



TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Taos Search and Rescue (Search and Rescue – Taos, Inc.) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) community organization with high standards of professionalism and service. We operate year-round, primarily in the off-road areas surrounding Taos, New Mexico, but also throughout the state and occasionally into southern Colorado. Our team searches in all seasons for lost hikers, climbers, hunters, campers, skiers, snowmobilers, etc. Our subjects may include children or people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. We often are called out to recover the bodies of people who have died from injuries or exposure. Our searches occur mostly in backcountry settings, i.e., the mountains, the high desert and the Rio Grande Gorge, though occasionally we are called out for urban off-road searches. Our primary deployment is through the New Mexico State Police.

READY TO SERVE 24/7/365

TSAR is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. We provide training for all areas of expertise that might be required on a mission. This includes litter packaging, medical scenarios, low- and medium-angle rescue, avalanche training, swiftwater training, K9 training, search for downed aircraft, communications and navigation with map and compass and/or a GPS, as well as other computer search technologies. New volunteers are always welcome to apply. We train and employ the following specialized search units: base, ground, medical, K9, technical, drone swiftwater and ATV. We operate our own mobile command unit.

If you're looking for a way to serve your community, consider joining Taos Search and Rescue.

www.sar-taos.org

www.nmsarc.org



TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE

New Member Information and Application Packet

Are you interested in joining Taos Search and Rescue?

Do you think this might be the type of organization through which you would enjoy serving the community and to which you could commit?

Following are some considerations that may help you decide if TSAR is right for you.



We have openings on all units:

- [BASE](#)
- [BIKE](#)
- [DRONE](#)
- [GROUND](#)
- [K9](#)
- [MEDICAL](#)
- [OHV](#)
- [SWIFTWATER](#)
- [TECHNICAL](#)
- [WINTER SKILLS](#)

Please see unit descriptions on our website: www.sar-taos.org

One need not be proficient in any particular skills when joining TSAR. We will train you in all aspects of field and base operations. All you need to do is show up with a desire to learn and a spirit of teamwork.

Full members must remain on call 24 hours/day, 365 days/year, and may be called out any time of the day or night. Full members must keep their contact information (phone, email and mailing address) current with the vice president, recruitment director and duty officer.

TSAR provides training for all areas of expertise required on a mission: base operations and the Incident Command System, navigation, communications, emergency first aid, litter packaging and evacuation techniques, search techniques, scene size-up, crime scene preservation, man-tracking, swift water rescue, avalanche, helicopter safety and more. **We hold a general meeting and classroom training** on the third Wednesday of each month (this may change surrounding holidays) **and a field training** on the Saturday or Sunday (alternating each month) directly following the general meeting and classroom training. Please refer to the training schedule for exact dates. There is no charge for these team trainings. **Full members are required to attend 50 percent of trainings, which comprise the cornerstone of our professionalism and excellence in the field.**



There are additional specialty trainings offered throughout the year, sometimes through TSAR and other times through other organizations. We regularly notify our team members of these upcoming trainings and encourage participation when possible because they not only enrich our individual knowledge and experience, but also that of the entire team. There may be a charge for some of these specialty trainings. Full members may apply to the board for full or partial reimbursement for the costs of specialty trainings. The board will determine whether and how much to reimburse depending on the quality of the training as well as the member's service to the team.

We are a volunteer organization. There is no payment for what we do. Your commitment to the team will involve some out-of-pocket expenses for equipment, special trainings, transportation, etc. You will also be expected to participate in TSAR's annual fundraiser.

We are community servants. We maintain high standards of professionalism and service. No member can use any alcohol or mind-altering drugs (whether prescription or recreational) just prior to or during official missions, trainings or meetings. We operate in the public eye and maintain an excellent reputation.

We know our limitations. No one is required to go on a mission that s/he does not feel comfortable attending (such as a body recovery), or is unable to do (such as a high-angle rescue). Members must realistically assess their level of fitness and adjust their participation accordingly.

Each applicant is expected to become a full TSAR member and pass any required certifications within one (1) calendar year of becoming a trainee. Please read and refer to the TSAR guidelines for all details regarding membership.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:

Tamar Stieber, Recruitment Director (505) 501-0836
Delinda VanneBrightyn, President (575) 770-5633

tamarstieber.mac@gmail.com
delinda@taosnet.com



Taos Search & Rescue

Procedures for Membership

So, you have decided that TSAR is an organization of which you would like to become an integral part. Please go through the steps below to become a TSAR trainee, followed by a TSAR full member.



To Become a TSAR trainee:

1. Fill out the TSAR Application for Membership Form (available from the recruitment director or online at www.sar-taos.org) and submit it to the resource director. Be sure to include a paragraph or two about why you want to be a member of TSAR (see bottom of the application)..
2. The TSAR board of directors will review your application and make a recommendation. If your application is accepted by the board, you will immediately become a TSAR trainee and are eligible to become mission ready.
3. You will be invited to join the online TSAR “Basecamp” communications forum, where you will have access to team communications and documents.




Steps to become mission ready:

1. Bring your TSAR new member packet to all classroom and field trainings. You can obtain a packet from the recruitment director or download it from the TSAR Basecamp forum. When you have completed requirements #1 through #5 of the Full Member Certification Form, with each section signed and dated by a full member, you are a mission-ready trainee.
2. Make sure the recruitment director has your most current contact information so that you can be added to the Mission Call-Out Roster and automated systems.



Steps to become a full member:

1. Complete all requirements (#1 through #10) of the TSAR Full Member Certification Form, with each section signed and dated by a full member.
 2. Agree to pass the New Mexico Field Certification Test within one (1) year of becoming a full member of TSAR.
 3. Take the completed Full Member Certification Form to the recruitment director for final approval by the full TSAR board.
 4. Once the president has signed and returned to you a copy of your application, you are a full member.
- 

TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE: Application for Membership

Please Print	TSAR Office Use Only - Initials of Board Directors															
ABOUT YOU	Name:										Date:					
	Age:		Date of Birth:				Gender: M F		Weight:		Height:					
ADDRESS	Mailing:						City:						Zip:			
	Street:						City:						Zip:			
	How long in NM?						Prior state of residence?									
CONTACT INFORMATION	Home Phone:						Emergency Contact	Name:								
	Work Phone:							Relationship:								
	Cell Phone:							Phone:								
	Email:															
OTHER INFO	NM Driver's License #:										Own Vehicle? Y N					
	Auto Insurance? Y N				Married? Y N				Children? Y N							
OCCUPATION																
CURRENT EMPLOYER	Name:										Phone:					
PREVIOUS EMPLOYER	Name:										Phone:					
REFERENCES 3 minimum <small>(PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL—NO RELATIVES, SPOUSES OR DOMESTIC PARTNERS)</small>	1	Name				Occupation/Title		Relationship to applicant		Home/Work Phone:		Cell Phone:				
	2	Name				Occupation/Title		Relationship to applicant		Home/Work Phone:		Cell Phone:				
	3	Name				Occupation/Title		Relationship to applicant		Home/Work Phone:		Cell Phone:				
MEDICAL	Medical Certifications:															
	Medical Issues:															
	Allergies (please list all known, e.g., bees, poison ivy, food, medications, etc.):															
SKILLS	What skills do you have that might be useful to TSAR?															
EQUIPMENT	What equipment do you own that might be useful in search and rescue?															
SAR UNIT INTERESTS	Please check all that apply:															
	Base Unit				K9 Unit				Tech Unit							
	Bike Unit				Medical Unit				Winter Unit							
	Drone Unit				OHV Unit				Other:							
	Ground Unit				Swiftwater Unit											
NARRATIVE	Please tell us in a half page or more why you would like to join Taos Search and Rescue.															



Thank you for your application to
TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE
VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES SINCE 1978



NARRATIVE



TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE FULL MEMBER CERTIFICATION



APPLICANT NAME:

DATE STARTED:

DATE COMPLETED:

BRING THIS SHEET TO ALL CLASSROOM MEETINGS AND FIELD TRAININGS

On completion of certification areas 1 through 5, a trainee is eligible to participate in missions. On completion of certification areas 6 through 10, the trainee is eligible to become a full member. All certification areas must be signed and dated by a full member and approved by the board. It is the responsibility of the trainee to acquire these signatures and, upon completion of all modules, turn in this form to the TSAR president. **NOTE:** Trainees whose field activities are limited to the Base Unit are not required to complete the endurance module.

DESCRIPTIONS OF AREAS OF CERTIFICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP:

1. **Pack Check, Including First Aid Kit** - (print a copy of the TSAR pack checklist).
2. **Endurance** - Hike, cross country ski, snowshoe or horseback ride for at least four hours on moderate-to-steep terrain.
3. **Topo Map/Compass** – For map, identify the following: mountaintop, ridges, ravines (including which way the water is flowing), meadow, contour intervals, elevations and UTM and lat/long coordinates. For compass: take a bearing, calculate magnetic and true north, know the declination for New Mexico and walk a bearing with a compass going to at least two points.
4. **Radio Communications** – Know how to operate both field and FRS radios: power on/off, switch frequencies and follow proper communication protocols. Learn how to pack and charge radios before and after a mission.
5. **GPS Basics** - Know how to turn on a GPS unit, read a position and mark and recall a waypoint.
6. **Team Equipment** – Learn: the location of supplies and equipment in the TSAR vehicles and shed, how van electrical systems operate and how to set up and use the computer/printer.
7. **Knots** - Demonstrate the tying and dressing of the following knots: Figure 8, Figure 8 follow-through, prusik, water knot, double overhand and double fisherman's.
8. **K9 Unit** – Attend one K9 Unit classroom training and one K9 Unit field training to understand how a K9 team operates and to learn the navigation and communication skills needed to support a K9 team.
9. **General Meetings/Classroom Trainings** - Attend four Wednesday evening general meetings/classroom trainings (see training schedule).
10. **Field Trainings** - Attend four weekend field trainings (see training schedule).

Area of Certification	Full Member Signature	Check	Date
1. Pack Check			
2. Endurance			
3. Topo Map/Compass			
4. Radio Communications			
5. GPS Basics			
6. Team Equipment			
7. Knots			
8. K9 Unit	1. Classroom Training		
	2. Field Training		
9. General Meetings/ Classroom Trainings	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
10. Team Field Trainings	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
President's Signature (signifies board approval)			

TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE: FULL MEMBER PACK CHECK LIST

NAME:

DATE:

APPAREL IN FIELD (Required)

Check	ITEM	DETAILS
	What you wear in the field: Garment/fabric choices must be appropriate to weather conditions.	Pants – no jeans
		Shirt
		Socks
		Underwear
		Boots with Lug Soles

GENERAL ITEMS IN PACK (Required)

Check	ITEM	DETAILS
	EXTRA CLOTHING IN PACK	Head Cover
		For warmth for all year
		Gloves or Mittens
		For warmth for all year
		Extra Socks
		In case you get wet
	SURVIVAL	Water Resistant Outer Layer
		Jacket or Poncho & Pants – breathable wind/water protective
		Middle Layer
		In case you get wet – synthetic or wool
		Inner Base Layer
		In case you get wet – synthetic, silk or wool
	SAFETY	Food
		For 24 Hours for you and a subject
		Water
		2 Quarts minimum, better if more
		Knife
		sharp knife or multi-tool
		Fire Starter
	Waterproof matches, wax, steel wool & batteries, etc.	
	Space Blanket	
	To keep warm overnight	
	Whistle	
	Plastic Storm Whistle	
	Signal Mirror	
	Has hole with webbing in the center	
	GENERAL TOOLS OF THE TRADE	Sunscreen
		Summer and winter
		Safety Glasses
		Preferably with side protection
		Orange Vest
	Hunting season or emergency visibility	
	Heavy Rubber Gloves	
	Kitchen type for body recovery	
	Ear Plugs	
	For Helicopters	
	GENERAL TOOLS OF THE TRADE	Pen & Pencil & Notebook
		Waterproof Type Recommended
		Compass
		Orienteering type – 5 degree accuracy
		Camera
		For documentation: Disposable or sm. expendable card
		Headlamp
		For night searching and hiking
		Extra Batteries
		4 AA, 4 AAA: for GPS, FRS, headlamp & other equipment
		Work Gloves
	Leather	
	Trail Tape	
	Orange or pink, bright visible color	
	Duct Tape	
	At least 3 Yards	
	1" Tubular Webbing	
	20 Feet	
	Parachute Cord	
	50 Feet	
	Garbage Bags	
	Large, leaf-type	

TSAR PACK CHECK LIST CONT...

MEDICAL ITEMS IN PACK (R=Required for: Trainee=T, Full Member=F)

Check	ITEM	R	DETAILS
	STERILE DRESSINGS	3 Non-Stick Gauze Pads	T 2" x 3"
		2 Gauze Pads	F 4" x 4"
		1 Surgi-pad	F 5" x 9"
		6 Band-Aids	T ¾" x 3"
	NON-STERILE DRESSINGS & BANDAGES	1 Gauze Bandage Rolls	F 4" x 5 yards
		2 Moleskin or Gel Dressings	T
		1 Ace Bandage or Vet Wrap	F 3"
		1 Triangular Bandage	F 36" square piece of fabric
		1 Roll Adhesive Tape/Elasticon	F ½" or larger
	GENERAL TOOLS	1 Pair Crash Shears	F Blunt Scissors
		1 Sam Splint	F
		1 Tweezers	T
	MEDI-CATION	1 Prodone Iodine Swab Pack	F
		1 Aspirin 325 mg.	F
		2 Immodium Tabs	F
		2 Benadryl 25mg.	F
	SAFETY	3 pair Surgical Gloves	F
	OPTIONAL	Antibiotic Ointment, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, ice pack/warmer, cpr mask, personal meds	

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ITEMS (Not Required)

Check	ITEM	DETAILS
	Climbing Helmet	<u>Required</u> in some situations: may check out from team
	GPS	Used regularly: may check out from team
	Binoculars	Used moderately
	Insect repellent	
	Toilet Paper	
	Sunglasses	
	Bivouac (Bivy) Sack	
	Foam Pad	
	PFD: Personal Floatation Device	<u>Required</u> in water situations: may check out from team
	Down Vest or Jacket	As extra outer warmth layer
	Climbing Harness	<u>Required</u> for high angle unit members

RECOMMENDED ITEMS FOR WINTER (Not Required)

Check	ITEM	DETAILS
	Neck Gaiter &/or Balaclava	Face and neck warmth
	Extra Wool Cap	Top of head warmth
	Ski/Snow Goggles	Eye protection
	Hand & Foot Warmers	To provide extra warmth
	Leg Gaiters	To keep moisture and snow out of boots
	Snow Shoes or C.C. Skis & Ski Poles	(ski poles can double as avalanche probe)
	Avalanche probe	<u>Required</u> in some situations: may check out from team
	Avalanche Beacon	<u>Required</u> in some situations: may check out from team
	Snow Shovel	<u>Required</u> in some situations: may check out from team



TAOS SEARCH AND RESCUE

2020 BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

DIRECTOR POSITION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
PRESIDENT	Delinda VanneBrightyn	575-770-5633	delinda@taosnet.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Gary Jones	732-841-9923	gary.a.jones@me.com
TREASURER	Chelsea Crawford	575-776-4755	chels.e.crawford@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Carlie McGinnis	575-770-1656	tsarsearcher@yahoo.com
TRAINING OFFICER	Chris Kodey	575-779-8711	ckodey1@gmail.com
RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR	Tamar Stieber	505-501-0836	tamarstieber.mac@gmail.com
VEHICLE DIRECTOR	LJ Beckman	406-531-3685	ljbeckman@gmail.com
EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR	Luke Clark	575-224-0276	lukeyoungerclark@gmail.com
EVENT DIRECTOR	[OPEN]		

Taos Search and Rescue

P.O. Box 3601

Taos, NM 87571

www.sar-taos.org

www.nmsarc.org