



## LAKE COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 812 • Lakeport, California 95453

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Welcome to the Lake County Search and Rescue Association, Inc. The association is an organization of volunteers who have come together through a common interest in search and rescue as a method to assist those in need while enjoying the training, camaraderie and environment. We come from all walks of life and all over the country. We have varying physical abilities, from bad knees, to trail runners, to long distance hikers.

Some of us are retired, some have just graduated high school, and everywhere in between. In short, we are a cross section of Lake County residents and there is a place in SAR for all of us.

What we have in common is the desire and willingness to help a missing or lost person at two o'clock in the morning, on New Year's Eve, on Snow Mountain. We want to find the Alzheimer patient who is seeking her home of fifty years ago, the hikers who have been snowed in on the trail, and the three year old who has followed his dog into the woods.

We share an interest in learning about SAR; search methods, map and compass, GPS navigation, low angle rescue, tracking, diving, ATV operation, 4WD and other skills. There is a place for everyone, you pick your specialties.

In return for the opportunity to enjoy SAR membership we have requirements. We are required to pass a background check through the Sheriff's Department because we operate in sensitive situations with the objects of our missions are unusually vulnerable. Trust between us and those we serve is vital to our mission.

We are required to keep our skills up-to-date. First aid and CPR are required of all members. It is the responsibility of the prospective member to be certified through a Red Cross or compatible agency course in Adult & Child CPR and General First Aid. Once a member of SAR, your CPR and medical certifications will be expanded and covered by LCSAR.

We operate in the post-911 era which has shaped the management of emergencies and forced the definition of resources. IS-100, IS-200 and IS-700 are free online courses developed by FEMA that explain the way emergencies are managed, including SAR missions. We are required to take them.

We are required to be prepared to take care of ourselves on a search for 24-hours. To do this we carry a pack with those items that we need to remain functional and self-sufficient. Everyone has one, regardless of whether they stay in base-camp or join a ground search team.

When you have picked your specialties you will seek assignment to the appropriate teams. That will focus your training and fine tune your skills. Team trainings may require

your attendance and will be measured, for it is through this specialty training that you attain the different skill levels, IV through I, in your chosen skill.

We meet and train as a team, specialties yes, but working together to provide a complete SAR resource in service to our community.

Our meetings are held in Lakeport at the Alternative Work Program (AWP) building at 1375 Hoyt Avenue., near the jail and the animal shelter.

All regular meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (except December) and typically last less than two hours. Often, but not always, an LCSAR board meeting is held prior to the regular meeting, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and all members are welcome.

In December we have no formal meeting. Instead we have a Holiday potluck dinner at a place determined at the October or November meeting. Everyone is invited and it gives us a chance to meet those family members we usually don't see.

After you attend three consecutive meetings, and if your background check is complete, the membership will vote to confirm your place among us as a member-elect. Then, after one year, we will vote to accept you as a full voting member of the association. During this first year you will work to learn the basic required skills and learn about us, and we will learn about you.

Generally, you will not be allowed to exercise your chosen skill on a search mission until you have successfully passed the requirements of that skill. We are not allowed to put an unqualified resource in the field on a SAR mission. You can, however, join the search mission as a member of the overhead team in base camp, an educational experience in its own right. You may discover that SAR is exactly right, or exactly wrong, to satisfy your desire to help.

Remember, while this all may sound overwhelming, we are all volunteers and we all have lives outside of SAR, so there is a relaxed atmosphere and flexibility aimed at helping you help us. Our goal is to make you a completely trained and ready SAR member quickly, we need you.

The next step is up to you. Come to a SAR meeting. We will give you a SAR application and answer any questions you might have.