



# Union County Search and Rescue

## Application for Membership

Please Print Clearly and Fill in Every Blank  
Return printed and signed completed application to the  
**Union County Sheriffs Office - Front Counter.**  
1109 K Ave, La Grande OR 97850 Ph 541-963-1017



## Personal Information

Full Legal Name (Last, First, Middle)	Nickname	Phone #	Age
Mailing Address		Sex	Birth Date
Residential Address (if different)		Height	Weight (lb)
Email	Driver's License # and State	Spouse's Name	Place of Birth
Have You Been Convicted of Any Crimes, Including Traffic Crimes?	Yes No	Length of Residence in Union Co.	
Do You Have Any Distinguishing Marks or Tattoos?		Do You Wear Corrective Lenses?	
Do You Have Any Relevant Medical or Military Training? If So, Please Explain: (Ex: EMT, Wilderness 1st Aid, etc)	Yes No	Any Prior Affiliation With SAR?	
		Are You State SAR Certified?	

Why Are You Interested in the Field of Search & Rescue? Please Be Complete:

Do You Have Any Special Training, Resources, or Skills That Would Benefit SAR?

- |              |                  |                  |             |                           |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| ATV/UTVs     | Horses           | Mapping/GPS      | Snowmobiles | Have Others? Please List: |
| Back Packing | Incident Command | Ropes/Climbing   | Swift Water |                           |
| Drones       | K9               | Skiing/Snowshoes | Tracking    |                           |

## Personal References

List People Not Related by Blood or Marriage

Name	Phone	Length Known
Address		
Name	Phone	Length Known
Address		
Name	Phone	Length Known
Address		

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# Employment Information

## Current Employer Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Shift \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Years With Employer \_\_\_\_\_

## Previous Employer Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Does Your Current Employer Approve of You Missing Work Time for SAR Missions? Yes No

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# Medical

Do You Have Any Major Allergies? Yes No If Yes, Please List: \_\_\_\_\_

If You Have Any Medical Concerns, at the Time of Applying, That Your Team Should Know About For the Safety of All, Please List: (Diabetes, Vision Impairment, Artificial Joints, Taking Medication, ect.)

Describe Your Physical Condition or Limitations That Would Apply to Your Suitability for SAR Missions?

(Tell us how you stay active: Are you able to walk several miles with a 15lb backpack? Can you pick up and carry a 40lb object for a short distance?)

# Provide Local Emergency Contacts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

# SAR Commitment

SAR Members Can Serve Multiple Roles: Indoor or Office Environment; Field Environment with Possible Rugged Terrain and Harsh Weather; Urban Field Environment.

## Do You Plan to Serve a Field or Non-Field Role or Both?

I have the time and willingness to dedicate myself to the training required to pass the minimum State Certification Requirements within two years of joining and will maintain that certification with thirty (30) hours of continuing education per year thereafter. **Yes** **No**

I respectfully request and authorize any person, current employer, past employer, or organization named in my application to provide Union County with relevant information and opinions that may be useful to them. I hereby, release such persons, organizations, and others from any legal liability which may result from providing the requested information.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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## **THE MISSION:**

- A. The mission of SAR is to support the office of the Union County Sheriff.
- B. Special emphasis of SAR will be Search and Rescue operations, which includes providing resources trained for Search and Rescue Operations, and providing specialized Search and Rescue equipment.
- C. Secondary effort will be made to promote, facilitate and coordinate public education on the hazards of outdoor recreation, proper preparation, and what to do when lost, with the purpose of prevention in mind.
- D. Additional efforts will be directed toward the betterment of the county and its communities, especially including assistance during local emergencies or disasters.

## **THE ORGANIZATION:**

The Union County Search and Rescue Team currently has about 45 members. Search and Rescue Coordination is the direct responsibility of the Union County Emergency Manager, who works under guidance of the Union County Sheriff. We elect four officers and have a Board of Control which consists of the officers, a representative of the County Sheriff, and two elected members of the SAR team.

Our Search and Rescue Operation is an all-volunteer organization. We are a non-profit registered 501(c)(3). We have no paid members and rely completely on volunteers time and community donations. We do receive organizational support from the Union County Sheriff's Office, and assistance with equipment and maintenance, but we completely rely on our volunteer's time and from donations from our community for our success.

## **PERSONAL GEAR:**

Each member is required to provide his/her own field gear. This includes clothing suitable for the season (including weather extremes), survival gear, and a compass and GPS. If you do not already own these items, the initial outlay can be quite costly. Do not purchase any of these items until after you have attended our Orientation Session. At that time you will be given instruction on proper clothing and items needed for a 24-hour survival pack.

Our responses are based on using best available technology. We use cell phones for mapping, we provide computer generated maps, and we often use satellite-based technology. The software and apps that we use are provided free to SAR members, and they are expected to learn how to use this technology. A SAR member is generally expected to provide their own cell phone capable of GPS mapping. We do not generally provide GPS's, but a GPS InReach subscription may be compensated for. Portable radios and batteries will be provided.

You will need to provide your own transportation to our Search and Rescue Base to respond to a search mission. The organization does provide 4WD transportation for mission response, and does have ATV's, UTV's, and snowmobiles. Optionally, members may bring their own 4WD vehicles, personal snowmobiles, ATV's, UTV's, rafts, inflatable kayaks, and/or trailered horses, especially if it provides for a more expedient or efficient response, although this is not required. Upon completion of a search, SAR can reimburse the gasoline expense for private vehicles used on the mission.

We do have a strong K-9 program. All training, qualification, testing and equipment for K9 operations are the responsibility of the K9 Trainer, but we can provide compensation and full support of our K9 training. We also have a ropes-rescue team, a swift-water team, a back-country response team and OHV response capacity.

## **SEARCHES:**

Each search operation is conducted, using the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is used in SAR missions throughout Oregon, so that any County's SAR unit can help another.

Union County SAR receives a "Call Out" between 16-20 times per year. These occur any time during the year, but the hunting seasons, the mushroom seasons, Christmas tree cutting, and when there is snow on mountain roads are the busiest times. Call-Outs are usually called during the evening/late night hours. Union County SAR believes "A Search is an Emergency," so a search starts at the time of the initial report of the lost person. Often, searches are brief. There may be several missions where the lost party is found before SAR is fully mobilized and leaves the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Cell phone forensics and GPS devices are becoming key to successful missions. Searches can last for several days, though that is not the norm. We also provide Mutual Aid to adjoining counties - this is often how we succeed with limited resources. Some of our missions are recovery efforts, and we do also assist with responses to search for missing people.

## **HOW DO I GET STATE CERTIFICATION TRAINING?**

Union County SAR's Training Officer will coordinate a once-per-year New Member Training Event. This training is taught by several SAR members and covers all the topics essential for the certification. You will need to attend the classes and take the test. The classroom portion of this training is expected to take three days, with classes held on two weekends. The field portion of the class is one day, and will be held after the classroom portion is complete. This New Member Training is usually offered in the Winter/Spring months. A Class schedule will be made available as early in the year as possible.

There is no charge to Union County SAR members for the 30 hours of continuing education required. Training is done at the scheduled meetings, at Winter and Summer Camp, and specialized training is available both within and outside Union County. SAR can reimburse partial to full tuition on approved classes completed.