Welcome to Chaffee County Search and Rescue – South (SAR-S)
New Member Information

**Who We Are**
CCSAR-S is funded by donations only and is an all-volunteer organization serving the southern portion of Chaffee County. Members have common interests to serve our community and help those lost or hurt in the backcountry. We also assist Chaffee SAR-North with mutual aid when requested. SAR reports directly to the Chaffee County Sheriff’s Department.

For more information follow us:
Website: chaffeesarsouth.org
Facebook: ChaffeeCountySearchAndRescueSouth
Twitter: @CCSAR_South

**What can I volunteer for?**
You will fill out the SAR Electronic Interview which gives SAR leaders insight into your skills, current interests and future interests. We have a place for members with high-level backcountry skills to those with no interest in going into the backcountry.

- **Field-Based...** Missions in the backcountry are physically demanding. Safety for all SAR volunteers is a priority. New members interested in backcountry missions are required to have the appropriate skill level for the mission.
- **Non Field-Based...** Non-backcountry opportunities for volunteers play a critical role in the success of Search and Rescue. Members may be interested helping with communications, radios, pagers, website updating, technology OR maybe mechanics, learning everything about vehicles, ATV’s, trailers, motorcycles, snowmobiles OR maybe you have interests in fundraising and/or are a great organizer.

If any of this sounds interesting, SAR is a good fit.

**Sheriff Application Approval**
In order to participate in any SAR related activities (Field-Based or Non Field-Based), prospective members must first fill out the Member Application for a background check and be approved by the Sheriff’s Office. The filled out application should be brought to your first meeting.

**Monthly General/Training Meeting**
Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month (except December TBD) at the SAR Bay - 10364 CR 120, Poncha Springs. The training portion of the meeting begins at 7:00pm and the General meeting at 8:00.

**Membership Commitments**
All prospective members must attend 3 Monthly General/Training meetings within the first 5 months of your first meeting.

At your third meeting your application for membership will be voted on by members present. When approved, you will be added to the member email list and the mission texting system. You will be given SAR apparel that should only be worn for SAR trainings, missions, and volunteer activities.

Prior to being voted in you must complete the NIMS 100 and 700 Online Training and the Electronic Interview Questionnaire (specifics below). A minimum of First Aid with CPR/AED is required and must be maintained and current (specifics below). Members are required to participate in missions, meetings, trainings and volunteer activities. **Our goal is simple... search and rescue. In order to be safe in the field this requires a team that knows how to work together as a Search and Rescue unit. Membership safety is priority. Active participation is required.**

**Attendance:** We understand that life can get in the way of a professional volunteer commitment. If your schedule changes and you need time off, communicate with the Member Coordinator or an Officer.

**Resignation:** If you need to resign from Search and Rescue, please email an Officer or member coordinator and make arrangements to return SAR Uniform, Sheriff Id Card, and any related SAR equipment shared with you.

version 8_3/20/2019
Community Service and Fundraising

On occasion we participate in some local community service. Our participation helps our community and also promotes Search and Rescue. We have one main fundraising event annually, The Angel of Shavano Car Show. There are a number of helping opportunities for all members. This event is the first Saturday of August. Its success is dependant on our membership helping.

Identifications, Certifications, and Training

First Aid Certification (minimum certification) – within 3 months of being voted into membership, if you aren’t certified, you will be required to attend a First Aid class that includes CPR/AED training and is offered by an accredited organization. A 2 day Wilderness First Aid class is offered on an annual basis in Chaffee County and also meets this requirement. CCSAR-S will reimburse the fee for the Wilderness First Aid class after you have been voted in and maintained acceptable attendance at trainings, meetings, and volunteer activities (apprx 1 year). Basic First Aid/CPR/AED certification is good for 2 years, at which time you will be required to take the class again. Certifications for members must be current.

Helicopter Lift Ticket – in order to ride in either Flight for Life or In-Reach helicopter for SAR purposes, you are required to attend a training class for each organization. Upon completion of the class you will be issued a Lift Ticket (for each organization) which must be presented to staff before you will be allowed to board the helicopter. Training is offered once a year for each organization. Certification must be renewed annually. Boarding a helicopter is optional but the training is essential for working safely around a helicopter.

NIMS – All members must complete two National Incident Management System classes before you are voted in as a member. This training is available free online at http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp. The two classes required are IS-100.b (ICS 100) Introduction to Incident Command System and IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction. Upon completion of the NIMS you will be issued a certificate for each class that needs to be printed and a copy given to the Member Coordinator for record keeping.

SAR Medical Protocols – This document describes the medical protocols that can be acted on as determined by your medical credentials. It is only necessary to read the sections for your level of medical credentials. The document (provided electronically) is a must read and members must print, sign, and return the Medical Acknowledgement Form which is kept on file. The document is long and one is provided at the bay for you to check out if you prefer to read a hard copy.

Monthly Training - Before each general meeting we have a scheduled training. The training schedule is set annually. Training is one hour and focuses on team building, equipment usage, patient packaging, seasonal focuses, safety and transport. Attendance and participation at the general meeting and trainings are critical to developing working relationships with other members, learning skills, and understanding search and rescue protocols.

Additional Training – There will be opportunities throughout the year for additional training. These sessions are open to and encouraged for all members and may be offered directly by CCSAR-S or in conjunction with other agencies. Some examples of training include: ATV/Rokon training, avalanche training, low angle ropes courses and swiftwater awareness. They are typically on Saturday and held monthly.

Personal Equipment for Mission Readiness

CCSAR-S maintains a supply of equipment for use in rescue situations; however you are responsible for supplying and carrying your own personal equipment. A list detailing equipment you should plan to carry for both the winter and summer seasons is provided during your probation. This equipment should include everything you will need to keep yourself safe in the backcountry for a two day period, including overnight. Reaching out to veteran members with questions about personal equipment, continual backpack review and readiness is highly encouraged.
Typical mission procedures - (brief overview)

Upon receiving a 911 call, the Chaffee County Sheriff will make the decision to call out Search and Rescue. You will receive a text giving the basic details of the situation. Please do not call the Sheriff’s Dispatch with questions. If you need additional information, please contact another Search and Rescue member. All members available to respond to the call will report as quickly as possible to the SAR bay where they will be briefed with more information about the mission. It is important to arrive at the bay with the necessary personal equipment you need for the mission, including food and water, as missions typically last many hours. Mission clothing must be suited to environmental conditions and always be wicking and quick drying. Orange Search and Rescue shirt, vest, and appropriate safety equipment, such as helmet must be worn when appropriate. Members present along with Incident Command will assess the situation and plan the mission necessary to rescue the lost or injured party. Members will load SAR vehicles with the necessary communications and safety equipment and proceed to the trailhead or search location. A notice will be left on the whiteboard at the bay with information about location and details. All members arriving at the command site (or SAR Bay) must sign in with Incident Command and will be assigned to a mission team. For safety, mission teams are a minimum of 2 people. If you are not able to reply to the initial page, but become available later, please check in with Incident Command either via cell phone, radio or by proceeding to the command site. Our response program, I AM RESPONDING (IAR), allows for members to respond with Unavailable, Be at bay… choose times, etc. Please become familiar with this program and ask for help if needed. Again, this is only a brief overview.

Checklist:
Email Member Coordinator (MC) with any questions.

- NIMS ICS 100 and IS 700 - completed certificates to member coordinator (MC) - during probation
- SAR Medical Protocols - read then sign Medical Acknowledgement Form, return to (MC) - during probation.
- SAR Electronic Interview - complete online. Link via email - during probation
- Attend 3 meetings/trainings within 5 months - during probation
- First aid w CPR/AED (or above) within 3 months of membership or before
- Helicopter Lift Ticket Training - probation or after membership
- Personal Equipment, backpack review, and readiness with veteran member - during probation
- SAR Uniform - after membership
- On Text and full membership email list - after membership
- Received member contact list - after membership

SAR-South Membership Committee
Danny Andres - Member Coordinator
dannyccsars@gmail.com

SAR-South Officers
President - Evan Brady
Vice President - Don Dubin
Secretary - Tom Franke
Treasurer - Jinan Martini

version 8_3/20/2019