

# How do I find other mesh users in my area?

Finding local mesh users is one of the most common early questions - and one of the most important, since a single node is useful but a community is transformative.

## Start With Online Resources

- **meshmap.net** - The global Meshtastic community map. Zoom to your area and see nodes that have reported positions. Note: many nodes have position reporting disabled for privacy, so the map shows only a fraction of actual deployments.
- **r/meshtastic on Reddit** - Active community with a strong culture of welcoming new users. Post "[State/City] - Anyone here?" and you'll typically get responses within hours.
- **Official Meshtastic Discord** - discord.gg/ktMAKGBnBs - Has regional channels organized by continent, then country, then US state. The most active community hub.
- **MeshCore Discord** - Separate community from Meshtastic; search for regional channels or post in #general asking about your area.
- **r/meshcore** - Smaller but growing subreddit for MeshCore users.

## Local Amateur Radio Clubs

Ham radio clubs are increasingly interested in LoRa mesh. Find clubs at:

- **arrl.org/find-a-club** - ARRL club finder by zip code
- **QRZ.com club section** - Many clubs post there

Contact the club's net manager or digital committee. Even if they don't have mesh nodes yet, they may be interested in starting - and ham clubs are excellent vehicles for building community mesh networks.

## Actually Going on the Mesh

The most reliable way to find local users is to simply get on the air with the default LongFast preset and listen. If there are active users in your area, you'll see their nodes in your node list within minutes. Send a message on the primary channel introducing yourself.

If you hear nothing after 30 minutes in an area where you'd expect users, try:

- Moving to a higher elevation (rooftop, parking structure, hilltop)
- Switching to LongSlow preset for extra range
- Checking the [meshmap.net](https://meshmap.net) for nearby nodes and messaging them on Discord to arrange an on-air test

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