

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc.

Information Package



Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc.
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Non-Emergency Contact Number 801-943-0153
www.rockymountainrescuedogs.org

OVERVIEW

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit, professional canine search and rescue organization established in 1980. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. is the oldest search dog organization in the state of Utah. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. is dedicated to assisting law enforcement and other governmental agencies in the location of lost and missing persons.

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. provides assistance in the following situations: wilderness searches, tracking/trailing, water recovery, avalanche searches, urban searches, human remains detection/cadaver searches, and disaster searches. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. is on-call and available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog teams consist of a handler and his or her dog. Team members donate their time and resources training to meet rigid standards including: scent theory, search theory, canine obedience, canine agility, GPS/navigation skills, mountaineering skills, first aid skills, and physical fitness. Teams maintain a constant state of readiness, able to respond at any time, day or night, to an emergency.

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. receives financial contributions from Community Shares Utah, Combined Federal Campaigns and other private and public donations.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. holds a business meeting the first Thursday of every month. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Attendance at business meetings is encouraged for those wanting more information about Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc.

Business meetings are held at 6:30 pm at the Unified Police Special Operations building at 3510 South 700 West, Salt Lake City. Times and locations may change so please check the website for updates.

Please see our website for directions and more information: www.rockymountainrescuedogs.org

MONTHLY TRAINING WORKOUTS

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Teams train as a group one full weekend per month. Anyone is welcome to attend training weekends. We encourage those who are interested in Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs to attend as many training workouts as possible. Please be aware, those who are not team members or official candidates are not allowed to bring their dogs to training workouts.

Training workouts generally take place the third weekend of each month, with the exception of November and December when trainings are held the first weekend of each month. Training workout information is located on our website at www.rockymountainrescuedogs.org under the calendar tab, or call our non-emergency number for more information.

Members of the team also train on their own or with small groups of other handlers regularly. You are welcome to contact members to find out when and where other trainings are scheduled. Whether or not you are allowed to bring your dog to these training sessions will be at the discretion of members in charge of the training.

When attending a training workout, please make sure you have enough food, water, clothing, and the proper gear for the terrain and weather conditions. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Teams train in all weather conditions.

SEARCH MISSIONS

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Teams are on call twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. When a person is lost or missing, law enforcement officials contact Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. via our emergency contact phone number. Answering those calls is our Call-Out Coordinator. Our Call-Out Coordinator then contacts team members via a texting system. Those team members who are available respond to the search.

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Teams respond to searches in Utah and surrounding states. Because Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. is an all-volunteer search and rescue organization, team members use their own vehicles to reach search areas. Team members also use their own equipment, food and water while searching. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. rely on self-sufficient team members to complete search missions successfully.

Rocky Mountain team members also work closely with the Civic Air Patrol. The Civil Air Patrol may provide transportation and assistance to Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Teams working in the field.

BECOMING A ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE DOGS CANDIDATE

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs teams are divided into certification levels: Pre-Candidate, Candidate, Operational Handler (Level II), and Specialized Operational Handler (Level I). The Board of Directors preside over training and certification regulations as provided in the Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. Standards, Policies and Procedures and By-Laws. The Standards, Policies and Procedures and By-Laws are available upon request.

Those interested in becoming a Pre-Candidate with Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. should attend business meetings and training workout weekends without their dog. Attending Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog events will allow those interested the opportunity to meet members of the team and our canine partners. It will also provide the opportunity to participate in Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog team training.

It is important to realize the significant time, energy, and financial commitment you are making when applying for candidacy with Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs. It takes at least 1200 hours of training with your canine partner to become search ready. It then takes at least 500 hours per year to maintain the basic minimum search ready proficiency required to remain on the search call-out list. The time commitment listed above does not include the time it takes for the handler to become search ready, only the canine partner.

It is also important to realize that not every canine is suitable for search and rescue work. Search and rescue dogs must be extremely fit, have a very high level of endurance (they could be working for 10-12 hours per day, or more, on a search), they must have a very high prey/hunt drive, they must be very obedient, and they must be extremely well socialized. Your canine partner cannot show any aggression towards people or other canines. Your canine partner must be as committed to search and rescue work as you are.

Since Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to aiding law enforcement, it is important to also realize there will be a significant financial commitment. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog, Inc. team members must be self-sufficient during each training mission and on every search. Team members do not expect or rely on any other agency to provide support services. Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. provides safety equipment necessary for each member of the team, i.e. radios, GPS, life jackets, etc. However, members of the group are responsible for obtaining all other necessary gear for both themselves and their canine partners. Please see the suggested pack list for further information.

In order to apply for candidacy with Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. each applicant must:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Attend four training workout days without your canine
- Attend business meetings while a pre-candidate
- Submit a completed membership application to Board of Directors
- Submit a release and indemnification agreement
- Submit a medical release form
- Submit a canine evaluation form
- Complete a SAR dog evaluation with the Board of Directors
- Be certified in Basic First Aid and CPR
- Complete physical fitness evaluation (pack test)
- Submit proof of current canine vaccinations
- Complete an interview with the Board of Directors
- Proof of Insurance
- Pay Candidate fees
- Sign Code of Ethics
- Submit a background check
- Be voted into the group as a candidate by a majority of voting members

Once you have successfully completed the steps above and have been voted into the group as a candidate, you may begin bringing your dog to workouts. You are required to attend 2/3 of all training workouts and business meetings to maintain your candidacy.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE DOGS CANDIDACY

Once you have completed the necessary requirements for becoming a Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Team Candidate, your training will help prepare you to test for your Operational Handler Status.

Requirements for Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Candidates are as follows:

- Choose two Specialized Operational (Level I) team members as mentors
- Attend 2/3 of all workouts
- Attend 2/3 of all business meetings
- Attend at least 2 search missions without your dog
- Attend community demonstrations
- Complete and submit training logs each month to your Level I mentors and Board
- Complete a 6 month progress review with Rocky Mountain Board
- Test for Operational Certification within 1 year of candidacy

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs Board Members will help guide you through the steps of your training and will provide you with progress checks to ensure you are progressing toward certification. The Board will also provide you with stats sheets to help you keep track of attendance and on-gong group requirements.

Your Level I mentors will assist you in training with your canine partner outside of official Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog workouts. Your Level I mentors will help you with the proper steps for training your canine. They will also help determine when you and your canine partner are ready to test for certifications. It is important to remember that training with your canine is ultimately your responsibility and your Level I mentors are there for guidance.

During your candidacy, it is important to begin compiling gear for your search pack. See the Suggested Pack for some of the necessary items to keep in your search pack.

Once you have obtained Candidate status you are expected to attend as many search missions as possible without your dog. You must attend at least two searches before you are allowed to test for operational status. In order to attend searches, your stats must be current and you must also be current on your training logs.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE DOGS OPERATIONAL (LEVEL II) STATUS

Once you have completed the necessary requirements for becoming a Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Operational (Level II) Team, you may begin attending search missions with your dog. You will also begin preparing for your specialized testing.

Requirements for Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Operational (Level II) Teams are as follows:

- Continue to train at a minimum of 4 times per month
- Attend 1/2 of all workouts
- Attend 1/2 of all business meetings
- Attend search missions with your dog
- Attend community demonstrations
- Complete and submit training logs each month to the Board
- Test for Specialized Operational (Level I) Certification within 1 year of Operational (Level II) status

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs Board Members will help guide you through the steps of your training, and will provide you with progress checks to ensure you are progressing toward your Specialized Operational (Level I) certification. The Board will also provide you with stats sheets to help you keep track of attendance and on-going group requirements.

Specializations Include:

- Wilderness/Air Scent
- Wilderness Tracking/Trailing
- Urban Tracking/Trailing
- Avalanche
- Human Remains Detection/Land Evidence
- Human Remains Detection/Land Cadaver
- Human Remains Detection/Water

Once you have obtained Operational (Level II) status you should begin attending search missions with your dog. You must attend a total of four searches before you are allowed to test for your Specialized Operational (Level I) certification. Attending as many searches with your dog as possible will allow you to understand your dog's abilities, hone your search strategies, and determine what specialization you would like to pursue. In order to attend searches, your stats must be current and you must also be current on your training logs.

As an Operational (Level II) canine handler, you are given voting privileges within Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. During monthly meetings you may be asked to vote on: membership, Standards, Policies and Procedures, By-Laws changes, and financial decisions.

SPECIALIZED OPERATIONAL (LEVEL I) STATUS

Requirements for Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog Specialized Operational (Level I) Teams are as follows:

- Work with Candidates and Operational (Level II) handlers to guide them through their training
- Train weekly

- Attend 1/2 of all workouts
- Attend 1/2 of all business meetings
- Attend search missions with your dog
- Serve as Incident Commander on search missions
- Organize and attend community demonstrations
- Complete and submit training logs each month to the Board
- Serve on the Board

Specialized Operational (Level I) Canine Handlers may be elected as members of Board of Directors and participate in the day to day functions of the group. Board of Director positions include Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Financial Officer, Information Officer and Training Officer.