

## Talking Points for Civic Groups

For civic groups I would concentrate on the public service aspect of the hobby:

Storm spotting - <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/> or <http://stormwarn.net/> Your local skywarn coordinator can get more local info.

Emergency Communications - great list of events is here -

<http://www.arrl.org/pio/emergen1.html>

Public Service - fun runs, etc.

Civic groups are usually very patriotic so I tend to paint The Amateur Radio Service in that light, go over The Amateur's Code - <http://www.arrl.org/acode.html> because this often is close to the code or motto used by a lot of these types of groups. Generally just try to paint amateur radio operators as good citizens.

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Here are some talking points for civic groups:

For service clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Optimists, PTAs etc:

1. Ham radio operators can help at your next civic event, providing for public safety, "lost child" patrols and more.
2. Ham radio operators are much like you, ready to assist the community on short notice in a time of need. We'll be there during an emergency and in the aftermath.
3. Don't count on cell phones or police and fire responders in a large emergency like a tornado, hurricane or an earthquake. Those services are quickly overwhelmed. Ham radio is the one communication system that always works. That's because its assets are spread over a wide number of people.
4. Ham radio operators provide and maintain their own equipment.
5. Your local hams are licensed by the FCC. They have to demonstrate a base level of knowledge and comply with a complex set of rules. That's one reason why their communications during an emergency sound disciplined.
6. Hams are very often proficient at overcoming obstacles, such as a lack of commercial power. Many have mobile radio abilities and access to supplies such as batteries and generators. many participate in drills that sharpen those skills, once or more each year.
7. Many ham clubs engage in classes to help new hams become licensed, non matter how young or old the prospective ham may be.
8. There have been many famous hams who have added to the enjoyment of the hobby. Some names include Barry Goldwater, Walter Cronkite, Roy Neal, Patty Loveless, Joe Walsh, Joe Rudi, the late King Hussein of Jordan and many more.
9. Many Eagle Scouts have earned ham licenses. Most of the astronauts in the International Space Station are licensed and active on the air.
10. The American Radio Relay League is the National Organization for Ham Radio. You can get more information at their web site, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)
11. Many schools are setting up ham radio stations in a venture known as "The Big Project" under the leadership of the ARRL. These ham stations are for young people to discover the many fascinating aspects of communications. Some even talk with the Space Station. Might your club consider helping to fund a school's station?

12. Ham Radio is far different than the internet. It's fun, portable, reliable, random, exciting, educational and at times, an exercise in problem solving.