

WFD 2023 Suggested Script for QSOs

Although it's not officially a contest, Winter Field Day contacts do accumulate points for the most contacts made, as well as bonus points for operating conditions, special call signs, etc. Many operators are chasing points so they will attempt as many QSOs as quickly as possible. Don't feel rushed, ensure you get the information needed for the log and have fun!

There is no perfect way to make a QSO, this note shows what could be a typical interaction on air during Field Day. In order to log a contact - a QSO - you must trade callsigns and WFD exchanges with your contact. Signal reports are not required. We will be operating as VE6NQ and our WFD exchange is 1M AB:

1 – to indicate we have one operator at a time

M – to indicate we are operating under the Mobile category (refer to the WFD rules for further information) and

AB – to indicate our location.

Here's an example:

Choose a frequency that seems quiet and check if it's in use by calling out:

Is this frequency in use?

Call out a couple of times. There may be a QSO in progress and you may not hear both sides of it.

If someone comes back with "yes it is", move to a different frequency and start again.

If nothing heard, then call out:

CQ CQ CQ.

Victor Echo Six November Quebec calling CQ Winter Field Day.

CQ CQ CQ VE6NQ

If someone responds, congratulations, you've made a contact! **THE VERY FIRST THING YOU DO IS LOG THEIR CALLSIGN AND WFD EXCHANGE.** QSOs can be rapid-fire and there may not be a chance to ask at the end.

Let's say amateur radio operator with the callsign K9DOG responds to your CQ:

VE6NQ, K9DOG. Please copy Two Oscar, India Alpha

Translation – K9DOG is answering your CQ and their WFD exchange is 2 Outdoor from Iowa.

You reply:

K9DOG, I copy you 2 Oscar, Iowa. You are 59 here in Calgary Alberta. QSL, 73. VE6NQ.

Or something similar to acknowledge you've got their callsign, WFD exchange and a signal report. Try to remember 73!

Sometimes, you'll get a bunch of replies – even better! Pick out the call sign you hear best/first and log that one. If you don't catch the full callsign, just ask. For example, let's say you get several replies and the only one you could make out was K9Dsomething. You would reply:

Kilo 9 Delta QRZ?

That tells everyone who's listening that you're dealing with the K9D station first, then on to another one. Don't feel rushed. Reply at your own speed.

Phonetics are always encouraged and make the contacts easier to follow.

If you call out CQ a few times and don't get a response right away, it's your choice to either stay and see if someone comes along or move to another frequency and start again.

If you are responding to a CQ or QSO in progress, break in with just your callsign. It will likely take a few attempts but hang in there if it's a particular call you want to log. Sometimes, you can't get through the pile up – no worries. Try later or simply move on.

Good luck and remember – have fun!

WFD 2023 Rules <https://www.winterfieldday.com/rules.php>

In contests, signal reports are by convention, always 59, regardless of how poorly you or the other station is heard. It's not strictly required for the QSO to be considered official. In fact, in the contesting software (N1MM+), the signal report is defaulted to 59.

Winter Field Day 2023

Our exchange is 1M AB

One Mike Alpha Bravo

All Amateur bands, VF, VHF& UHF **EXCEPT**
12, 17, 30 and 60 metres

Suggested Frequencies: (to make it easier to find each other)

HF CW – 1810-1820, 3.530-3.550, 7.030-7.050, 14.035-14.055, 21.030-21.050, 28.030- 28.040

HF SSB – lowest 30 kHz of the US General Class Phone bands (160m-15m), 28.400- 28.425MHz (10m)

6m/VHF/UHF – adjacent to, but not on, nationally recognized simplex calling channels.