



My name is McKenzie Denton, and I am writing to introduce myself as the incoming Section Youth Coordinator for Amateur Radio in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I am truly honored and excited to serve in this role and wanted to take a moment to share my background, experiences, and aspirations with you.

Amateur Radio Journey: I embarked on my amateur radio journey just three years ago, earning my Extra License in August 2020, my General License in October 2020, and my Technician License in April 2021. However, the impact of amateur radio on my life has been nothing short of transformative.

As a 16-year-old, I was faced with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought isolation and uncertainty into my life. It was during this time that I discovered amateur radio and its vibrant community. I enrolled in virtual classes offered by an amateur radio club and passed my Technician test. Soon, I found myself making contacts, forging friendships, and becoming an active member of the amateur radio family. These connections became my source of comfort and inspiration during those trying times.

Club Affiliations: I am an active member of the Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club (WAARC), where I have been a member since July 2020. Additionally, I am a member of the Long Island CW Club and the Potomac Valley Radio Club. These affiliations have enriched my amateur radio experience and allowed me to contribute to the growth of our community.

Volunteer Examiner and Licensing Statistics: In May 2022, on my 18th birthday, I achieved the status of an ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiner (VE) examiner. Since then, I have been actively involved in licensing sessions, where I've had the privilege of helping numerous individuals join the amateur radio community. Our licensing sessions have seen impressive results, with a significant number of candidates successfully passing their exams and joining our ranks.

Promoting Amateur Radio: One of my main goals is to attract and retain young operators by providing a fresh perspective. Emphasize the hands-on experience, from building and experimenting with radio equipment to making contacts worldwide. Showcasing the technological side of ham radio, including digital modes, satellite communication, and software-defined radios, aligning with their interest in modern technology.

Education and Skills: I am currently pursuing a degree in Biomedical Science (Pre-Med) at Old Dominion University. My academic achievements include a 4.0 GPA and other academic accolades. I am also a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a qualified Medical Assistant and volunteer at the local trauma center.

Leadership and Experience: I have held various leadership roles while at college, including serving as the President of the Old Dominion Amateur Radio Club. Under my leadership, the club achieved remarkable success in national radio sports competitions, bringing recognition not only to the club but also to our university.

In conclusion, I am passionate about amateur radio and committed to fostering its growth, especially among the youth. I am eager to collaborate with fellow enthusiasts, clubs, and organizations to promote amateur radio in Virginia and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me at KO4GLN@arrl.net if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best regards,

McKenzie Denton

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Virginia Section Youth Coordinator

