



**WALLOWA COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE
104 W. GREENWOOD AVE. ENTERPRISE, OR. 97828**

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN BECOMING A MEMBER.

We are glad that you have decided to apply for membership in this organization. Wallowa County Sheriff's Search & Rescue (WCSSAR) is a volunteer organization run under the auspices of the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office receives approximately 20-30 calls annually throughout Wallowa County and adjacent counties. These calls may include searches, rescues, and/or body recoveries. At times WCSSAR has been asked to aid and assist law enforcement in searches for evidence in criminal cases. There are also times when we are dispatched on urban searches for missing children or people with dementia. We believe our actions can help save a life and also provide closure to families of missing, or lost persons.

Our mission, as found in Article 2 of the WCSSAR by-laws, "shall be to provide the Office of the Sheriff of Wallowa County with a trained and qualified search and rescue team, and to render whatever other support as may be required by the Sheriff's office. Additional efforts shall be directed toward the betterment of the county and the community".

WCSSAR is governed by an elected Board of Control, and operates under written by-laws. The WCSSAR Coordinator is the Undersheriff. State standards and record keeping are handled through the Wallowa County Emergency Management Services Director. We are funded by Wallowa County hotel/motel taxes, by contributions from private citizens, and occasional grant money.

Our monthly meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month. Exception to this are months when the fourth Monday falls on a Federal holiday, then the meeting is moved to the third Monday.

To prepare our members for duty we offer regular in-house training for general membership, as well as training for specialized rescue teams. While our primary emphasis is on search and rescue, there are many additional ways members can participate. Auxiliary members perform important logistical roles such as base camp management, radio relay, incident call-out, as well as some officer duties. Certified members specialize in tracking, swift water, high and low angle rope rescue, winter rescue, and qualified medical response. In addition, the canine team has dogs and handlers certified in Air Scent and Wilderness Trailing, as well as Cadaver Search.

TO BECOME A MEMBER:

You must fill out the enclosed application. If you have questions when filling out this form, please ask your sponsor, or another certified member for help. The application then gets mailed, or delivered to the Sheriff for approval, and background check. The application will then pass along to the Board for review. You will be asked to attend two monthly meetings and trainings before the group votes on your membership.

TO BECOME A CERTIFIED MEMBER:

- 1) You will need to complete a performance test booklet. This is accomplished by demonstrating proficiency as listed in the performance objectives. Certification is not required for auxiliary members, but they may certify if they wish to.
- 2) You will need to pass a written test compiled by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA). WCSSAR maintains a library of training materials, and several members are qualified instructors. There are online links and other sources of training materials listed in the booklet you will receive.
- 3) The estimated time to complete these tasks is 40 hours, and must be done within 12 months. Active non-certified members cannot be dispatched on any mission without being accompanied by a certified member.

TO MAINTAIN YOUR CERTIFICATION:

- 1) Attend monthly trainings and meetings, as well as pay the yearly dues. Our WCSSAR policies and procedures state that a member with three missed monthly meetings without a valid excuse shall be considered a disinterested member, and requested to resign. If you know that you cannot attend a meeting, please inform the secretary, or another officer before the meeting, so you can be counted as excused.
- 2) Complete 30 hours of training yearly. You must take part in and document these 30 hours of training related to search and rescue each year. Failure to meet the annual training requirements may result in loss of certification and require the member to go through the process again.

WE SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR EXPERIENCES....

WCSSAR BOARD OF CONTROL.