

# ***Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Search and Rescue...SAR 7***

So you're interested in joining?... GREAT!

Here are some frequently asked questions which may be of help:

## ***Are there membership requirements:***

Yes: you must be at least 21 years old and in good standing with the community. Because of the nature of Search and Rescue (SAR), each prospective member must pass a background check that is conducted by the Sheriff's Department and pass a physical agility test which consists of a 3 mile run/walk. Each applicant must be in good physical condition and have the desire to learn and help others. Familiarity with the back county is a strong asset as well as prior Search and Rescue experience.



## ***Does it matter where I live?***

There are eight SAR teams in the county of Ventura. Three are Mountain Rescue teams, which are based in Fillmore, Ojai, and Thousand Oaks. Due to the geographical area of responsibilities, Upper Ojai members usually live in Ojai, Santa Paula and Ventura. Fillmore team members usually live in Fillmore, Santa Paula, Camarillo, or Piru. East Valley team members usually live in Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, or Camarillo. The teams comprised of Administration, Canine, Medical, Dive, and Mounted Posse live throughout Ventura County.

## ***Do SAR member get paid?***

No: Search and Rescue members are strictly volunteer. Most members get permission from their employers to respond to Search and Rescue call outs. The satisfaction of finding and returning someone to their loved ones or rescuing someone in distress provides tremendous satisfaction for team members.

## ***How much time does SAR take?***

Search and Rescue is definitely time consuming. Each team meets once a month for team meetings and trains one weekend a month. The K-9 team meets weekly for team training and asks each member to train a minimum of 3 times a week on your own. Time spent for searches and or rescues (varies between teams) averages 3 - 5 days a month. This can greatly increase if a team is



called to assist another team. This increases their time commitments. Families are also affected and need to be as dedicated to the purpose as the member.



***Does SAR cost members anything?***

Yes: Members are responsible for providing all their personal gear. Personal gear usually consists of team cold weather gear, uniforms, boots, and other miscellaneous items. All K-9 Equipment... i.e. Leashes, Collars, Booties are the responsibility of the K-9 SAR member. All K-9 costs are the members responsibility... i.e. medical, purchase price, feeding. The Sheriff's Department supplies the basic rescue equipment required to function safely. Teams purchase additional equipment for the team and members with donations from the public.

***I'm still interested, What do I do now?***

If you would like to dedicate the time to become a volunteer member of the Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Search and Rescue Team, you may download the application from our website: [www.vcsark9.org](http://www.vcsark9.org)

Fill out and send the application to the address listed at the bottom of this page. Teams have a limit on the number of members, but they usually accept a few new team members each year. Following an interview, physical fitness test, and background, you will be notified of the probationary requirements.

For more information, email: [info@vcsark9.org](mailto:info@vcsark9.org)



**VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE  
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