

Why We Need SAR

Happy Valley is full of opportunities for outdoor entertainment and activities, such as hunting, hiking, caving, mountain climbing, and biking. All of these activities can be somewhat dangerous, especially to someone new to the area. It's easy to become disoriented. In addition, there are many nursing homes in the vicinity and at times patients with Alzheimer's Disease or other degenerative disorders "walk-away" from their caretakers.

Once a primary responding agency (fire, police, etc.) determines that there is a lost person, we become a resource to them and are available to seek out anyone that may be lost and provide basic medical attention, if needed, while transporting the person to a safe location. And we can completely manage all aspects of any search activity if needed.



Community Outreach Programs

Hug-A-Tree

The Hug-A-Tree program was developed to teach small children what to do if they become lost or separated in a wilderness environment. A coloring book is available to help parents reinforce this basic program with their kids.

Hunter Safety

In association with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, we participate in local hunter safety education courses.

Safe Boating

In association with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the local Coast Guard Auxiliary, we participate in local safe boating courses.

First Aid Instruction

Many members are American Red Cross certified instructors and conduct regular CPR/First Aid courses.

Merit Badge/Scouting Programs

Many of our members have strong scouting backgrounds and are registered merit badge counselors.

Special Requests?

Please feel free to give us a call at 814-355-6803 and we will try to accommodate your request. Keep in mind that we also help the community in a variety of other areas such as participation in parades, carnivals, and other major events such as Special Olympics, 4th fest and PSU home football games.

Centre County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue



Volunteers Working with Law Enforcement

Centre County Sheriff's Office
C/O Search & Rescue
213 East High Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-355-6803
E-mail: info@ccsosar.org
www.centresearch.org



The Local Team

We are Centre County's only Search & Rescue (SAR) team. Our team of 30 members was founded under the direction of Centre County Sheriff, Denny Nau, primarily as an emergency wilderness medical search team.

Affiliations

We are a member of the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council (PSARC). PSARC works closely with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and other agencies to ensure that its members conform to accepted standards and have the latest SAR information available.

We are also a member team of the South Central Mountain Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force and as such meet all State and Federal requirements.

Resources

There is a wide spectrum of professional support and assistance available to us at a moments notice. We know the resources that respond to our requests for assistance meet rigorous standards in training, equipment, and professionalism.

Search Management

Our capabilities include all aspects of search management and our command vehicle has all the necessary computer and communications systems, forms, maps and related equipment. We can also quickly train community volunteers and put them on task to look for the lost subject.



Ground Search and Rescue

Our core team has over 30 members trained in all aspects of wilderness search & rescue. Our capabilities include search and rescue in wilderness, and mountainous environments.



K-9

A search effort can be maximized by using canines (K-9) on the team. K-9's can be trained to perform many tasks, such as air scenting for lost victims in the wilderness; cadaver and water searches; tracking or trailing. We can deploy our own evaluated K-9's or K-9 units from other teams.



How You Can Help

Volunteer

Our volunteers help in a wide variety of ways and the amount of time you dedicate is entirely up to you. Once all of your basic training which we provide at no cost is complete you can either continue to train in specialty or technical rescue, or just come to our monthly meetings and participate in community outreach programs. Like all professional organizations, we also need volunteers to help with administration, so don't think that we are only looking for field members.

Promote

If you have access to a bulletin board or any other medium to promote our team to the public, contact us and we will provide you with flyers, pamphlets, or whatever you may need.

Donate

We are a 100% volunteer 501(c)(3) organization— we receive no financial support from Centre County or any other source. The equipment we need is very expensive and parallels that of what fire companies use. We must rely on fundraisers and community donations from people just like you. Every little bit helps, whether it be camping/hiking equipment, services, your time or money.