



### ARES/RACES Membership Application

Westchester  
gov.com



This is an application for (choose one):      **Both ARES & RACES.**      ARES only.      RACES only.  
*Dual ARES/RACES membership <sup>1</sup> is strongly recommended.* In order to serve effectively as a volunteer member of the emergency staff, access to otherwise restricted areas, such as the EOC, may be associated with RACES participation and assignments. To the extent that similar requirements exist for other members of the emergency staff with access to restricted areas, a limited background check for RACES applicants may be performed.

**Indicate bands/modes you can operate. Circle those that have emergency power at your home station.**

	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	440	900	1.2	?
ATV															
CW															
FM															
SSB															
Packet															
Mobile															
Handheld															

Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1st Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Pager: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nextel Direct Connect: \_\_\_\_\_ 147.06 pager: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email text page: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to notify in case of illness (Name/Phone): \_\_\_\_\_

**The following is also required for RACES membership:**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Addr: \_\_\_\_\_  
 U.S. Citizen: \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Any previous military service? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ever convicted of a crime?  
 Give details: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ever denied membership in any RACES organization?  
 Give details: \_\_\_\_\_

Last radiological training (year & month, if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Character references (callsigns of current RACES members):  
 1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Tom Raffaelli / WB2NHC  
 2306 Evergreen Street  
 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

<sup>1</sup> For membership **outside** the Westchester County, NY area contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator (or the ARRL) for ARES. For RACES contact your local RACES Radio Office .



## ARES/RACES Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

**What are ARES and RACES?** The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) both have very similar goals: to protect life and property during an emergency. Membership in the ARRL or any other organization is not required for either, just a valid Amateur Radio license.

In Westchester County, New York, ARES and RACES are organized as essentially one group of people. There are technical and legal differences between the two services, outlined below, but it is the same group of Amateurs. Following is a brief description of ARES and RACES. For more detailed information, see the ARRL *Public Service Communications Manual (PSCM)*.

### **ARES — The Amateur Radio Emergency Service.**

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) administers ARES (although you do not have to be a League member to participate). Any member can activate the ARES group. ARES provides emergency radio communications to a number of client groups, including local government, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and others.

### **RACES — The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.**

RACES is authorized by part 97 of the FCC Rules as a local or state government service — there is no Federal RACES. Only the RACES Radio Office of a local government civil preparedness agency can activate RACES in times of emergency. In our case, the local government agency is the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

RACES is used for emergencies which can include natural or technological disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, chemical spills, and nuclear power plant accidents. During times of war (when the President invokes War Emergency Powers), normal Amateur Radio Service operation is silenced and RACES stations are limited to a pre-defined set of operating frequencies that are within the normal Amateur bands.

During all times that Amateur stations are operating under RACES rules, they may only communicate with other RACES stations, and only for the purpose of conveying official civil-preparedness emergency communications.

### **What is the relationship with WECA?**

Most Westchester County ARES/RACES members are also members of the the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA), which is an

ARRL Special Service Club (a “ham” club). However, Westchester ARES/RACES does not require one to be a WECA member in order to be an ARES/RACES member.

WECA provides the Amateur radio facilities (fixed and portable repeaters, digipeaters, communications van equipment, etc.) and the all-volunteer technical and administrative personnel to maintain them at a constant state of readiness for use when needed in an emergency. But WECA is also much more — see the WECA home page at [www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org) or call 914-741-6606 for more details.

Westchester ARES/RACES coordinates the organization and training of the volunteer Amateur Radio operators who have registered their willingness to serve. ARES/RACES operators generally use their own and WECA equipment (e.g. repeaters) in fulfilling their duties as well as equipment put at their disposal through the generosity of other Amateur Radio repeater operators (for example, NWARA’s WB2IXR/R in Yorktown Heights).

**How Do I Apply?** Participation in ARES and RACES is voluntary and you may quit at any time. You must be pre-enrolled in RACES in order to participate in RACES activities. **Joint membership in both ARES and RACES is strongly encouraged by the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management.**

If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator, live or work in Westchester County, and are interested in becoming an ARES/RACES volunteer, or would like to know more, please contact:

Tom Raffaelli / WB2NHC@weca.org  
ARES Emergency Coordinator  
RACES Radio Office