



What is SKYWARN®?

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In the average year, 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes occur across the United States. These events threatened lives and property.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time, seconds and minutes that can help save lives.

What will I learn as a Skywarn Storm Spotter?

Training covers:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
 - Fundamentals of storm structure identifying potential severe weather features
- *Information to report*
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

Where can I get more information about becoming a Skywarn Storm Spotter?

Go to: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm> and click on your state. When your state comes up, click on the name of your Weather Forecast Office (WFO). Once at your local WFO home page, in the blue bar on the left, look for the SKYWARN link to find a schedule of classes and other local information.

This four hour BASIC/Advanced SKYWARN Storm Spotters training class will be on
Saturday February 24th, 2018

Note that you must preregister for this class, and there is no charge for this class or materials. You may want to bring a pen and paper to take notes.

Please bring a picture ID to gain admittance to this class

The class is intended for those interested in becoming a Skywarn Storm Spotter. Interested persons must be at least 14 years old, accompanied by an adult and