

## 1) The Skywarn® Program

Skywarn® is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service's (NWS) severe weather spotting program with nearly 290,000 trained volunteers nationwide. Since the late 1960s, trained Skywarn® spotters have helped support the NWS' primary mission of protecting life and property through the issuance of severe weather warnings. These dedicated citizens help keep their local community safe by conveying severe weather reports to their local NWS Forecast Office. Skywarn® spotters are integral to the success of our Nation's severe weather warning system.

Every year the NWS conducts Skywarn® spotter training sessions. The NWS currently has 122 Weather Forecast Office's across the nation, each with a *Warning Coordination Meteorologist*, who is responsible for administering the Skywarn® program in their local area. There is no charge and a typical class takes about 2 hours to conduct. To find out when a Skywarn® spotter class will be conducted in local your area, please contact your local Warning Coordination Meteorologist at:

[www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm)

## 2) Skywarn® and the American Radio Relay League

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is a noncommercial membership organization of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio. The National Weather Service works with ARRL Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers at the local level to establish Skywarn® radio networks, and/or other specialized weather emergency alert and relief systems. These local Skywarn® radio organizations act as communicators and spotters when severe weather and other disasters strike. The working partnership between NWS and ARRL is formally documented through a [Memorandum of Understanding](#). NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists are responsible for maintaining this working partnership with the local ARRL Skywarn® volunteers.

## 3) Skywarn® Recognition Day and the American Radio Relay League

[Skywarn® Recognition Day](#) was developed in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer Skywarn® radio operators make to our nation's severe weather warning system. During the day Skywarn® operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

## 4) The Skywarn® Service Marks

The Skywarn® program is nationally known through its two primary service marks (hereinafter the 'marks') which are the word mark SKYWARN®, and the logo, which depicts a tornado within an orange, eye-shaped design, shown above. The term "Skywarn" may or may not appear within the lower portion of the logo. NOAA has filed federal



service mark applications to protect its exclusive rights in these marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. These marks represent the cumulative goodwill earned through the valiant and dedicated efforts of Skywarn® volunteer spotters since the late 1960s.

## **5) Use of the Skywarn® Service Marks by Third Parties**

NOAA/NWS retain the exclusive right to determine how and where these valuable Skywarn® marks are used, and reserves the right to control the quality of their use. All use of the marks shall inure to the sole and exclusive benefit of NOAA/NWS. Generally, permission is granted for the use of these marks, without further written agreement, when used in direct connection with, or in direct support of, the volunteer Skywarn® programs in each of the NOAA/NWS' Forecast offices.

NOAA requests that any prominent use of the term Skywarn®, or the Skywarn® logo, be accompanied by the ® symbol to the upper right of the mark, along with a notice at the bottom of the page, reading as follows:

“Skywarn® and the Skywarn® logo are registered trademarks of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, used with permission.”

Each WCM is granted the authority to determine the appropriate usage of the marks by Local Volunteer Organizations in connection with each respective program, subject to reasonable oversight from the NOAA/NWS chain of command.

The marks may be used on clothing, hats, badges, decals, signs, and other paraphernalia used by Skywarn® spotters to identify them as affiliated with the NOAA/NWS Skywarn® program. NOAA will permit text being added to the Skywarn® logo to brand local Volunteer Skywarn Programs. For example, a particular vendor might want to create hats and t-shirts with the text "Wakefield SKYWARN Spotter Network" or "SKYWARN NWS Wakefield" on or around the logo. NOAA reserves the right to contest any branding use of the "Skywarn" name and logo, should it be done in bad faith.

This limited permission is conditioned on all elements and entities involved in the use of the marks being of a high quality and acting in lawful and professional manners, and are subject to the quality review by NOAA/NWS.

Any person or entity using the marks hereby agrees to immediately stop using the marks should NOAA/NWS, in their sole discretion, determine for any reason that the use of the marks is not in the best interests of the Skywarn® program.

NOAA will permit limited use of the term Skywarn® within Internet domain names to be registered and used by Volunteer Skywarn Programs. For example, a particular town or county might register "JohnsonCountySkywarn.org" or "GreenvilleSkywarn.org," and operate a web site that furthers the mission of the respective program, as well as the

Skywarn® program. However, NOAA reserves the right to contest any such domain name containing the name "Skywarn," should the registrant use the domain in bad faith.

NOAA does not permit the registration of any trademarks, trade names, or other attempts to "own" any name in which "Skywarn" is a component. NOAA considers any attempt to do so as an infringement of its trademark rights, and will contest the effort in the appropriate venue.

The marks may not be used in any manner that is inconsistent with the purposes and goals of the Skywarn® program.

These rules are subject to change at anytime for any reason in the sole and exclusive discretion of NOAA/NWS.