



National Radio
Astronomy
Observatory

[NEWS](#)[GALLERY](#)[TELESCOPES + TECH](#)[VISIT US](#)[LEARN](#)[EXPLORE](#)[For Scientists](#)[JOIN & GIVE](#)

Search ...

[Home](#) > [News](#) > Announcement: July 26, 2022 at 2:59 pm EDT

NRAO to Launch New Amateur Radio Learning Program for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ Students with Support from ARDC

Exploring the Electromagnetic Spectrum

A new grant-funded program from ARDC and NRAO



Credit: ARDC, NRAO/AUI/NSF

Following a generous grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\)](#), the [National Science Foundation's](#) National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) will soon launch a two-year project to engage BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ students in learning about the electromagnetic spectrum and the excitement of amateur—also called ham—radio. The new project, [Exploring the Electromagnetic Spectrum \(EMS\)](#), is expected to offer its first student-facing trainings in January 2023.

ARDC selected EMS because of NRAO's proven track record in supporting underrepresented minority students in the sciences by combining mentoring and instruction from content experts with best practices in equity.

As a part of NRAO's broader impacts-focused [SuperNova](#) learning platform, EMS will combine the expertise of NRAO staff, amateur radio enthusiasts, and other subject matter experts to develop a scalable and shareable curriculum, introduce students to EMS and radio technologies through hands-on activities, and support students in attaining technical and general class licenses in amateur radio.