5 during our 2 weeks should have the link. **DO NOT** share the link. If you know of another MS ham who wants to activate, have them contact W5UE and I will provide them the link.
  - Note there is a tab at the bottom of the sheet for each day of our activation period. All seven sheets look alike except the date in the header so please ensure you are making your reservations in the proper sheet. **PLEASE DO NOT** press the "Add more rows..." button near the bottom of each sheet and/or add or change any sheet tabs..
  - Scheduling operating slots is simple. The spreadsheet is laid out in one hour slots per mode across the top and band down the left hand side of the sheet. **All dates/times are in UTC.** To reserve a time/band/mode slot simply type your call in the appropriate cell. The spreadsheet automatically saves any changes you make. Multiple people can be updating at the same time and all changes will be saved.
  - The ARRL YOTC coordinators have directed that only ONE band/mode/time combination may be active at a time. If a slot is already reserved by someone else, DO NOT type anything in that cell or start operating on a reserved band/mode/timeslot.
  - You can reserve as many band/mode/timeslots as you wish in advance, however, please try to only make reservations you intend to activate. Obviously, things change, so if you have a reservation you cannot make **PLEASE** go back to the link and remove your call from that band/mode/time slot so someone else can reserve it.
  - If you try to type in any of the header/formatting areas of the spreadsheet you will get an error. Those areas of the spreadsheet are locked. Only the white cells for band/mode/time slots can be updated.
  - The scheduling spreadsheet is only useful if those of us who are activators use it for all of our on-air time. Please utilize it so everyone knows where everyone else is at any given time.