

## ***Join SAR 7 (Ventura County K9 Search & Rescue)***

So you're interested in joining?...Great! Here are some frequently asked questions which may be of help:

### **Are there membership requirements?**

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. Good physical condition and the desire to learn and help others are also required. Familiarity with the back country 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 and East Valley members live in Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo and Simi Valley. The Teams comprised of Admin, Canine, Medical, Dive and Posse live throughout Ventura County.



### **Do SAR members get paid?**

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. Time spent for searches and or rescues (varies between teams) averages 3-5 full days a month. This can be greatly

increased 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?**

Members are responsible for providing all their [personal gear](#). Personal gear usually consists of team cold weather gear, team uniform, boots and other miscellaneous items. All K9 equipment... i.e. Leashes, Collars, Booties are the responsibility of the SAR member. The Sheriff's Department supplies the basic rescue equipment required to function safely and foul weather gear. 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 Sheriffs' K9 Search and Rescue Team, please fill out the application from our website. Once complete, send it to [jenn@vcsark9.org](mailto:jenn@vcsark9.org). Teams have a limit on the number of members, but they usually accept a few new members a year.



Ventura County Sheriff's K9 Search & Rescue | 375 Durley Ave., Camarillo, CA 93010

