

# California QSO Party

## CQP 2025: POTA Challenge

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## 2025 POTA Challenge Background

Beginning with CQP 2024, we introduced the CQP POTA Challenge.

This was a fun side contest that ran along with the main CQP event. It was intended to inspire additional motivation by participants.

There were no changes to the main CQP rules, categories, overlays, scoring, plaques and main results files. All of that continued unchanged in CQP 2025. This was an additional side challenge to enjoy.

Congratulations to all the POTA Challenge participants who won a POTA beanie.



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## Parks on the Air (POTA) Challenge Summary

### Eligibility:

- All entrants who operate CQP 2025 from a Parks on the Air (POTA) reference. Operation is judged to have been a valid POTA activation.
- Any power level
- Log submitted to CQP and judged to be a valid, scored log
- Log submitted to pota.app. Activation officially appears on pota.app web page under the POTA reference with the same callsign as the CQP log submission callsign.

### Accolade:

Winners determined by **highest total number of QSOs**.

### Inside California:

- Top 5 Single-Operator or Single-Operator Assisted POTA entries
- Top 1 Multi-Single POTA entry
- Top 1 Multi-Two POTA entry

### Outside California:

- Top 1 Single-Operator or Single-Operator Assisted POTA entry

### Award:

- Single-Ops: POTA beanie
- Multi-Ops: POTA beanies
- All POTA entries listed in dedicated POTA results tables

### Sponsor:

Northern California Contest Club



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## CQP 2025

### POTA Challenge Rules

Stations that operate from one or more Parks on the Air (POTA) references may enter the CQP POTA Challenge.

1. POTA contacts for this challenge must be valid contacts from one or more POTA references, with logs submitted to [pota.app](https://pota.app) and processed successfully prior to the CQP log submission deadline.
2. If all contacts in a CQP log submission are POTA contacts from the same reference, either include a SOAPBOX line of "POTA" followed by the POTA reference activated (e.g. "SOAPBOX: POTA US-1138") or specify the POTA reference in the online log submission form.
3. If a CQP log submission includes both POTA and non-POTA contacts, or contacts from more than one separate POTA reference (e.g. a Mobile entry passing through multiple parks, or an operation from a park one day and home another day), then for each POTA reference activated, include a SOAPBOX line of "POTA" followed by the POTA reference activated and the number of **CQP** QSOs from that reference, e.g. "SOAPBOX: POTA US-1138 75". The total number of CQP QSOs from all POTA references in the log submission will be combined.
4. QSOs made by a CA county-line station each count as a single QSO for purposes of this challenge.
5. For stations operating from a location that overlaps multiple POTA references (a POTA "*n*-fer"), and for park-to-park QSOs where the other party is in multiple simultaneous POTA references, each QSO only counts as a single QSO for purposes of this challenge. If activating an *n*-fer, only list one of the references in the SOAPBOX line or online submission form for that activation.
6. POTA beanies awarded to top stations per POTA Challenge results summary page.
7. Operation must follow all rules of the CQP and of POTA and each QSO claimed for the challenge must be valid for both CQP and POTA.



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## CQP 2025

### POTA Challenge Results

Please see the following tables for the POTA Challenge results.

In order to be listed in the CQP 2025 POTA Challenge results, you needed to have completed these steps:

- Upload your CQP QSOs to [pota.app](https://pota.app), with your log successfully accepted by [pota.app](https://pota.app).
- Indicate to us the specific POTA reference you operated from in CQP 2025.
- Indicate to us the number of CQP QSOs that were made from that POTA reference if you split your time in CQP between operating from home and operating from a POTA location.

What determined the QSO counts shown in the following tables:

- Your CQP 2025 log QSO counts after CQP log checking.
- The number of QSOs shown for you on [pota.app](https://pota.app) under the respective POTA reference during the CQP 2025 time frame.
- The number of CQP QSOs you claimed for POTA Challenge credit. Some stations made a portion of their CQP QSOs from a POTA reference and made other CQP QSOs from home.



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## 2025 POTA Challenge: California Single-Ops

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	KN6VTC	Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park	US-0754	0	956	956
2	W6M (KB9ENS op)	Carrizo Plain National Monument	US-4541	272	84	356
3	K6G (KA9MDP op)	Mendocino National Forest	US-4460	0	247	247
4	N6LY	Tomales Bay State Park Jack London State Historical Park	US-1203 US-3448	0 0	145 89	234
5	KA3DRR	Los Padres National Forest	US-0639	226	0	226
6	W6ECK (KE6BEE op) KE6BEE	Angel Island State Park Mount Diablo State Park Benicia State Recreation Area	US-1123 US-1176 US-3407	0 0	138 30	168
7	NR7Z/6	San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge	US-0210	10	140	150
8	KI6LOP	Tahoe National Forest	US-4469	0	114	114
9	N6GRM	Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area	US-3408	0	106	106
10	KB6Q	Tahoe National Forest	US-4469	71	18	89
11	N3BEN	Tahoe National Forest	US-4469	65	12	77
12	N9OHW	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge	US-0189	53	2	55
13	AK6JN	Colusa National Wildlife Refuge	US-0187	0	53	53
14	K9STV	Castle Rock State Park	US-1136	0	20	20
15	AK6EP	San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge	US-0210	10	0	10
16	KU2MM/6	Candlestick Point SRA	US-7493	3	0	3



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## 2025 POTA Challenge: California M/S (Multi-Op Single-Transmitter) Stations

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	N6E (N9DK, NS8X ops)	Tahoe National Forest	US-4469	631	133	764
2	W6SFM (K6LQ, AI6U, K6CIM, WB6UBK ops)	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	US-4391	205	0	205
3	N6A (W6JFA, KO6M ops)	Stanislaus National Forest	US-4468	0	95	95



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## 2025 POTA Challenge: California M/2 (Multi-Op Two-Transmitter) Stations

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	K6M (K4XU, K7PTC, KI7IOC, N7GND, W6RA, W7SAG, W7YAQ, KI7FK, AE7EU ops)	Modoc National Forest	US-4461	1467	1255	2,722
2	W6EK (KW6U, AI6W, AI6JB, AI6US ops)	Tahoe National Forest	US-4469	994	663	1,657
3	W6IA (W6IA, W7EEE ops)	Clear Lake State Park	US-1140	379	212	591
4	K6U (K6ENT, N6DE ops)	Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest	US-4606	256	0	256
5	K6D (KK6IK, KB6NTW ops)	Pacheco State Park	US-1180	107	1	108





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## 2025 POTA Challenge: US/VE/DX Single-Ops

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	W8KNX	Island Lake State Recreation Area	US-3315	0	97	97
2	VA4ADM	Crescent Drive Park	CA-5121	27	20	47
3	K8ZT	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	US-0020	0	8	8
4	K1SOE	Conway Common Lands State Forest	US-4889	0	5	5



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## FAQ - POTA Challenge

**Q: Can I enter the POTA challenge in addition to entering CQP special award categories like Expedition or Mobile?**

A: Yes. Most POTA activations would likely also qualify as one of the Expedition or Mobile categories. This challenge is independent of any special award category and it is possible to win multiple such awards.

**Q: Is it OK if only some of my CQP contacts are from a POTA reference and others are not (e.g. a Mobile activation passing through a National Forest)? If it OK if some of my POTA QSOs are valid CQP contacts and others are not (e.g. VHF or FT8 contacts or contacts outside the CQP timeframe)?**

A: Yes. Just be sure to include the correct number of CQP QSOs for each POTA reference in the SOAPBOX lines (i.e. just the ones that you are also including in your CQP log) and make sure you have also submitted your logs to [pota.app](https://pota.app). Only count *n*-fer activations once (just give one of the POTA references), only count park-to-park *n*-fers once (since they only count as a single CQP contact), and only count CQP county-line contacts once (since they just count as a single contact for POTA). Basically, one QSO per QSO. We recognize that the POTA QSO counts may be higher than the counts listed in your CQP SOAPBOX lines.

**Q: Does the required CQP exchange conflict with a POTA QSO exchange?**

A: No. There is no required exchange in POTA. Any QSO that exchanges any info at all is a valid POTA QSO as long as other POTA rules are observed (e.g. no terrestrial repeaters). This is by design, so POTA is compatible with any other radio activity you might be doing from your park, including contests. You don't need to mention that you're doing POTA, you don't need to exchange park info, you don't need to be spotted on the POTA site. Just use the regular CQP exchange, although if you are calling CQ you might want to occasionally call CQ POTA to attract more callers.

**Q: Can I spot myself during CQP on a POTA spotting page like I normally do when I'm a POTA activator?**

A: No. Self-spotting is not allowed in CQP. It is acceptable for other stations to spot you. It is also acceptable to announce your POTA park number on the air. A POTA hunter might decide to spot you and your POTA park number on the POTA spotting web page. CW operators might also want to consider using the POTA "[Scheduled Activations](https://docs.pota.app/docs/cw_guide.html#reverse-beacon-network)" page where you can list in advance your park reference and dates/times; if the RBN picks up a "CQ POTA" from you and it matches a scheduled activation, it will automatically list you on the POTA Spots page. This is not "self-spotting" as long as you set it up prior to the start of the contest. See [https://docs.pota.app/docs/cw\\_guide.html#reverse-beacon-network](https://docs.pota.app/docs/cw_guide.html#reverse-beacon-network) for more info.



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**Q: What logging software should I use in CQP?**

A: It is highly recommended that you use a logger that specifically supports CQP rather than a generic logger that you might use for other POTA operations. See CQP software page at: <https://www.cqp.org/Software.html> for loggers that support the CQP exchange including tracking serial numbers and states/counties and generating the proper output files for the contest.

Export a Cabrillo file and upload it to the CQP log submission page. Export an ADIF output from your logger and upload it to the pota.app web site. If you are a single operator, the ADIF output from the contest logger should be sufficient for the pota.app log uploader; it will prompt you for any missing information such as your call, park number, and state. For multi-ops, see below.

**Q: I operate the FT8 mode in my POTA activations. Does CQP allow FT8 QSOs?**

A: No. CW and SSB are the only valid modes in CQP.

**Q: If I also make some POTA contacts that don't count for CQP (e.g. FT8 or VHF contacts), how should I log those?**

A: It's simplest to log those separately in whatever logger you normally use for POTA. You can submit the ADIF file for these contacts to [pota.app](https://pota.app) separately from the ADIF file from your CQP logger, and the POTA site will combine them for purposes of your activation. There's no need to manually manipulate or merge your CQP and non-CQP ADIF files.

**Q: For our multi-op, we usually use one of our members' calls as the call on the air. Will the POTA web page support this?**

A: Unfortunately not. POTA supports club callsigns where the call on the air is not the same as any individual's callsign, and gives the club call credit for all the contacts and also gives each operator credit for the contacts they personally made. But they do not support the scenario where the callsign on the air is an individual's callsign but that individual did not make all of the contacts, since they do not want to mistakenly give the callsign owner credit for contacts made by others. Please see [https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator\\_reference/activator\\_guide\\_clubs.html](https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator_reference/activator_guide_clubs.html) for more guidance and consider using a club callsign or a 1x1 callsign instead (see below).

**Q: If I use a 1x1 callsign or a club callsign in CQP, will the POTA web page support them?**

A: Yes. Make sure to fill out STATION\_CALLSIGN and OPERATOR fields properly in the ADIF file that you upload to pota.app. Please see [https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator\\_reference/activator\\_guide\\_clubs.html](https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator_reference/activator_guide_clubs.html) for more



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guidance. If you are using a 1x1 callsign (e.g. K6M) for a multi-operator entry, you will need to create or use a POTA club account with the regular club callsign, then add the 1x1 callsign on the POTA "My Account" page as an additional callsign just for the valid dates of your operation, as in the screenshot below. (See <https://1x1callsigns.org/> for more info on 1x1 callsigns.) If you run into challenges with this, feel free to contact [john@nn6u.net](mailto:john@nn6u.net) for assistance.

Callsigns			
Callsign	Valid Period		
W6PW <span>PRIMARY</span>	[no start date] to [no end date]		<span>EDIT</span>
W6P	2020-11-07 to 2020-11-07	<span>EXPIRED</span>	<span>REMOVE</span> <span>EDIT</span>
W6P	2021-11-06 to 2021-11-06	<span>EXPIRED</span>	<span>REMOVE</span> <span>EDIT</span>

**Q: The CQP rules state that CW QSOs are worth 3 points each and SSB QSOs are worth 2 points each. But I'm an SSB-only operator. Does this mean I'm at a disadvantage for the CQP POTA Challenge awards?**

A: No. CQP POTA award winners are determined by total number of QSOs made in CQP, not total points scored in CQP.

**Q: I operated from a POTA reference but did not successfully activate the park (fewer than 10 contacts). Does that count?**

A: *New for 2025:* Yes, there's no need to have the 10 contacts required for a valid POTA activation. Simply submit your log to [pota.app](https://pota.app) so the QSOs appear for that park, even if it's fewer than 10.

**Q: Could you provide more information about operating in a contest from a POTA park, and information about past CQP expedition and mobile stations?**

A: Please watch the W1DED interview with NN6U and N6DE at:  
<https://youtu.be/QuPezzuTDZ0?feature=shared>

Please also check out the the CQP audio-video page at: <https://www.cqp.org/av.html>

