Spotters
Posted by MNTornado29 - 2012/02/22 03:10

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Hi I was wondering if anyones know if a 14 yr old boy can train to be a spotter along with his dad if not does anyone know of any weather activies a 14 yr old boy could get into thnx!!! :)

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Re:Spotters
Posted by Serietah - 2012/02/22 05:35

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Absolutely! Anyone can attend a Skywarn class and learn how to be a spotter. Go to this site:

http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm

and click on your state, then your area and look for information on Skywarn training.

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Re:Spotters
Posted by brantman8 - 2012/02/22 06:37

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Boy Scouts of America was in my SkyWarn beginner class. So I would imagine you would have no issues

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Re:Spotters
Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/02/22 11:18

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In my spotter class, we had pretty much all ages in there!

So good luck and enjoy it! :)

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Re:Spotters
Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2012/02/22 15:28

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And, the handy, dandy Skywarn Basic Spotter's Field Guide:

http://skywarn.org/wp-content/uploads/basicspot.pdf

Have fun! :laugh:

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Re:Spotters
Posted by NCtraveler - 2012/02/22 23:19

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I took my first spotter class when I was 11 in 2009, and I've taken a few more since then. As others here have said, there is no age restriction. As far as activities go, there's not much I can tell you. You might like to see if there is an active AMS (American Meteorological Society) or NWA (National Weather Association) chapter near you. You can check those out here and here. I have experience with neither, but some friends tell me they have sometimes interesting presentations during their meetings. Additionally, most science museums have some kind of weather festival or event at least once a year, and those are sometimes worth looking into. Hope this information is useful to you.

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Re:Spotters
Posted by MNTornado29 - 2012/02/23 01:47

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Thanks for all the help! In order to be a spotter fo you have to have any radio equipment or anything like that because I don't have anything like that. Also as far as activities go I am going to be taking Weather photography during this years season and I will upload my pics right here to TVN!

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Re:Spotters
Posted by NCtraveler - 2012/02/23 02:09

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All you need to be a spotter is a working phone. If you wanted to join the local Skywarn net, you would need a HAM license and have some radio equipment. We have some HAM operators on the forum who can elaborate about that. The class will cover reporting methods and how to properly report severe weather. I'd be sure to take notes, as it can be a bit difficult to remember the exact information they need when you go to make the report, in my experience anyway. Hope you enjoy the class! :laugh:

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Re:Spotters
Posted by brantman8 - 2012/02/23 08:40

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During my Spotter class, they stressed 4 things. Name, What you see, Location, and contact info. My example of what I called in this weekend was something like this:
Hi, my name is Brantley (last name) and Im a registered Storm Spotter with the UA Meteorological Society. I see a funnel cloud due south of Wiggins, MS about .5 miles from my current location at South Magnolia Drive and West College Ave and it appears to be heading WNW.

That took me about 20 seconds and after they heard funnel cloud, they clicked in and talked about 10 mins with me trying mostly to find out exactly where Wiggins was. lol If they dont click through, be sure to give your number so they can call you back when they can. But its thrilling when you call in your first storm report. Just always remember to only use it when you have something to report. They will teach you all of what constitutes a report when you go through the course.

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