

3 BASIC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership requirements for Pinellas ACS are listed below.

- a. 18 years of age or older.
- b. Hold a Technician, General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra class FCC license.
- c. Register for the Pinellas County ACS/ARES® using the [aresdb](#) database.
- d. Register with Pinellas County volunteer services. Once contacted by a Pinellas County representative, schedule an appointment and complete the registration process.
- e. Complete the Pinellas VIP online orientation course.

4 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PINELLAS ACS COMMUNICATOR POSITIONS

Pinellas ACS has defined the eight communicator positions listed below. Each position has a defined set of minimum requirements. ACS/ARES® VHF/UHF training nets, VHF voice, internet zoom exchanges, drills, and deployment exercises will be used to practice and demonstrate proficiency with the skills needed to attain each qualification level.

- a. Basic ACS Communicator
- b. Local ACS VHF/UHF Communicator
- d. Remote ACS Communicator
- e. Advanced ACS Communicator
- f. EOC Communicator
- g. Field Observer
- h. Net Control Station
- i. Net Manager

4.1 BASIC ACS COMMUNICATOR

The basic ACS Communicator is qualified to support deployments within Pinellas County only when deployed with a team of ACS communicators who are qualified for independent local or remote operations. The performance criteria a trainee must meet to be certified as a basic ACS communicator is listed below.

4.1.1 Assumptions

- a. The individual is compliant with each of the membership requirements documented in paragraph 3.
- b. The individual has completed the training tasks for **ARES® Level I** as documented in the *Florida ARRL® Tri-Section ARES® Standardized Training Plan*.

4.1.2 Skills

- a. Complete ICS Basic Education Courses
 - (1) IS-100.c: Introduction to the Incident Command System
 - (2) IS-200.c: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
- b. Explain and demonstrate competency in the following areas.
 - (1) Phonetic Alphabet
 - (2) Message Precedence
 - (3) Message Content and Security
 - (4) Tactical Call Signs
 - (5) Prowords
- c. Demonstrate competency in the following Network Operations
 - (1) Network Check-in and Check-out
 - (2) Relaying a Network Check-in or Check-out request to Net Control

d. Create, Send, and Receive messages while operating in a VHF/UHF voice net.

(1) Radiogram

(2) ICS 213: General Message

4.2 LOCAL ACS VHF/UHF COMMUNICATOR

The local ACS VHF/UHF communicator is qualified to independently support VHF/UHF deployments within Pinellas County. These communicators are also qualified to operate as part of a larger deployment team or as the ACS site lead responsible for the supervision of one or more basic ACS communicators. The performance criteria a trainee must meet to be certified as a Local ACS VHF/UHF Communicator is listed below.

4.2.1 Assumptions

- a. The individual has completed each of the training requirements documented in paragraph 4.1 for a Basic ACS Communicator.
- b. **TBD**

4.2.2 Skills

- a. Complete ICS Basic Education Courses
 - (1) IS-700.b: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
 - (2) IS-800.d: National Response Framework, An Introduction
 - (3) ARRL EC-001: Introduction to Emergency Communication
- b. Demonstrate competency in the following Network Operations
 - (1) Relay an ICS message or Radio gram
- c. Create, Send, and Receive messages while operating in a VHF/UHF voice net.
 - (1) ICS 213 General Message Reply
 - (2) ICS 213RR: Resource Request Message
- d. Create and Maintain Incident Documentation
 - (1) ICS 214: Activity Log
 - (2) ICS 309: Communications Log

- e. Explain and demonstrate an understanding of Incident Documentation
 - (1) ICS 205: Incident Radio Communications Plan
 - (2) ICS 201, 202, and 206: ICS Safety Documentation
- f. Demonstrate competency in the following Contingency VHF/UHF Network Configurations
 - (1) Primary Repeater Failure
 - (2) Secondary Repeater Failure
 - (3) County Wide Simplex Net
 - (4) Split county Simplex Net
 - (5) Cross band Repeater Operation
- g. Demonstrate competency in the following VHF/UHF Deployment areas.
 - (1) Install and test a VHF/UHF station (radio and antenna) at a remote location
 - (2) Program Frequency and Offset into VHF/UHF Radio
 - (3) Program PL Tone into a VHF/UHF radio
 - (4) Configure and operate a VHF/UHF station using emergency power
- h. Demonstrate competency in the following general equipment maintenance areas.
 - (1) Volt-Ohm Meter / Digital Volt-Ohm Meter Operation
 - (2) Construction of PowerPole cables
 - (3) Identify and isolate VHF/UHF station equipment failures
- i. **TBD**

4.3 REMOTE ACS COMMUNICATOR

The Remote ACS communicator is qualified to support VHF, UHF, and HF deployments both within and outside of Pinellas County. These communicators are qualified to operate independently, as part of a larger deployment team, or as the ACS site lead responsible for the supervision of one or more ACS communicators. The performance criteria a trainee must meet to be certified as a Remote ACS Communicator is listed below.

4.3.1 Assumptions

- a. The individual has completed each of the training requirements documented in paragraph 4.2 for a local ACS VHF/UHF communicator.
- b. The individual must have a General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra class FCC license.
- c. **TBD**

4.3.2 Skills

- a. Complete ICS Basic Education Courses
 - (1) **TBD**
- b. Explain and demonstrate competency in the following areas.
 - (1) Radio Operator Safety Procedures for operator and equipment safety
 - (2) Proper Grounding of all equipment, external PS, antennas and towers
 - (3) NVIS communication systems
 - (4) SWR and impact it can have on transmit capability of a station
- c. Demonstrate competency in the following HF Deployment areas.
 - (1) Install and test an HF station at a remote location
 - (2) Complete a voice contact on at least 2 different HF frequencies
 - (3) Build a simple dipole antenna
 - (4) Deploy and use an HF antenna (Minimum bands 80m/40m)
 - (5) Deploy and use NVIS antenna system

- (6) Configure and operate an HF station using emergency power
- d. Demonstrate competency in the following general equipment maintenance areas.
 - (1) Antenna Analyzer Operation
 - (2) RF Resistive Load (Dummy Load) operation
 - (3) Construction of RF coaxial cables using crimp and solder connectors
 - (4) Identify and isolate HF station equipment failures
- e. **TBD**