

NEW APPLICANT INFORMATION

PURPOSE: To provide prospective members with helpful information concerning the requirements for being a member of SCSARDA

As a potential new member of SCSARDA the following are a few of the things that will be required if you decide to join.

ASSOCIATED FEES

1. Dues – All members are required to pay yearly insurance dues of \$100.00 in August. Dues are prorated in the event a person has not been a member for the entire year.
2. One time application fee of \$10.00.
3. FBI Criminal Background Check \$18.00.

REQUIRED TRAINING

1. Completion of FUNSAR or SARFUN course and passing of NASAR SAR Tech III exam before becoming operational. (cost anywhere from \$ 0- \$200)

NOTE: Testing locations and requirements can be found on the NASAR web site: www.nasar.org Also the unit secretary may be aware of some not listed on the NASAR web site.

2. Completion and passing of the NASAR SAR TECH II exams within 2 years of becoming an operational team member.
3. Initial certification in basic CPR and First Aid. (American Red Cross Adult AND Child or equivalent).
4. Ability to travel to various locations to train and run calls. Calls may require taking time off work. (Approximately. 200 mile radius).
5. Training is ongoing, physically demanding, and done under a variety of environmental conditions.

NOTE: Non K-9 handlers can expect 3 hours per week for training and events.K-9 handlers can expect 6 – 10 hours for the same.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

1. Read and agree to abide by SCSARDA by-laws.
2. Read and agree to abide by SCSARDA code of ethics.
3. Attend training and events as required by the SCSARDA Attendance Policy and Membership Classifications.
4. Follow the training progression as defined by SCSARDA. Discuss desired deviations with Officer or assigned instructor.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

1. Minimum FUNSAR Pack – Approximate cost can be \$100 – \$500 dollars. Required pack items can be found on the NASAR web site at www.NASAR.org.
2. Weather and terrain appropriate clothing and shoes. e.g., Boots, Hat, Headlamp, Long Pants and rain gear.
3. Water, Sunscreen, Bug Repellent and other supplies as needed.

Note: These items are a required minimum and are not considered to be the full content of all items needed to be an effective, operational member.

All personal equipment is purchased by each member, and can get quite expensive over time.

A typical K-9 handler who is operational spends on the average of \$3000 - \$6000 per year for dog related, training and travel related expenses.

A non – dog handler spends only a fraction of this, but the initial up- front cost is the same for both.

K-9 HANDLERS

All potential K-9 handlers are required to wait a probationary period of three months before bringing their dog to training. In addition the dog must have been evaluated by the team. This evaluation is to determine if the K-9 is a suitable candidate for reaching team standards.

K-9 REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Leash
- 2 Harness (tracking/trailing)
- 3 Flat Collar (Bell or Lighted collar optional)
- 4 Crate
- 5 Vehicle suitable to leave dog in with team members in attendance during non-working periods
- 6 CGC obtained before becoming operational
- 7 Training Log detailing, at a minimum, days worked and general activities performed.
- 8 Must pass SCSARDA K-9 appropriate testing before becoming operational.
- 9 Must present copies of canine vaccine records to team secretary. Minimum requirements are maintaining rabies vaccination as required by state law.

NOTE: Usually, a motivated person can become operational within 6-7 months after joining the team. This allows that individual to run actual calls with other operational members and gain search experience.

However it can take anywhere from 1-2 years to train a K-9 to a fully operational status, things that can affect this are:

- *The handler's previous experience with training dogs in the past.*
- *K-9's aptitude and temperament*
- *K-9's age when starting training*
- *motivation of the handler to persevere*
- *Ability of the handler to remain trainable*

CONCLUSION

This is not a complete listing of requirements.

This is only intended to give prospective new members a minimum understanding of what they may expect.

Each applicant is expected to read and become familiar with information made available to them.

Potential K-9 handlers should keep in mind: The dog most suitable for SAR may or may not be your current pet. SAR dogs are typically highly driven working dogs with a great deal of energy and can be hard to live with. We will make every effort to work with you and your current dog, but if the dog is found not to be suitable, the expectation is that you would either remain as a ground support member or acquire a more suitable dog for this purpose.