



GMRS: Keeping a Family Talking

One \$35 license, a pocket radio and a plan for when the phones go down

The license at a glance

\$35

one-time FCC fee

10

years before renewal

0

tests to take

1

license covers the
family

Any GMRS radio over 2 watts needs this license to transmit legally.

Get licensed in four steps

1

Get an FCC Registration Number

Free, on the FCC CORES website

2

Apply in the FCC License Manager

Choose ZA, General Mobile Radio Service

3

Pay \$35 within 10 days

By card, right after you submit

4

Get your call sign by email

Usually within a few days

Who's covered

Spouse, children (grown ones too), grandchildren, parents, siblings, in-laws and more.

Using the radio



Push to talk

Hold the side button, wait a second, speak, let go to listen



Say your call sign

At the end of a conversation and every 15 minutes



Pick family channels

A main and a backup from 15-22; privacy codes off



Go high for range

Height and open ground matter more than power

How far it reaches

Setup	Typical range
Handheld, town or woods	0.5 to 2 miles
Handheld, open ground	2 to 5 miles
Handheld from a hilltop	5 to 15 miles
Mobile radio with roof antenna	5 to 20 miles
Through a repeater	20 to 50 miles

Typical estimates. Test between your own home and meeting place to know your real range.

Remember

One \$35 license keeps the whole family talking when the phones go down.