Purpose, Registration and Social Media Plan

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Purpose

Skywarn Recognition Day (SRD) is a 24 hour period during the first weekend of December, set aside by the National Weather Service (NWS) to recognize the volunteers and contributions of the Skywarn Community. Originally focused on amateur radio operations, starting with SRD in 2020, NWS provided the unique opportunity to expand the recognition into Social Media to entice and engage a broader audience including non-Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters. This plan will help drive the messaging for a consistent and collaborative effort across the entire NWS.

One of the challenges for this plan is the span of the NWS presence across the Northern Hemisphere. The event spans eight time zones and the international date line. This plan is meant to provide a basic foundation and should be adjusted to accommodate the local time zone of the NWS offices.

Registration

Google Form

Registration for SRD can be found online at https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition. Registration is completed by using a Google Form. The form will automatically generate the following:

- SRD numbers for non-amateur radio participants
- List of all registered SRD participants
- List of Amateur Radio SRD participants
- List of Non-Amateur Radio SRD participants

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- List of NWS Operational Modes and Times
- NWS Contact Checklist

NWS Amateur Radio Operations

Using the Google Form, NWS offices will register for SRD operations. The registration can be completed by the individual NWS office, or a designee. Regardless, a NWS representative MUST be included during the registration process.



Image: A webpage is automatically created with the Operations Modes, Times and QSL details.

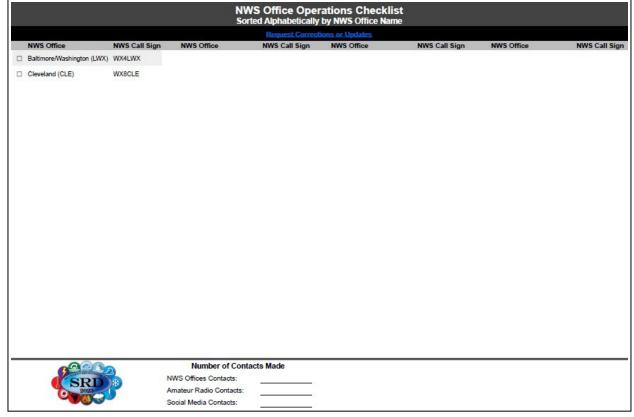


Image: The NWS Office Contact Checklist is automatically generated and linked to the SRD website.

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Geo Mapper (optional)

Additionally, there is an option for participants to add their name to a Map display via GIS link provided in the Google form registration process. This map display will show where the Skywarn Spotters are located.

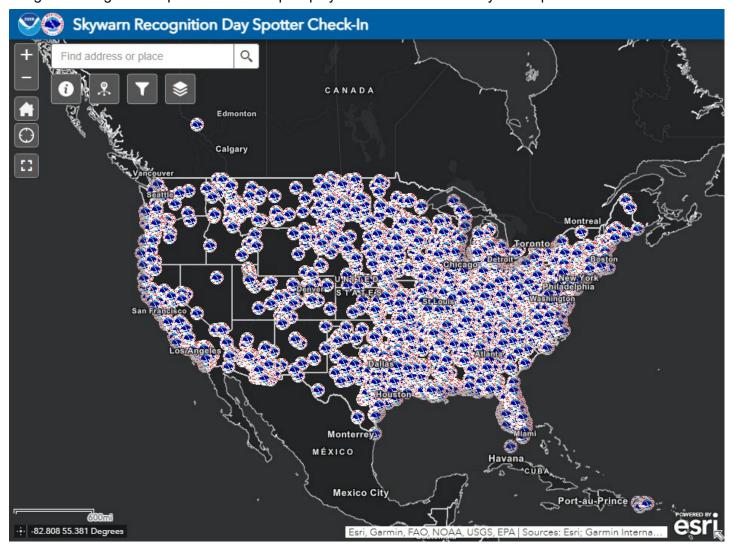


Image:

Example map of 2022 Skywarn Recognition Day participants. This map is generated by participants OPTIONALLY adding their location to the map. This DOES not register the participants for SRD.

General SRD Plan

The National Weather Service offices are encouraged to use this plan to your advantage. Implementation of any part or all of this plan is strongly encouraged, but not required.

The 24 hour period will be broken into six periods of time with the messaging focusing on various aspects of Skywarn including a period of time to recognize significant local and regional Skywarn partners.

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SRD Focus	Time Frame	Content Suggestions	Host
Introducing and Welcome Participants	00-06 UTC	Introduction to SRD Facebook / Twitter Live Stream	SRD Planning Team
		Welcome Message Live Stream or Recording	NWS Leadership
		Local Office Welcome Message Pre-Recorded or Live Stream	Local NWS representatives
		Skywarn Promotions	Local NWS offices via Social Media
		Possible Live Skywarn Training	Local NWS offices (depending on time of day)
		Invite people to post weather reports and images	Local NWS offices via Social Media
SRD Engagement	06-12 UTC	Relatively Quiet Period	
		Post Amateur Radio Promotional Content	National NWS Local NWS Offices
		Invite posting of weather conditions and images.	Local NWS offices via Social Media
		Live stream of upper air launch	Local NWS Offices with upper air.
		Live stream synoptic observations.	Local NWS Offices
		Ask Skywarn Spotters to submit pictures of their observation equipment	Local NWS Offices
SRD Encouragement	12-18 UTC	Invite people to post weather reports and images	Local NWS offices via Social Media
		Post Educational Content Weather Safety Reporting methods Local Training Materials	Local NWS offices National NWS
		Local Recognition of Skywarn	Local NWS

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SRD Focus	Time Frame	Content Suggestions	Host
		Champions	National NWS
SRD Education	18-24 UTC	Invite people to post weather reports and images	Local NWS offices via Social Media
		Post Educational Content Weather Safety Reporting methods Local Training Materials	Local NWS offices National NWS
		Live stream of upper air launch	Local NWS Offices with upper air.
		Final Word Live Stream or Pre-Recorded	NWS Leadership
		Thanks For Your Participation Live Stream	SRD Planning Team

Resources

Time Conversion from UTC

To obtain your local time here in the United States, you need to subtract a certain number of hours from UTC depending on how many time zones you are away from Greenwich (England). The table below shows the standard difference from UTC time to local time.



Notes: AST - Atlantic Time, AK - Alaska Time, HI - Hawaii Time, * - The previous day, % - The next day

Social Media Content:

The following webpages include social media content that can be leveraged throughout the SRD Event. While there is no specific content requirement, each office should consider posting content during the educational portion of SRD that is most relevant to the local office's seasonal needs.

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SRD Facebook Page

The <u>Skywarn Recognition Day Facebook page</u> has been in place since 2021. This page will include links, updates and additional news regarding the annual event. Participants are encouraged to discuss and post content relevant to SRD activities before during and immediately after the event.

SRD X (formerly Twitter) Hashtag

The SRD event does not have an X (formerly Twitter) account. Rather the event participants are encouraged to use the assigned event hashtag for each yearly event (the last four digits will be the year of the event so for example (**#SKYWARN2024**). Posting of content related to pre-event planning and event operations are encouraged to post and append the hashtag.

Additional Resources

National Weather Service Safety Page - Sorted by Weather Topics

NWS Safety Campaign (Seasonal)