



STAR 1
SEARCH & RESCUE

P.O. BOX 506 AMES, IA 50010

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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STAR 1 is a volunteer Search and Rescue Team based in Story County, Iowa. We have members located throughout the state and respond as a team at the request of local law enforcement or public safety officials.

What STAR 1 Provides

STAR 1 will provide missing person search management resources including search management, ground search teams and K9 search teams.

- **Ground Search Technicians:** Our professional Ground Searchers typically certify at the SARTECH II level or above, though SARTECH IIIs may be used for support purposes. Our Search Technician training focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to serve as effective ground searchers.
- **Canine Search Technicians:** Canine Search Technicians must first become proficient at wilderness search techniques and certify at the SARTECH II level. This may be accomplished while training their dog, but must be achieved prior to certifying as a Canine Search Technician. Canine handlers may select those canine search specialties that they feel their dogs are best suited for. They may train in the areas of air scenting, wilderness and urban trailing, water cadaver search, land cadaver search, collapsed structure cadaver search, collapsed structure live search, and evidence search, and may then certify their dogs at any of the NASAR Canine Levels (III, II, and I). Canine handlers fund the training and care of their own dogs.
- **Search Management Support:** STAR 1 provides certified and experienced search managers that will typically function within the Planning and/or Operations Section(s) of the Incident Command System. STAR 1 does not assume control of an incident but can provide valuable assistance to the command staff. Our Search Manager training program requires candidates to mentor with operational Search Managers in both simulated and actual missing person incidents. Our Search Managers are required to achieve the NASAR SARTECH II and MPLI (Managing the Lost Person Incident) Certifications, in accordance with the certification and credentialing requirements for Wilderness Search and Rescue Manager established through the National Incident Management System.
- **STAR 1** Ground Search Technicians and Canine Search Technicians are also introduced to rope rescue, water and ice rescue. This training is provided at the awareness level for the purpose of keeping our members safe.

- **Administrative/Auxiliary Members:** It takes a lot of work to keep a statewide search and rescue team up and running. Administrative Members may assist with tasks such as fund raising and marketing. These members are not required to participate in the certification processes outlined above and are not deployed on search missions. Auxiliary Members provide training and operational support, and may deploy with the team in specific roles and circumstances.

Minimum Physical Requirements

To perform as an effective Ground Searcher or K9 Handler, one should have the ability to walk 1.5 miles within 30 minutes, with a pack, over moderately flat terrain. Weight should be proportionate to height. Medical conditions that may appear suddenly and be debilitating (hypoglycemia, epilepsy or other seizure disorders, cardiac or respiratory conditions, e.t.c.) would likely prevent you from being deployed to the field. All members should be able to communicate verbally, and should be able to transmit and receive using a portable radio.

Search and Rescue work can be extremely strenuous and may require team members to:

- Carry weights in excess of 50 pounds
- Walk 5 or more miles in extremes of temperature and precipitation
- Walk or climb unstable terrain or debris, or climb ladders or ropes
- Swim in flat or moving water while wearing a PFD
- Swim in ice covered water while wearing an exposure suit

Cost to become a member

There is a cost for NASAR books, exams and certifications. Star 1 may charge a small fee for workshops that would be designed to prepare students for certification.

Members are expected to have or acquire clothing and footwear suitable for Iowa's weather. This includes boots, coat and pants that are weather resistant (preferably waterproof and breathable such as Gore-Tex or a similar product, with yellow as the preferred color). Members may be prohibited from participating in practices or missions if a team leader deems their clothing unsatisfactory for the conditions.

We encourage you to become an official member prospect before investing in new clothing and equipment. Our members would be happy to advise you in making your selections.

Expectations of members and member prospects

STAR 1 may be deployed at any time, day or night, and members may travel an hour or more to reach the scene of a missing person incident. A single operational period might run 10 hours, so the time commitment of a search may exceed 12 hours depending on the location. While we recognize that you will not always be available, your lifestyle, work and other commitments should be somewhat flexible to allow you to participate in search and rescue missions.

The National Child Protection Act requires a federal background check on all persons who may have contact with children in the performance of their duties. As a professional volunteer SAR organization, STAR 1 also requires that members complete a federal background check as a condition of deployment to search missions. (We do accept military and departmental background checks on active duty members of the United States military, and for individuals who are currently employed as certified peace officers).

As Search Technicians our members may face extremes of temperature and precipitation, and will be exposed to poison ivy, insects, and other hazards and annoyances. The hardships can be many but we find the work to be rewarding.

We are looking for those special people who have a strong desire to help others in emergency situations. We want calm and thoughtful members who can work well as a part of a team, and who can confidently assume responsibility for the well-being and safety of themselves and others. There's NO room for thrill-seekers in STAR 1 (in fact, you might say "we're so safe, we're boring").

Prospective members are invited to train with the team while they complete the membership requirements. Applicants will then go through an interview process, which may then be followed by a probationary period.

To maintain proficiency in the skills needed to be an effective SAR Responder, members are expected to attend no less than 50 % of the scheduled team training sessions and exercises. Additionally, members are asked to provide notification when they are unable to attend a scheduled training session. This is important in part because it allows for modifications of training plans based upon the number of participants expected.

If you already have a busy life with little free time on your hands, you should probably reconsider joining, but we can always make use of those with administrative, public relations and marketing skills, including website design and maintenance.