

Questions when deciding on a handheld radio			FCC License needed		No License needed	
			Shared frequencies			
Repeater use			Ham	GMRS	FRS	MURS
1	Repeater capable	Y / N	✓	✓		
2	Split tones	Y / N	✓	✓		
3	Reverse feature	Y / N	✓	✓		
4	Talk around	Y / N	✓	✓		
5	Computer programmable	Y / N	✓	✓		✓
Listening			Ham	GMRS	FRS	MURS
6	NOAA weather (WX)	Y / N	✓	✓	✓	✓
WX listening		HOW: One button or Programmed memory slots				
7	WX ALERT function	Y / N	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	FM broadcast	Y / N	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scanning						
9	Channel scan	Y / N	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	CTCSS & DCS scan	Y / N	✓	✓	rare	✓
Other						
11	Digital / DMR	Y / N	✓			
12	Multi-band	Y / N	✓	✓		✓
13	APRS	Y / N	✓			
Receiving (RX)			Ham	GMRS	FRS	MURS
14	Memory allocations	Y / N	✓	✓	rare	✓
15	Removable antenna	Y / N	✓	✓	No	✓
16	Dual display / dual RX	Y / N	✓	✓	rare	✓
17	RX outside of TX	Y / N	✓	✓	rare	✓
18	AM aircraft band	Y / N	✓	rare		
Transmitting (TX)			Ham	GMRS	FRS	MURS
19	Memory allocations	Y / N	✓	✓		✓
20	Removable antenna	Y / N	✓	✓		✓
21	Transmit power		Unlimited	5, 1/2, >5	0.5 watts	2 watts
22	Ease of changing TX power	HOW: None, One button, Menu item or Program only				
Form & function						
23	Who will use it	Kids, Adults, to hand out to someone in your group				
24	Resistance to rain	Second IP number. 6 and 7 are rainproof				
25	Display or not	Y / N				
26	Front panel buttons	Y / N None, Numbers, Minimal function buttons				
27	Size	What matters to you				
Power source						
28	Battery type	AA, AAA, NiCad, Lithium-Ion				
29	Charger type	None, USB, Plug or Cradle plugged into wall outlet				
30	12 volt interface	Y / N Directly to the radio or a Battery Eliminator				
Other features						
31	Belt clip type	Connects to Radio or Battery. Spring loaded?				
32	Flashlight	Y / N				
Value						
33	Price	What is your budget or you are willing to spend?				
34	Features vs Price	Do you accept the trade-offs you made?				