

Santa Cruz County ARES Membership Levels

A. Basic ARES Membership

Required to Achieve Basic Membership

1. Obtain an amateur radio license issued by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
2. Complete a Santa Cruz County ARES application and attend monthly meetings.
3. Register as a Santa Cruz County Disaster Service Worker (DSW).

Required to Maintain Basic Membership

1. Maintain an active FCC-issued Amateur Radio License and County DSW credential.
2. Participate in at least 4 ARES nets every 12 months.
3. Attend at least 4 ARES monthly meetings every 12 months.
4. Track the successful completion of your training tasks.
5. Respond to an annual email list purge indicating continued interest.

As a Basic ARES Member, you learn about effective radio communication techniques and participate with more experienced members in ARES-supported events, such as marathons or bicycle rallies.

B. Level 1 ARES Membership

Required to Achieve Level 1 Membership

Basic ARES membership, plus:

1. Complete ICS 100, *Introduction to Incident Command System*.
2. Participate in 3 ARES nets.
3. Participate in 1 ARES event.

Required to Maintain Level 1 Membership

1. Maintain an active FCC-issued Amateur Radio License and County DSW credential.
2. Participate in at least 5 ARES nets every 12 months.
3. Attend at least 4 ARES monthly meetings every 12 months.
4. Participate in at least 1 ARES-supported event annually.
5. Respond to an annual email list purge indicating continued interest.

As a Level 1 ARES Member, you can improve your technical radio skills, run weekly radio nets, and participate individually or with others in ARES-supported events.

Note: Tasks may be completed in any order, except for ICS courses which must be completed in sequence.

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C. Level 2 ARES Membership

Required to Achieve Level 2 Membership

Level 1 ARES membership, plus:

1. Complete ARRL *Basic EmComm*.
2. Complete ICS-200, *Incident Command System (ICS) for Single Resources*.
3. Complete ICS-700, *Introduction to National Incident Management System*.
4. Complete ICS-800, *National Response Framework*.
5. Participate in 7 ARES nets. Act as net control for one or more ARES nets.
6. Participate in 4 ARES events.
7. Attend 4 ARES meetings.
8. Demonstrate these skills:
 - a. Program a frequency, tone, and repeater offset into a transceiver.
 - b. Write a message using ICS-213. By radio, send and receive an ICS-213 message.
 - c. Complete an ICS-214 Activity Log at an ARES event.
 - d. Assemble an 8-hour deployment kit.

Required to Maintain Level 2 Membership

1. Maintain an active FCC-issued Amateur Radio License and County DSW credential.
2. Participate in at least 10 ARES nets every 12 months.
3. Attend at least 6 ARES monthly meetings every 12 months.
4. Participate in at least 4 ARES events every 12 months.
5. Respond to an annual email list purge indicating continued interest.

As a Level 2 ARES Member, you can further improve your technical radio skills, run weekly radio nets, and participate in and help train less experienced members at ARES-supported events. Only members at Level 2 or above are eligible to be deployed to government facilities.

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D. Level 3 ARES Leadership Membership

Required to Achieve Level 3 Membership

Level 2 Membership, plus:

1. Join ARRL (American Radio Relay League, the organization for amateur radio)
2. Assist in the organization of 2 ARES events.
3. Present a topic of interest at an ARES meeting.
4. Demonstrate ability to work under pressure.
5. Get approval of County District Emergency Coordinator (DEC).

Required to Maintain Level 3 Membership

1. Maintain an active FCC-issued Amateur radio License and County DSW credential.
2. Maintain ARRL membership.
3. Act as Net Control for one or more ARES nets every 12 months.
4. Organize or assist in organizing one or more ARES events every 12 months, or maintain one important ARES process (e.g. credentialing).
5. Attend at least 9 ARES meetings every 12 months unless excused by DEC.

As a Level 3 ARES Member, you help lead the organization. You help define the organization's goals and help train and motivate members to achieve those goals.