General instructions for DTV channel scanning

When setting up your HDTV or converter box to locate over the air (OTA) channels in your area or to pick up a new channel, a channel scan must be conducted. These are general steps to navigate through the menu system of the TV/converter box to accomplish this. However, these steps will vary since there are so many different makes and models out there. These instructions will be very general to try and get you through the process. For more specific instructions, please refer to your owner's manual.

1) First, push the "menu" button on your remote control associated with either your HDTV or your converter box.

2) From the menu display, look for an icon of a dish or maybe an antenna tower. If there are not any icons, look for words like TV setup, setup, antenna, etc. Navigate with the up, down, left, and right arrows to get to the proper icon or word and push your "enter" button to select it.

3) Next, there should be some verbiage on your TV that tells you if you are getting the signal from an antenna or cable system. This might be called signal input, signal source, TV input, etc. Navigate and select the "antenna" input or source in the same fashion as before, using your arrow keys.

4) Now, navigate to what might be called scan channel, channel search, channel scan, auto search, auto scan, etc., and select it. This will start the scanning process and it may take a little time. When it is done, it will have found all the OTA channels in your area.

Keep in mind, how well you pick up a signal and what channels your antenna finds depends on a variety of factors, including the distance from the transmit site, how good your receive antenna is, the location of it (outside antennas placed up high are the best) and how well your antenna is oriented toward the transmitter towers (the best line of site as possible).

In addition, each time you make an adjustment to your antenna, a channel scan should be performed so your television locks to any new channel found.