Thanks for signing up. Here is a little information about what Ham Radio operators do at the Nebraska State Fair and some procedures for getting free Gate Passes.

Once again the Nebraska Ham community will be represented at the Nebraska State Fair. We are always looking for volunteers to come and join in the fun. We get to not only promote our hobby but help our fellow Nebraskans at the same time. It’s a great time to practice our emergency communications in situation that range from the casual search for missing adults and children to reporting emergency medical calls. We have been complimented on our assistance in helping medical personnel reach the site of an accident. Additional compliments have been reported from the tractor drivers that pull the large people transports for our assistance in getting them through large crowds safely. The past couple of years we have also assisted with the 6pm daily parade crowds.

All that we require is that you be a member in good standing of ANY Amateur Radio Club and that you be willing to work at least a 4 hour shift. If you commit to a 4 hour shift we will provide you with a free Gate Pass. (See instructions below for getting your pass.) Your welcome to arrive before your shift and stay long after we conclude for the day. We utilize the Lime Green or Yellowish vests that say “Amateur Radio Emergency Communications” on the back. They are similar to the ones you can purchase from the [ARRL site](https://www.arrl.org/shop/ARES-Deployment-Vest-with-Pockets-Solid/). We have a few, and I do seriously mean a few, of the vests that we can loan out to volunteers. If you have one of your own it would certainly be advisable to bring yours. If your vest is tattered and torn you may want to consider purchasing a new one as we are representing all Amateur Radio Operators in the state and we want to present the best image possible.

Signup sheet and schedule is now online at <www.gihams.org>. However it is a brand new system that we are using this year and **I do expect there to be a few bumps along the road**. If you have any trouble using the online sign up form please email me at [n0yxv@gihams.org](mailto:n0yxv@gihams.org). The new system should allow us to better track volunteer hours and provide each volunteer with a personal accounting they can later use for tax purposes. It will require that first time volunteers sign up for a free account. System will log hours donated as well as miles driven.

When you sign up for a shift you will be greeted by a Username and Password screen. If you have not already registered with the system you will need to do so before you can continue. There is a very small ‘Register’ link located at the bottom of the Login screen that will allow you to sign up.

At present we don’t have enough man power to be on the fairground from 8AM to Midnight so it’s **important that you note the schedule posted online**. Schedule is apt to change from time to time so please make sure you sign up. If a scheduled shift is deleted and you are signed up for it you will be notified by email. If you come at an hour we aren’t scheduled you may or may not find anyone monitoring the State Fair repeater. Feel free to use it as an Open Repeater any time that an actual State Fair net is not in progress. There are a limited number of spots available however I would be more than happy to open up more slots to accommodate any overflowing of volunteers. I would love to have the wonderful problem of having to deal with too many volunteers.

This could also be a great club project and would certainly entertain the idea of letting a clubs sponsor a day by providing all the volunteers. We would find a location where we could put your clubs small banner representing your club as the hosting club of the day.

We utilize two repeaters. The 146.94 repeater for Talk-In and the 145.4150 Repeater for Net Operations and assisting with passing out Gate Passes. In the past it has worked out very well to hand out the Gate Passes to volunteers directly at the gate. After you get a parking spot just call in on the 145.415 Repeater and let us know which gate you are coming in. If you’re not sure of the gate number your coming in hopefully you can direct us by giving a general direction, North, South, East or West that your parked from the fair grounds. Parking is free….for the most part. There are individuals that sell parking spaces in their front yards and vacant lots that are not associated with the fair. After we determine which gate your coming in we will have one of our volunteers meet you at that gate with an appropriate amount of tickets. If you come before your shift and no one is on the grounds, and you don’t already have a Gate Pass, you may have to wait until one of us can get to you. You can ask around on the .94 Repeater and/or the .415 machine as to who can provide you with a pass. We have several volunteers in town that have the authority to issue Gate Passes and would be more than happy to meet you someplace. If you decide not to wait and go ahead and pay the Gate Fee yourself we can’t reimburse you. However we will certainly provide a Gate Pass to you that day for any upcoming schedules you may be signed up for. Do not ask the people taking tickets to provide you with a free pass.

If you have any questions, or I have left out some important information, please feel free to email me [n0yxv@gihams.org](mailto:n0yxv@gihams.org) with any request. There are too many situations that could arise for me to address them all in an email.

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| **146.94000** | [W0CU0](http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?fccCallsign=W0CU0) | RM | 123.0 PL | 123.0 PL | W0CUO GI | Grand Island Centennial Towers |
| **145.41500** | [W0CUO](http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?fccCallsign=W0CUO) | RM | 123.0 PL | 123.0 PL | W0CUO GI | Nebraska State Fair |

Sincerely,

Stan Coleman – N0YXV

Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator

Nebraska State Fair

[n0yxv@gihams.org](mailto:n0yxv@gihams.org)