

SCSARDA – MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

PURPOSE: To ensure competent and highly trained dog/handler teams and support personnel and to provide the incident commander with the necessary information to determine how to best utilize the teams in the search effort

PRELIMINARY MEMBERS

A preliminary member must meet the following criteria:

- Be age 18 or older
- Be approved by a unanimous vote of the team officers for preliminary status
- Attend 50% of unit training during the preliminary period

Preliminary-Deployable

A preliminary member may be allowed to function on searches prior to becoming operational if they have completed the following requirements:

- Have a completed unit application on file with attached federal criminal background check (or NCIC), and paid the appropriate fees
- Maintained at least 50% attendance at team trainings and events for 3 months
- Completed NIMS 100, 200, and 700
 - Pay annual dues on time
- Be approved by a unanimous vote of team officers

To remain deployable, a preliminary member must show progress toward meeting the requirements for operational status and have completed these requirements within 6 months of becoming preliminary-deployable. If unable to do so, the preliminary member may request to be moved to auxiliary status or will be removed from the team by a unanimous vote of team officers.

An individual can change from **preliminary** membership to **operational** membership by:

- Meeting the requirements for operational status listed below
- Maintaining preliminary status for 6 months (equivalency may be granted for prior experience and/or working relationship with SCSARDA. This will be decided on a case by case basis by the SCSARDA officers, maximum time that can be granted is 3 months)

- Be approved by a 75% or greater vote of the operational members

OPERATIONAL MEMBERS

Operational Status will be designated as follows:

- **Field Operational**- capable of assisting the dog/handler team in an actual search using proper search techniques and handling of clues, utilizing ICS, map and compass use, and proper radio use
- **Dog/ Handler Team**- capable of conducting a search using proper search technique with a K-9, handling of clues, utilizing ICS, map and compass use, and proper radio use.
- **Base Camp Personnel**- capable of assisting field search teams by proper handling of clues, use of ICS, proper radio use, and use of maps

An operational member must meet the following criteria:

- Have met all preliminary member criteria
- Attend at least 50% of unit training and 50% of unit events
- Have taken NIMS 100, 200, 700
- Be familiar with proper radio communication procedures
- Be able to verbalize or demonstrate how to collect and protect scent articles
- Be able to locate points on a topographical map using UTM coordinates
- Be able to demonstrate minimum proficiency with a GPS, specifically, retrieving UTM coordinates from unit, creating waypoints, and creating track logs.
- Have passed the NASAR SAR Tech III or SARFUN written exam
- Demonstrate behavior consistent with SCSARDA Code of Ethics

Field Operational and Dog/Handler Teams must also:

- Have completed the NASAR Fundamentals of Search and Rescue class or an equivalent approved by the unit officers
- Must be working toward or have completed SAR TECH II certification
- At the end of a search mission, be able to translate field activity onto a map including route taken, area left unsearched, areas of interest from dog, general wind direction, and probability of detection (POD).
- Be able to navigate with a map and compass during day or night, and navigate a basic grid search pattern in a designated area
- Be prepared to survive for 24 hours using the contents of your pack
- Be physically able to search or assist searchers in moderate terrain for 6-8 hours for 2 consecutive days
- Must hold minimum certifications in CPR and basic first aid

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Auxiliary membership is for individuals who are willing to assist the team at unit functions including call-outs and PR events in functions designated by team IC on scene based on individual training and experience. An auxiliary member must meet the following criteria:

- Be age 18 or older
- Have a completed unit application on file with attached federal criminal background check (or NCIC)
- Be approved by a vote of deployable members
- Auxiliary members are not required to pay membership fees.
- Attend one training per quarter

INACTIVE MEMBERS

SCSARDA operational members may elect to change their status to inactive for a necessary leave of absence. An operational member may be converted to inactive by the officers due to not meeting the minimum requirements in attendance or performance.

In either case, a person can become operational again by meeting the criteria as stated and a vote by the SCSARDA officers.