

Portable station checklist

Packing checklist for POTA, SOTA, Field Day, and portable HF operations. Never forget a critical item.

RADIO & POWER	CABLES & ADAPTERS	PERSONAL & SUPPORT
☐ Transceiver	☐ Coax adapter (BNC to SO-239 if needed)	☐ Water
☐ Battery (charged!)	☐ SMA adapter (if needed)	☐ Snacks
☐ Battery charger	☐ Paddle / key cable	☐ Sun protection
☐ DC power cable	☐ USB-C cable (charging)	☐ Rain gear
☐ Spare battery	☐ Earbuds / headphones	☐ Chair or sit pad
☐ USB cable for radio	☐ Phone charging cable	☐ Bug spray
☐ Microphone / headset	OPERATING ACCESSORIES	☐ First aid basics
ANTENNA SYSTEM	☐ CW paddle or key	☐ Car keys (do not lock in car)
☐ Antenna wire	☐ Log book or logging app	
☐ Matching transformer / balun / unun	☐ Pen	
☐ Counterpoise wire	☐ Phone (for POTA/SOTA spotting)	
☐ Throw line and weight	☐ Watch / clock	
☐ Mast / trekking pole / fishing pole	☐ Frequency reference (band plan card)	
☐ Coax feedline (correct length)	☐ Clipboard or writing surface	
☐ Antenna analyzer (NanoVNA)		

Why a checklist

The most common failure mode for portable operations is not equipment failure. It is forgetting something. Arriving at a summit or park and discovering you left the antenna counterpoise, the paddle cable, or the correct adapter at home wastes the trip.

This interactive checklist is organized by what you actually forget, not by what seems important. Nobody forgets the radio. Everyone has forgotten the earbuds.

Before you leave

Use this checklist for any portable activation: POTA, SOTA, Field Day, EMCOMM deployment, or casual portable operating. Check off items as you pack them. The list saves to your browser so your checked items persist between visits.