

SAR FAQ's

Membership

- **How do I become a member of SAR?**
 - Request an application by calling Cassie Dodge at the Special Services Office of the Sheriff's Department. Cassie can be reached at 617-3398.
- **What are the requirements?**
 - Over 21, non smoker, with a valid Oregon driver's license
 - Pass a criminal and driving history background check.
 - Comfortable in the backcountry under all types of conditions
 - Be team oriented, possess unquestioned integrity, have a willingness to learn and have a genuine desire to help those in trouble
 - Successful completion of an interview process
- **Do I have to be in really good shape?**
 - Moderately good physical condition
 - Complete a Pack Test: able to hike 5 miles in 90 minutes over varied terrain with a 25 pound pack
- **What kind of time commitment do I need to make?**
 - A minimum of 100 hours per year balanced between mission and training hours with an emphasis on mission hours.
- **What do I need to have in the way of gear?**
 - Clothing and equipment suitable for multi-season outdoor travel.
- **How much are the members paid?**
 - Except for one Sheriff's Sergeant, all SAR members are unpaid volunteers and supply their own equipment.

People and teams

- **How many people are involved in SAR in Deschutes County?**
 - About 80 volunteers, one paid Sergeant, plus two deputies—part of their time.
- **Who is in charge of SAR?**
 - The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office through its Special Services Division—Sgt. Marvin Combs is the Special Services Coordinator.
- **Are there specialized teams?**
 - Overhead Team
 - K-9 Dog Team
 - Horse Team
 - Mountain Bike Team
 - Mountain Rescue Team
 - Swift water Team
 - Dive Team
 - Winter Team (includes Snowmobiles, Snowshoe, X-Country skiing, Alpine skiing)
 - Man-Tracking Team
 - Medical Team
 - Air-Ops Team
 - General Search Team
- **Can my dog be a search dog?**
 - Once you are a member of SAR, you can work with the Dog Team to understand how to qualify your dog.

Missions

- **How many missions do you have in a year?**
 - An average of 80 to 120 missions a year
- **When do most missions occur?**
 - Anytime of year
 - 60% occur on weekends and 75% involve night operations
- **Have you had any unsuccessful or unresolved missions?**
 - Only one: an endurance athlete attempting the Three Sisters “marathon” in late spring was never found (an ill advised solo attempt of all three)
- **What is the most difficult mission you have done?**
 - A multiweek, multi-agency search for a missing snowboarder at Mt. Bachelor
- **Do you ever have missions out of Deschutes County?**
 - Yes, SAR can be called upon for assistance throughout the state.
- **Do you ever use airplanes?**
 - Yes, the Air National Guard, State Police, CAP, and AirLife sometimes provide aircraft in support of missions. Plus we have a newly formed AirOps team to work with these groups.
- **Is Air Life involved with SAR?**
 - Yes, Air Life and SAR often work together when conditions permit.

Donations

- **How can I contribute to support SAR?**
 - SAR, Inc., is the 501(c)(3) non-profit legal entity that is comprised of the SAR volunteers and manages resources provided from outside sources for SAR activities. Any contributions, financial or equipment, are tax-deductible. To make a contribution, please contact Molly McCallum, president of SAR, Inc., at 541-536-9759 or write to her at SAR, Inc., P.O. Box 5722, Bend, OR 97708.