

# Welcome to Search & Rescue



Ground Unit

Prospective Member Information Session

# “SO OTHERS MAY LIVE”



# Agenda

- Who we are/What we do
- Typical Search
- Expectations of Team Members
- Team member Profile
- Membership Process
- Team Meetings
- SAR Technician Training Program
- Q&A

# What are We all About?

- Volunteer organization, authority and funding via Placer County Sheriff's Department.
- Our mission is to be ready and able to search for and rescue, as necessary, lost or missing persons.
- On call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We leave our homes usually within a half-hour of receiving a call for our assistance. We go in all weather, in all seasons.
- We go throughout Placer County and upon request to other counties in Northern California. Occasionally, we are used at crime scenes to help the Sheriff's Department search for evidence.

# Search and Rescue Teams

- Communications Unit
- Dog Unit
- 4WD Unit
- Motorcycle Unit
- Mountain Rescue Unit
- Mounted Unit
- Dive Rescue Team
- Ground Unit

# Typical Search

- Call-out between 21:00 and 02:00
- Either ASAP or at first light
- Over in 8 hours
- Placer County or Mutual Aid
- You will be subjected to difficult terrain and conditions

# What is Expected From You?

- Be in good health and physical condition.
- Attend monthly meetings and ongoing training.
- Provide your own personal equipment and clothing.
- Complete the SAR Technician Training Program within 2 years.
- Comply with the team by-laws.
- Follow the instructions of the team leaders and Sheriff's Department explicitly and promptly.
- Participate in public service events.
- Participate in field training exercises.

# What can You Expect from SAR Membership?

- Satisfaction from helping others.
- Professional-level training in SAR skills.
- Comradeship with other SAR members.
- Support of the Placer County Sheriff's Department
- Liability coverage under the California OES while actively training or searching.



# Typical Member Profile

- There is no “typical”
- Male/Female, 18-65, all from different backgrounds, education, professions and experience levels
- Common denominator: all want to help others and all love the outdoors

# Membership Process

1. Attend 3 monthly team meetings. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, submit an application to the Membership Director. Pending application acceptance, interview with the board at their next meeting.
2. Following a successful interview, your application will be forwarded to the Sheriff's Department for background investigation. *All applicants must have a clean background.*
3. If approved, your application is then forwarded to the California Office of Emergency Services for approval. Upon approval you will begin a 6-month probationary period.
4. You are then eligible to start taking SAR Technician training courses. You must complete all courses before you may participate in a search.

# Team Meetings

Regular meetings are held each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 18:30. We usually have our meetings in the field in order to practice our SAR skills.

Periodically, the team meets for full Saturday training sessions

# What to Expect at a Meeting

- RSVP to meeting 3 days ahead of time
- Sign in and bring your disclaimer form
- You will be paired with a team member
- Be on time, expect to stay the duration
- You will be asked to participate
- Expect to learn and offer input
- Have fun!
- Sign out before you leave

# What to Bring

1. Dress for the weather
2. Wear long pants and boots
3. Flashlight or headlamp
4. Compass or GPS (if you have one)
5. Personal food and water

*No need to bring full SAR pack or purchase special items prior to joining the team*

# SAR Technician Training Program

In order to be search ready, members must complete over 100 hours of specialized training. In addition some team members have additional medical training as EMT's.

- Fundamentals of Search and Rescue
- (16 hours)
- Wilderness Survival
- (42 hours)
- Map & Compass
- (20 hours)
- Man-Tracking
- (20 hours)
- Rough Terrain Rescue
- (20 hours)
- First Aid and CPR Certification



# SAR Technician Training Program

- Courses are taught by SAR volunteers.
- There is no cost to attend.
- Courses are typically taught over one weeknight evening and one full weekend.
- Three of the courses must be retaken every two years: Tracking, Map and Compass and Rough Terrain Rescue.
- First Aid and CPR certifications must be kept current at all times.

Thank You!

Q&A