



## Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue

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### **About SAR**

Each year Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue receives numerous inquiries from men and women interested in joining us, but wish to know more about the organization. Here is a brief rundown of what we do and what is required of our members.

Search and Rescue (SAR) is an unpaid, all-volunteer, non-profit corporation that currently has members who conduct Search and Rescue operations whenever and wherever we are called upon to do so, by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

We draw all of our resources from our local community of volunteers who train to develop the required skill sets as well as having the discipline and dedication needed to make a difference. The SAR Board meets once a month on the fourth Wednesday in Ukiah. Members may, but are not required, to attend this meeting. Required meetings occur on the first Tuesday in Fort Bragg, at 7:00 p.m. and on the third Thursday in Ukiah, at 6:00 p.m.

SAR operations involve a variety of specialized skill areas such as: Horse Posse, Four-wheel Drive, ATV, Boating, Air Squadron, Underwater Search and Recovery, Special (Ground) Forces, Logistical Support, and Search Management. As a SAR member, you will be assigned to one or more of these areas according to your particular interests or skills.

### **Eligibility for Membership**

Any person who is a United States citizen, has not been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor, and is 14 years or older, is eligible for membership. All members are required to submit to a background check.

### **Member Requirements**

All SAR members must obtain and maintain valid First Aid and CPR cards. Throughout the year there are regular training sessions on these and other diverse subjects such as man tracking, map and compass, rappelling, use of all terrain vehicles, search techniques, and land navigation. Each new member will be required to attend a SAR "boot camp" to obtain the basic skills needed to become an active SAR member. There are no dues or fees for members. After being sworn in as Disaster Service Workers all members are covered by state worker's compensation and disability benefits during approved training and when called out on actual SAR missions.

Apart from attending meetings and training sessions, all members may be called upon to participate in actual searches. Searches are often done in rugged terrain at all hours of the day or night, and in any weather. Although your specialties may lie in a particular area, you can expect to be called upon to join a search on foot if necessary.

### **Right Stuff**

Being a member of SAR demands a **COMMITMENT** of your time, can be rigorous, but also rewarding. Please consider carefully if you are prepared to commit yourself to all of these requirements before seeking to join. The strength of SAR comes from its members, working together as a team, committed to the mission to see it through. Of course there are also plenty of support and administrative things to do behind the scenes, so if you are less inclined to climb a rope or a mountain, we can find a place in our organization for you too!

*The Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation in affiliation with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.  
Non-Profit State Identification number: C1641628.*

Dear MYSAR Parent(s),

Mendocino Youth Search & Rescue (MYSAR) will provide your child with the opportunity to work along side and interact with the regular adult members of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit during regular activities.

In MYSAR your child will have exposure to critical incidents involving lost persons, deceased persons and located physical remains of persons. Not that it is very common, but exposure to these incidences does occur and can be disturbing to some. It is our intent that the exposure to theses incidences is as limited as possible, but they will and can occur at a moments notice. Your child will also be involved with numerous different tasks during a search or training, which could include the following; flying, boating, ATV, hiking, rappelling, 4X4 operations, and horse back riding.

Throughout the year there are regular training sessions in such diverse subjects as tracking, map and compass, rappelling, swift water rescue, first aid & CPR and related fields. Apart from attending the meetings and training sessions, all members could be called upon to participate in a search. Searches are often done in rugged terrain at all hours of the day and night, and in all types of weather. Searching is physically and physiologically demanding and one must be in shape to effectively participate.

Search and Rescue will do everything possible to assure your child's safety during a search and or training. We will further attempt whenever possible to limit their exposure to critical incidents involving deceased persons.

Therefore it is my intent to notify you, the parent, that you have the absolute right to prohibit your child from participating in our activities in Search and Rescue.

Parental permission is needed for ALL activities for MYSAR members. Please fill out the form below and return to Sgt. Kevin Cotroneo at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Yes, my son or daughter \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to be involved with all activities for Mendocino Youth Search & Rescue as being conducted through Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

# MYSAR REQUIREMENTS

## 1. Attendance:

Attend 80-85% of all SAR meetings; trainings and other SAR related events. Fun activities are also included in this but may be used negatively if a youth shows up to more fun activities than meetings or trainings. There are excused absences for meetings and trainings such as school, work and family activities.

## 2. Uniforms:

- A. Appearance – is the uniform neat and clean, or does it look as if the person slept in it?  
Completeness – has the person made an effort to obtain all parts of the uniform?
- B. Continuity – does the person try to make the uniform look good? If he/she only owns a shirt, do they make an effort to make it look good, or do they wear old soiled pants with the uniform shirt?

## 3. Attitude:

- A. Personal conduct and attitude – does the youth conduct him/her self, while in uniform, in a mature and professional manner? This goes for meetings, trainings and any public place where MYSAR is in the public eye.
- B. Professional conduct and attitude – does the youth perform in a professional manner while in trainings, meetings and other SAR related events? Does the youth joke around when there is something serious being discussed or are they attentive? This is an important part of how we look to the outside world.

## 3. Commitments:

Does the youth follow through with the commitments he/she has made or for the group? It does not matter whether the event is a fun activity or a group function, others depend on you when you say you will do something or be somewhere.

## 4. Grades:

The youth must maintain a “C” average or above. Must have no cinch notices or cuts. Youth is to get a copy of each progress report and report card turned into the Board Member in charge of MYSAR within a week of receiving it.

I have read and agree to the above:

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Youth Signature

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Date

# CONSENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT OF A MINOR

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of minor)

I, as legal parent/guardian of above named minor do hereby give my consent for Mendocino County Sheriff's Search & Rescue to obtain all medical prescribed by a duly licensed physician for my minor child.

This medical care may be given under whatever conditions are necessary to preserve the life, limb, or well being of my dependent, to include but not limited to prescribing medications, surgical procedures, bandaging and/or any procedure that if not immediately taken care of could result in further serious injury, paralysis, or death. This waiver includes physical examinations necessary to determine the nature of the injury or illness.

**Any limitations to this release:**

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Dependent's Allergies: (if any known)

Dependents past surgeries, medical conditions that required hospitalization:

Date last tetanus shot \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Release valid for one year of date signed unless otherwise listed above, under the limitations section.**

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Dependent's physician \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

List at least Three (3) relatives & phone numbers who we could call if you are not available:

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