

# Washoe County Search & Rescue SVU

2017

## Prospective Member Guide

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Dear Prospective Member,

Thank you for your consideration in joining our unit. We appreciate you taking the time to learn about our non-profit organization. We are always looking for new members to help us serve the community and continue to meet our motto of, "so that others may live".

We understand that you may want to join our team, but would like more information before making such a commitment. This guide will aid you with your general questions, and we have left extra space to write down your questions and thoughts.

This packet has been organized to give you some general information and may not answer all your questions, so please feel free to contact your liaison, the team's Vice President.

Please also reference the website at [www.washoesar.org](http://www.washoesar.org).

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

## EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SVU, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK AND MORE....

### What does Search & Rescue do in Washoe County?

Washoe County occupies approximately 6608 square miles in the northwest corner of Nevada, stretching from just north of Carson City all the way north to the Oregon border. The southwestern part of the county encompasses a portion of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Lake Tahoe. The northern half of the county is the western edge of the Black Rock desert. The Truckee River cuts through the southern portion of the county from west to east, turning north at Wadsworth, and terminates at Pyramid Lake.

Responsibility for search and rescue operations in the State of Nevada is the duty of the Sheriff of the county of jurisdiction. The Washoe County Sheriff utilizes teams of citizen volunteers, as auxiliary deputies, to conduct SAR missions. By using SAR volunteers, the Sheriff saves the taxpayers of Washoe County more than \$950,000 dollars annually.

Our SAR volunteer team program has been nationally recognized for our volunteers' efforts, training and organization. In Washoe County, visitors and residents alike benefit from the emergency search and rescue services, for which there are no fees, due to the dedication and commitment of the hundreds of search and rescue volunteers who comprise the five specialized teams. Though they work side by side, these specialized teams each have very specific responsibilities during a search and rescue mission. Please visit [www.washoesar.org](http://www.washoesar.org), and take some time to visit our specialized team's homepages on the navigation bar to find out more about what they offer.

### WHAT DOES THE SVU TEAM DO?

We utilize specialized vehicles to cover Washoe County search areas by providing search efforts through use of our own ATV's and snowmobiles. We also operate the Sheriff's Office snow-cats and boats.

### CAN I JOIN ANOTHER TEAM?

We do not "officially" restrict your participation, however you may find it overwhelming as you will need to meet the attendance/search and training requirements for all teams independently that you are a member. Contact other teams directly for their requirements and procedures. You will hear of people on more than one team, however, these Search & Rescue "veterans" have over 10+ years of membership before joining multiple teams.

### WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SVU?

Twenty-one (21) years of age is the requirement.

### WHAT IS THE PAY?

All members of any Search & Rescue team are volunteers and receive no financial compensation.

### WILL I NEED TO SUBMIT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK?

Yes, your application will be submitted to the Sheriff's office by our Secretary. They will complete a state, local and federal background check. This usually takes 3-4 weeks to complete.

### CAN I CARRY A FIREARM?

Firearms are NOT allowed, per the Sheriff's office.

### ARE THERE ANNUAL DUES?

Yes, \$20.00, due and payable between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have not paid your dues by March 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be placed on inactive status.

### WILL THERE BE SOMEONE TO HELP ME DURING THE TRANSITION?

Absolutely! At first, the Vice President will be your liaison, then after a few meetings and your application has been submitted, you will be guided by the more experienced members of the unit. Of course, always, any board member is available to assist you in any way they can. Our success is built on your success.

### HOW MANY HOURS A MONTH DOES THIS COMMITMENT TAKE?

The actual time depends on how active the month is for searches. The unit encourages you to attend the general meetings that last about 1 - 2 hours once a month. There are also additional trainings throughout the month that can last about 10 hours, plus mission hours, fundraising hours, and special events.

### WHAT SPECIAL CLASSES WILL I NEED TO TAKE?

The unit does require that within the first year of approval, a member must have current CPR certification. The unit usually offers this training once a year, but you are encouraged to get outside training. All new SAR members must complete the SAR Academy that is offered once a year, starting at the beginning of March. It is held once a week for 9 weeks, historically on Mondays, from 1800hrs to 2100hrs. All SAR members also must take ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 (these classes deal with the incident command system), and are given during the SAR Academy class. You can also take the classes online at [www.FEMA.org](http://www.FEMA.org). You will also be expected to participate in the various trainings that the SVU provides dealing with ATV's, boats, snowmobiles and snowcats (this depends on what area(s) you are interested in). Other classes might include topics like "Lost Person Behavior", "Map & Compass training", "Stress Management", "Avalanche Safety", and many other important topics.

### CAN I JOIN IF I DO NOT HAVE AN ATV?

Yes, many of the members participate with our team boat unit, snowcat unit or have a snowmobile for winter use on searches. You can participate in any, or all of the following four areas: ATV's, boats, snowcat, snowmobile. You must commit to at least one of those areas when you join the unit (please see attached commitment form). If you participate in the ATV or snowmobile areas, you MUST own an ATV or snowmobile.

### WHAT IF I HAVE NO TRAINING?

Not everyone can have training in all areas. We hold general trainings on the first Wednesday of each month. ATV training is usually held on either the last Wednesday or Saturday of each month. Boat and snowcat training are held at various times of the year. If there is an area that you feel you need additional assistance with, your individual group chairperson will be available to help.

### IS THERE A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME THAT I HAVE TO DEVOTE TO THE SVU?

Yes...75 hours minimum per year. Please see the attached sheet for specifics. If you do not meet the requirement, you will be brought before the SVU Board to discuss your options, and the viability of remaining on the team. You will also find that if you are only able to respond to a few or no searches during the year, you need to rethink your involvement.

### DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL AREAS OF SVU?

No, but you do need to commit to at least one unit section - see commitment form.

### WHAT IS THE AVERAGE COST TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Membership dues are \$20.00 for the period of January 1st through December 31st. There is a team jacket deposit of \$100.00 when the jacket is issued. The entire deposit will be refunded when the jacket is returned, or a partial refund will be issued dependent on the condition of the jacket as determined by the SVU Board of Directors. Equipment is an additional cost and responsibility that depends on the brand / style / personal preference, and how much equipment you currently possess, but could total from the hundreds, to tens of thousands of dollars. Please see specific lists. There will also be an additional application fee of \$150.00 prior to becoming a member.

### CAN I DEDUCT THE MONEY I SPEND ON SAR?

Some of the money spent on Washoe County Search & Rescue MAY be tax deductible; however, for specific itemization the unit recommends you consult your own tax advisor.

### I WORK AND CANNOT GET AWAY ALL THE TIME, CAN I STILL BECOME A MEMBER?

We understand that personal commitments arise that cannot be broken, however the unit does require at least 75 hours a year commitment to remain a member. You will also find that if you are only able to respond to a minimal number of searches during the year, you need to rethink your involvement.

### WHAT IF I NEED TO GO OUT OF TOWN?

Communication is the key to success. As a courtesy, please notify the team President or another Board member.

### DO I NEED TO PURCHASE A UNIFORM?

Once accepted, a member will need to purchase a uniform as outlined on the uniform page. Millers Jacket's, 950 Glendale Avenue in Sparks, is the county uniform shop with special pricing, which will run anywhere from approximately \$100-\$200 minimum. You can purchase items from other locations, providing they meet the correct color, style and fabric requirements. The current uniform shirt is only available online.

### WHAT TYPE OF UNIFORM DO I HAVE TO WEAR?

There is a uniform requirement (see additional uniform page), but there are variables depending on the weather. The uniform consists of a 5.11 Tactical, Hi Vis Performance Shirt (if you can find these – they are currently out of production) w/SVU arm patches and black edged orange name tag w/black last name (all sewn-on). The sewn-on badge is the "subdued" version. The second uniform shirt option is the Hi Vis orange shirt from Red Kap. Pants are BDU green and can come from various manufacturers such as Propper or 5.11. A black belt is also required. There is also a cold-weather jacket that is supplied by the unit which requires a \$100 jacket deposit fee. Do not wear the uniform other than for missions and trainings.

### WHAT IS THE AVERAGE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT I NEED TO PURCHASE?

The cost varies widely, depending on any equipment that you might already own. There is a basic list that will need to be purchased to get started once accepted as a probationary member, and then more items can be added to the basic list. Equipment lists are included in this packet. Personal preference makes a difference in the cost as well. It is recommended to purchase high quality equipment for maximum performance and personal safety. Please see the approximate cost break-down on the lists that follow in this packet.

### WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHILE RIDING AN ATV?

There is a required list of equipment for the ATV/UTV itself, and required clothing as well (see list). While riding an ATV/UTV during any function, you must have a helmet, eye protection, gloves, long sleeve uniform shirt, long uniform pants, and over the ankle boots. Winter and cold weather gear should have no natural fibers except wool. There are many synthetic products on the market as well. You should have waterproof pants and team jacket for inclement weather. During summer riding, you can wear the uniform shirt and BDU pants, providing you have a back-up system in case of wet weather.

### DOES THE UNIT SUPPLY ANY EQUIPMENT?

The SVU will supply every ATV member with a mobile radio for the ATV/UTV, a mobile radio for the vehicle, and a hand-held radio as well. A pager is issued to every member. All other gear is supplied by the member! We do offer the following optional items for sale, which goes into the SVU account: Team hat, long sleeve team cotton shirt which is mandatory for fire evacuations and only to be worn during fire evacuations (this is given to a member once they attend the fire evacuation class that is required in order to respond to fire evacuation missions), and SVU license plate holders for vehicles.

### SHOULD I SUPPLY MAPS FOR SEARCHES?

Although not required, it is a good idea. Most GPS units are now supplied with mapping software. Having paper topographic maps (1:24,000) is also handy. You might think about purchasing a Reno / Sparks Street Directory, available at many stores – these are helpful for urban searches.

IS SOCIAL DRINKING PERMITTED?

There is a strict no drinking policy while performing any duties for SVU. Showing up for any event under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly forbidden and grounds for immediate dismissal from the team.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THERE IS SOMEBODY I KNOW THAT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN?

The unit is always looking for good members. Please have them contact the Vice President, or bring them as a guest to a general meeting. Reference the "How Do I Join" section below.

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF A MISSION?

Once the board has approved your application, your background check has been approved by the SO, and you are sworn in, you will be issued a pager. This pager will notify you of all missions and when and where to stage. You may not respond to searches until the Sheriff's Office has given the clearance on your background check. You are, however, allowed to attend other SAR functions in the meantime. If you are on the ATV team, you must take the ATV Certification class before you can respond to ATV searches. If you are a part of the snowmobile team, you must go through the Snowmobile Certification process, as well as a hands-on avalanche class.

ARE THERE BY-LAWS GOVERNING THIS ORGANIZATION?

Yes. They are part of this packet.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF ASKED A QUESTION BY A REPORTER?

Members are not allowed to talk to the media - refer all questions to the Sheriff's Office representative such as the Sergeant, Deputy, or PIO.

CAN I TALK TO MY FAMILY ABOUT A MISSION?

Searches or missions are confidential. Specific details are not to be discussed with any person outside of team members. Confidentiality is mandatory for the success of what we do. You can mention to a family member that you were looking for a lost child, or a missing skier. Generic comments are acceptable.

WHAT IS EXPECTED AS A MEMBER?

You have chosen to become involved in SVU for reasons known only to you. Most of us became involved because of a love of the outdoors, or even just the thrill of having the opportunity to save other people from what is often their own mistakes. Whatever brought you to the team, you will have a very serious responsibility. Here in Washoe County, the number of people at any given search tends to hover at around 25 members. The rosters of the individual teams include many more people, but many of them at any given time are unavailable because of work issues, family commitments, illness, or even burnout. About 25 people carry the burden, often, of whether a missing person will live or die. When the pager goes off at three o'clock on a snowy Sunday morning, it will cross your mind just not to come. We all have that thought when our lives are busy and we'd rather stay in bed. But someone out there is counting on you, and you will have made a commitment to help when you are able. If you don't get up and join us, it may mean the difference between having three teams in the field or having four, and our victim may be lying, cold and injured, in that fourth search area.

## HOW DO I JOIN?

The first thing to do is to attend a general membership meeting held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Regional Training Center which is located at the end of Spectrum Way. Before you attend the first meeting, you will need to fill out a liability waiver. These forms are available from the SVU secretary who can email you the form. A prospective member is encouraged to attend several meetings and trainings to get a feel for the team, and if it will be a fit for them. Once a prospective member has decided to join, attend three meetings and submit an application with the \$150.00. You will then be scheduled for an interview by the SVU Board. All prospective members will be notified, in writing, within one week after the completion of all prospective interviews as to the acceptance or denial of their application. Any denial letters will also include the \$150.00 returned to the prospective applicant. An accepted prospective member's application will be submitted for a background check. Background checks take approximately 3-4 weeks for clearance. Once the SO has given clearance, the prospective member will be notified to go to the Sheriff's Office and have their picture taken for an I.D. card. A swearing-in ceremony will take place at the next general membership meeting, and a pager will be assigned. You are now a probationary member!

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Whereas it is the mission of this unit to provide knowledgeable, well equipped, well trained, and experienced personnel to support the activities of the Sheriff's Office and,

Whereas this unit provides these skills in four specific areas of operation and,

Whereas these four areas of operation are:

ATV operations      Snowmobile operations                      Snowcat operations      Boat operations

Therefore, it is reasonable to require participation in at least one of these specialties for each member.

It is the policy of the W.C.S.O. Specialized Vehicle Unit that each member or prospective member must commit to and participate in at least one of these specialties during the time of his/her membership.

This policy shall in no way prevent a member from participating in more than one of the specialties or from changing from one specialty to another at any time.

The Board of Directors may review the compliance of any member in regards to this policy at any time that it deems appropriate. Consideration will be given to those situations that appear to be temporary in nature. Members not in compliance will be subject to one of the following methods of discipline; Verbal reprimand and recommendations for improvement, written reprimand and placement on temporary inactive status, Expulsion from the unit in accordance with Article V, section 1 of the By-laws.

This policy will become effective on July 1, 2006, and will remain in effect from that day forward unless revoked or amended by the Board of Directors.

TRAINING & ATTENDANCE

Whereas it is the mission of this unit to provide knowledgeable, well equipped, well trained, and experienced personnel to support the activities of the Sheriff's Office and,

Whereas this knowledge and these skills are transient and may be lost without practice,

Therefore, it is necessary to require minimal training and participation of our members.

Policy

It is the policy of the W.C.S.O. Specialized Vehicle Unit that each member must complete 75 hours of attendance/participation at team functions, training, or missions each calendar year.

Any unit function such as a meeting or a public service event will count directly toward this goal for the specific time of the activity except that not more than 25 hours of this type of activity will count toward the total of 75 hours.

All unit training will count directly toward this goal for the specific time of the training. Members are encouraged to seek training outside of that provided by the unit, however, the appropriateness of that training and the amount of time allowed for it will be determined by the Board in each individual case. Requests for consideration for outside training should be made to the Board in writing. In these situations, the decision of the Board is final.

All official missions of this unit will count directly toward this goal for the specific amount of time that the member is present on the mission plus the travel time to and from the mission. Essentially, portal to portal.

The Board of Directors will review the compliance of each non-probationary member in regards to this policy in January of each year for the preceding year. Consideration will be given to those who were not active members during that complete year. Members not in compliance will be subject to one of the following methods of



discipline; Verbal reprimand and recommendations for improvement, written reprimand and placement on temporary inactive status, Expulsion from the unit in accordance with Article V, section 1 of the By-laws.

SPECIALIZED VEHICLE UNIT  
MEMBER REQUIREMENTS FOR ATV'S/UTV'S

1. Members are checked for required and recommended equipment. (See list)
2. Members must successfully complete the ATV Certification course before they can respond to a mission. The course is held on an as needed basis.
3. Although not an initial requirement, successful completion of the WCSO SAR Academy within one year of entrance into SAR program is required. The class is normally held for nine weeks, every Monday, starting in early March.
4. CPR/AED certification within one year of entrance into the SAR program are required.
5. On-going navigation and map reading practice during training rides is offered. All ATV/UTV members are required to be GPS certified through a SVU certification process.
6. Members are required to have the proper cold-weather clothing for conducting searches on an ATV. Although this is not a formal class, members are briefed in the need to have the proper gear with them at all times so that they are ready for any weather they might encounter. A team jacket will be issued to all members, after a \$100.00 jacket and usage fee is paid. Members need to supply all the proper undergarments – turtlenecks, long underwear, socks, etc. – nothing cotton.

SPECIALIZED VEHICLE UNIT  
MEMBER REQUIREMENTS FOR MARINE UNIT

1. Attend a boat orientation conducted by a qualified SVU marine member. Both boats, Marine 10 and Marine 20, have individual intricacies.
2. Although not an initial requirement, successful completion of the WCSO SAR Academy within one year of entrance into the SAR program is required. The class is normally held for nine weeks, every Monday, starting in early March.
3. CPR/AED within one year of entrance into the SAR program are required.
4. All marine unit members are required to go through the SVU Mate Certification program. If a member desires to become an Operator, they must go through the SVU Operator Certification program.

SPECIALIZED VEHICLE UNIT  
MEMBER REQUIREMENTS FOR SNOWCAT UNIT

1. Although not an initial requirement, successful completion of the WCSO SAR Academy within one year of entrance into SAR program is required. The class is normally held for nine weeks, every Monday, starting in early March.
2. CPR/AED within one year of entrance into the SAR program are required.
3. Members need to complete the unit's survival class.
4. If the member wishes to become a snowcat driver, they need to go through the Snowcat Driver Certification program. Any member who wishes to be a crewperson must complete the Snowcat Certification Class, Part 1.

5. Attend a snowcat orientation class conducted by a qualified SVU member.

All members responding to any snowcat search are required to have the following mandatory equipment:

1. Snowshoes
2. Survival gear
3. Snow shovel
4. Avalanche beacon with fresh batteries
5. Avalanche Probe

#### SPECIALIZED VEHICLE UNIT

#### MEMBER REQUIREMENTS FOR SNOWMOBILE UNIT

1. Members are checked for required and recommended equipment.
2. Members are required to have the proper clothing associated with snowmobile riding. Team cold-weather jackets are supplied to members.
3. Members will be trained in survival techniques, avalanche beacon use, and avalanche probe use.
4. Although not an initial requirement, successful completion of the WCSO SAR Academy within one year of entrance into SAR program is required. The class is normally held for nine weeks, every Monday, starting in early March.
5. CPR/AED within one year of entrance into the SAR program are required.
6. All members must successfully go through the Snowmobile Certification Program, comprised of classroom instruction, on-the-snow riding, and a hands-on avalanche class.

## CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has a well-defined chain of command, and, to a lesser degree, so does the Washoe County Search and Rescue Specialized Vehicle Unit. It is imperative that you respect this chain of command at all times. The two most common scenarios where this is applicable are if you have a complaint, and on searches.

If you have a complaint regarding a search and rescue matter, you should write a letter to the Board of Directors of the team. The Board will address your statements at the next Board meeting. If the Board fails to address your issues to your satisfaction, the next step up the chain of command would be to contact the Deputy in charge of Search and Rescue, currently Deputy \_\_\_\_\_. His superior, currently, is Sergeant \_\_\_\_\_. If your problem cannot be resolved by either of them, then they can direct you to your next step.

During a search, it is also important to use the proper channels. Unless instructed otherwise by your team leader, you do not report to the command post on your radio. You report anything that you think is important to your team leader. It is their job to communicate what they think is important up the chain of command.

## BADGE and I.D. ETIQUETTE

Members shall not use their official position, official identification cards or badges:

- a) For personal or financial gain;
- b) For obtaining privileges not otherwise available to them except in the performance of duty; or
- c) For avoiding the consequence of illegal acts.

Members shall not lend to another person their identification cards or badges, or permit them to be photographed or reproduced without the approval of the Sheriff's office.

Members must have their official identification card in their possession at all times when on duty and when away from home. Members should furnish their I.D. cards upon request, along with their name, I.D. number and badge number (if assigned) to any person requesting that information when they are on duty or while holding themselves out as having an official capacity – i.e. carry your I.D. at all times.

## INTEGRITY

The public demands that the integrity of its law enforcement officers be above reproach and the dishonesty of a single deputy sheriff may impair public confidence and cast suspicion upon the entire Sheriff's Office.

Effective law enforcement depends on a high degree of cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and the public it serves. The practice of courtesy in all public contacts encourages understanding and appreciation; discourtesy breeds contempt and resistance.

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office that each member of this agency will be held to a Standard of Conduct. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics is adopted as a general standard of conduct for all commissioned members of the Sheriff's Office.

**DEFINITION:** For purposes of this general order, the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics is as follows:

### 1. Code of Ethics

- "As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, the peaceful against violence or disorder and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice."
- "I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature of that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty."
- "I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice of ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities."
- "I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . . law enforcement."
- Members shall conduct themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on the Sheriff's Office.
- A deputy's conduct is closely scrutinized.
- Criticized far more severely than comparable conduct of persons in other walks of life.
- Since the conduct of a deputy sheriff, on or off duty, may reflect directly upon the Sheriff's Office, a deputy must, at all times, conduct himself or herself in a manner which does not bring discredit to the deputy, the Sheriff's Office or the County.
- Unbecoming conduct includes any conduct by a member which: affects the efficiency of this Office; affects the member's personal efficiency; disrupts harmony in this Office; has an adverse effect on this Office; or discredits the Sheriff's Office in the public eye.
- Unbecoming conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Public drunkenness;
  - Disorderly conduct;
  - Inciting another to fight;
  - Fighting, except as required as a part of a member's duties and
  - Except when done in self-defense;
  - Public nudity which involves exposure of a member's genitalia (external reproductive organs), except where and when permitted by law;

- Lewd or lascivious conduct;
- Improper sexual advances toward any member of the public;
- Displaying pornographic objects, pictures, movies or videos to other members or to persons outside of this Office while on duty;
- Engaging in any off-duty conduct which poses a threat of danger to the public; and
- Violation of any Federal or state law, or city or county ordinance, which involves moral turpitude.

### O.K, I'M NOW A MEMBER...WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN THE PAGER GOES OFF?

First off, your adrenaline will be pumping much faster than normal, so you need to have everything ready to go. You won't have time to search for your gear and still be able to respond in a quick manner. The pager will list the following things: what is being used, such as ATV's, boats, or snowcats, etc.; if it is a search, an evidence search, missing child, boat in distress, etc.; possibly the location of the search area such as "Dog Valley Area"; where to stage – this is where you need to be familiar with the area, or have a map. You can also listen to the radio, since other SAR members might not be familiar with the area either. You can also call another member on the radio or by cell phone and ask for directions. When you get your equipment loaded and start responding, you should get on the radio when it is clear and say, "Washoe County, 3 rescue \_\_\_ is 10-8 to \_\_\_\_". (10-8 means you are responding to the location.) We will be using PSAR 1 (primary channel for SAR). On occasion, we might use a repeater channel such as SAR VP (Virginia Peak). Listen to the radio for any further information concerning the staging location...sometimes it changes. When you arrive at staging, don't park in the middle of the scene – find an area that is safe to park. Find the command post, which is usually either Sgt. \_\_\_\_ vehicle or Deputy \_\_\_\_ vehicle. There should be a sign-in sheet. Write your full name, radio call sign, SVU, and time in (military time). This is now the time to stand back and wait for a SVU team leader to arrive (if they are not already there). You will be assigned to a team of other members and given a search assignment. This is not the time to start fueling up your ATV or sorting through appropriate maps...this is an emergency, and time is important. The team leader is the only member to communicate with command on the radio. During the search, don't do anything that makes you uncomfortable. If you feel you cannot negotiate a hill, etc., notify the team leader. It is also a good idea to keep notes, description of people missing, clothing description, type of vehicle, times, etc. When the search is complete, or if you must leave before the search is over, sign out at the command post. If you are responding to a search, and you hear that it has gone "code 4", this means the call-out is over, or has been cancelled.

### WHAT DOES THE "3" REFER TO IN OUR CALL-SIGN?

The Hasty Team is "1", WCSAR is "2", SVU "3", Air Squadron "4". Therefore, you use a call-sign of 3 Rescue (your number). Often times, you will hear (example) 305, 393....which means that 3 Rescue 05 is being called by 3 Rescue 93. The "Rescue" has been dropped out...this often occurs when we are talking to our own unit only. Sometimes you will even hear the "3" dropped off. Remember...the first number is the person you are calling; the second number is your radio number.

### ARE THERE "USUAL" STAGING LOCATIONS?

Probably the only staging location that is considered "usual" would be the Gerlach substation. This would be the location that, many times, we would meet to be assigned search areas for a callout that is in that area. Make sure you have enough fuel to make it to Gerlach. You will be able to fill-up again when you get there. At least one of the SVU members will have a gas card, or SAR staff will fill your tank. Reference the attached common landmarks page.

### DO I GET REIMBURSED FOR FUEL ON SEARCHES?

The quick and short answer is no, fuel is not always supplied. Gas is another contribution to the overall mission. Historically the department has helped replace fuel used during searches outside of the city. Fuel may be reimbursed for searches only (depending on county budget and resources) but the SVU would hope that all members use their discretion when requesting fuel. This provision is subject to change at the discretion of the department, without notice.

### I HAVE HEARD ABOUT EVIDENCE SEARCHES. DO WE PARTICIPATE?

Yes, we do. Most times we will be walking with the other units. Occasionally we will do an evidence search from an ATV. The pager will instruct you as to what to bring. Remember that during an evidence search, DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING! We might be looking for a weapon, shell casings, blood spatter, clothing - any evidence that is being asked for. Point it out to a team leader, or whoever is in charge. It is a good idea to have flagging to mark the item, and to have a GPS with you to mark the position. It is also recommended to have a hiking pole with you to turn over trash, move weeds, etc. Bring a small fanny pack or backpack to carry needed items, water, and snacks. During night searches, a headlamp and a flashlight are needed.

### DOES THE SVU PARTICIPATE IN FIRE EVACUATIONS?

Yes, we do. If you respond to a fire evacuation call, you need to be wearing the proper clothing - a minimum of cotton pants and a long-sleeve cotton shirt team fireshirt (we have long-sleeve cotton team shirts available once you have taken the fire evacuation class.) You can purchase Nomex clothing, if you wish. You should also be wearing sturdy, over-the-ankle boots that are not nylon, cotton bandana or fire-approved face mask, and a fanny pack with water and flagging. You do not want to be wearing anything that will melt due to high heat. You must also attend a fire evacuation class that is held every year, usually in late spring.

### WHERE ARE THE BOATS AND SNOWCAT KEPT?

The Sheriff's Office has a large warehouse on Western Way, off of Panther Valley Drive. Both boats, the Pisten Bully snowcat, the department Polaris Ranger, tow vehicles, and numerous other pieces of equipment are kept there. We might also be asked to transport the county's Tucker snowcat. It is kept in the county yard behind the SAR House on Longley Lane. The driver needs to have a CDL to drive the tow vehicle for the Tucker and the Pisten Bully.

### WHAT IF I AM INJURED DURING A SEARCH?

Although there have been very few injuries through the history of Search & Rescue missions, accidents happen. You are covered under the county's workman's comp insurance. Medical expenses will (subject to the county's rules) be covered. Medical coverage can be decreased if you or your passengers are not properly wearing your seat belt or other required safety gear. You are covered for injuries from the time of the page, to the time you return to your residence (providing you are going straight home). You are also covered while traveling to and from a meeting or training. Your coverage extends towards medical bills only. Any gear, equipment, or lost wages due to being out of work due to your injury is not covered. This is a volunteer unit. Insurance regulations are very strict and any injuries must be reported to the team president AND Search and Rescue Sergeant or Deputy immediately. As always, safety is number one and insurance regulations are strict regarding the use of vehicle safety equipment (i.e. seatbelts, helmets, etc.).

### IS MY VEHICLE OR ATV COVERED IF IT IS DAMAGED DURING A SEARCH?

No, you are responsible for any damage to your vehicles during a search.

### WHERE IS THE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER?

It is at the end of Spectrum Blvd., west of TMCC (Truckee Meadows Community College)

### HOW DO I GET TO THE ATV CERTIFICATION COURSE?

You will need to go through a coded gate with another member. The gate is located to the northeast of the building. Once you are through the gate, you should be able to see the course to the north on the side of the hill.

### IS THERE ANYONE I CAN TALK TO WHILE I AM LEARNING THE ROPES?

Anyone on the Board of Directors or any of the members are very willing to assist you with any matter - just ask us!

## BASIC EQUIPMENT LIST

The following is a list of BASIC equipment for new members. These items are to be considered as the bare minimum requirement and in no way prepare you for all SAR activities. All new members are expected to obtain all items on the equipment checklist as soon as possible. (NOTE: talk with several members about the equipment checklist BEFORE going to the store and spending a fortune. Ask to see their equipment and ask them about the items. See the differences in equipment and then decide what will work best for you. This will save you a lot of money and time.) The approximate prices for new items have been included on this list to give you a better idea of what to expect.

- Search Uniform <\$100-\$200 min>
- Hiking Boots <\$80-\$300 min>
- Day Pack <\$50-\$300 min>
- Water (at least 2 quarts)
- Food (enough for 48 hrs)
- Sunscreen and Hat <\$10-\$50 min>
- Personal First Aid Kits <\$20-\$150 min>
- Means of starting a fire (lighter, matches) <\$3-\$100 min>
- Flashlights and Extra Batteries <\$5-\$80 min>
- Ink Pens (or Pencils) and Note Pad(s)

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE ITEMS, THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED FOR ANY WINTER / COLD WEATHER ACTIVITIES.

1. Proper Clothing;

NO CLOTHING MADE WITH COTTON

Underwear made from synthetic materials -- (Polypro, Thermax, etc)

Insulating layer(s) - (Fleece, Wool)

Waterproof / Windproof layer - (Gortex, Wool)

2. Cold Weather Waterproof Boots
3. Waterproof Gloves
4. Snow Shovel



WCSO Specialized Vehicle Unit  
Required and Recommended  
Equipment List for ATV's  
Updated 8/6/2014

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

4x4 ATV or UTV           \$6,000-\$25,000+

SPOTLIGHT (hand-held or mounted)   \$25.00-\$100.00

HELMET           \$80-\$250.00

EYE PROTECTION (goggles, glasses, or face shield)   \$10-\$50.00

GLOVES – applicable to weather conditions   \$15-\$200

BOOTS – sturdy, above the ankle   \$80-\$300

AXE   \$20-\$50

EXTRA FUEL - in an approved, safe carrying container   \$10-\$40

SHOVEL   \$10-\$50

ONE GALLON WATER (separate from drinking water – fire suppression)

TOOL KIT (stock)   \$20-\$50

TOW STRAP OR TOW ROPE   \$15-\$40

RADIO (unit supplied)

DAY PACK (first aid kit, potable water, food as desired)   \$50-\$200

SURVIVAL KIT   \$25-\$300

FLASHLIGHT & EXTRA BATTERIES   \$5-\$80

FLAT REPAIR   \$8-\$50

FLAG, HI VIS ORANGE   \$15-\$50

GPS   \$100-\$600

NEVADA OHV STICKER

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT:

TOOL KIT (expanded)   \$20-\$100  
BINOCULARS   \$25-\$300  
TOPO MAPS

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:

WINCH   \$200-\$600  
TIRE CHAINS   \$50-\$80

NOTE: This is an approximate cost break-down of the required and recommended items. All prices are show for new items.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS (updated 10/2013)

CLASS A – no longer required.

CLASS B – REQUIRED.

PANT – WCSO green wool blend or 100% wool, or

Green Jeans (Ben Davis), or green WCSO BDU (5.11 or Propper as an example).

SHIRT – 5.11 Tactical, Hi Vis Performance Shirt w/SVU arm patches and black edged orange name tag w/black last name (all sewn-on). Sewn on badge is the “subdued” version. The uniform store is fully aware of all requirements. Second Option is the orange Hi Vis long sleeve shirt from Red Kap.

UNDERSHIRT – white or black.

SHOES – dictated by type of activity. Boots mandatory for ATV.

BELT – Black basket weave with or without buckle – buckle optional, but shall be in good taste.

SHORTS – Green Tactical Shorts (for boat activity only, if desired).

This is the REQUIRED SVU UNIFORM. Longs sleeve uniform shirt is required for ATV activity. Short or long sleeve shirt is O.K. for boat activity.

Anytime we are displaying equipment, the CLASS B UNIFORM shall be worn.

Uniform embroidery is available through Millers Jackets, 950 Glendale Rd., Sparks.

**COTTON LONG SLEEVE FIRE T-SHIRT**

To be worn ONLY during fire call-outs. These shirts must be obtained from the Board of Directors.

**COTTON PANTS**

Must be worn for fire call-outs.

OUTER GEAR – Jacket, black/orange – furnished by unit.

OUTER GEAR COLD WEATHER PANTS – Black, furnished by member.

## Uniform helpful hints

### Winter Weather

- No cotton/or cotton fiber on winter searches
  - Boots recommended
  - Waterproof AND breathable outerwear (no plastic rain suits)
  - Suitable insulating layers (wool, polar fleece)
  - Moisture-wicking underwear (polypropylene, capilene)
  - Examples: Gore-Tex Mountain Parka  
Gore-Tex Wool Pants  
Polar Fleece Top/or Bottom  
Waterproof and/or wool gloves
- Waterproof Gaitors  
Wool or synthetic socks  
Head/Neck/Eye protection  
Waterproof and/or Insulated

### Fire Evacuations

- When there is fire danger, NEVER wear clothing containing polyester.
- Wear your cotton BDU uniform or other fire-resistant clothing.
- Have a bandanna to breathe through (never wet the bandanna).

### Special Event Uniforms

For special events the Board of Directors may deviate from these uniform rules. You will be notified in advance of special uniform instructions based on the circumstances.

## COMMONLY USED LANDMARKS

- Boomtown: Take I-80 west toward Verdi until you see it on the right, not to be confused with . . .
- Bordertown: Take US 395 North toward Susanville until you see it on the left.
- Brown-Huffaker volunteer fire station on Geiger Grade: Go south on US 395, take the exit for Virginia City. The fire station is about a mile up the road on the right side.
- Dog Valley Road, Verdi: Take I-80 west to Verdi, then take the Old Highway 40 exit. The road will wind around, then you'll cross the river. Take your next right, Bridge Street. After you cross the river again, Dog Valley Road goes off to the right.
- Garson Road: Take I-80 west toward Verdi, and take the Garson Road exit. If you go left it will take you to a fire station that we often use as a staging area.
- Gerlach Substation: From Reno, drive east on I-80. Take the Wadsworth exit, then follow the signs to go to Gerlach. Go north on SR 447 until it takes you into Gerlach. After you enter the town, the road will curve  
Travel time 2 hours.
- Peavine Peak access road near Stead: Take the Stead exit off 395 North, then go left under the freeway. When you get to old US 395, turn right. The Peavine access road is a wide dirt road that heads off to the left toward Peavine Mountain.
- Pyramid Lake Ranger Station: Go out the Pyramid Lake Highway until you get to the lake, then stay to the left and go toward Sutcliffe. The Ranger station is next to the marina in Sutcliffe.
- SAR Building: Located on Longley Lane between Peckham Lane and Rock Blvd, on the west side.
- SAR Warehouse, Panther Valley: Go north on US 395 and take the Panther Valley exit. Turn left onto Panther Drive. After you go under the freeway, turn right on Western Way. The SAR warehouse is in one of the large storage units on the left, if you are called to go there, you will see plenty of other vehicles to help you find the right one.
- Tahoe Meadows/Sheep's Flat: Located on the Mount Rose Highway, almost all the way to Incline Village on the left side of the road. Travel time-40 minutes

## PROBATIONARY MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

Once accepted into the unit, issued a pager and unit number, you are required to meet the following criteria in order to advance to full member status:

- An obvious commitment to trainings and searches.
- Basic equipment and clothing must be obtained.
- CPR certification must be obtained
- SAR Orientation must be started.
- Read and understand the teams By-laws.

## FULL MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

Full Members are expected to meet these requirements:

- Minimum attendance of 75 hours of searches, trainings, meetings, fund raisers.
- CPR certification must be maintained
- Inform the team president of any unavailable time (vacation/busy with work)

WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Specialized Vehicle Unit, Inc.

Membership Participation Form

Whereas it is the mission of this unit to provide knowledgeable, well equipped, well trained, and experienced personnel to support the activities of the Sheriff's Office and,

Whereas this unit provides these skills in four specific areas of operation and,

Whereas these four areas of operation are:

- ATV operations
- Boat operations
- Snowcat operations
- Snowmobile operations

Therefore, it is reasonable to require participation in at least one of these specialties for each member.

Please mark the area(s) that you are committing yourself to:

ATV OPERATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

BOAT OPERATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

SNOWCAT OPERATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

SNOWMOBILE OPERATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

Member's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Member's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**State and Federal Laws concerning the protection of volunteers:**

**Nevada Revised Statute 41.500.4** Any person who is a member of a search and rescue organization in this State under the direct supervision of any county sheriff who in good faith renders care or assistance in an emergency to any injured or ill person, whether at the scene of an emergency or while transporting an injured or ill person to or from any clinic, doctor's office or other medical facility, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering the emergency care or assistance, or as a result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill person. **Please see NRS 41.0339 for liability protection and access to counsel.**

**VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 1997, SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR VOLUNTEERS.**

- (a) **LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR VOLUNTEERS.** – Except as provided in subsections (b) and (d), no volunteer of a nonprofit organization or governmental entity shall be liable for harm caused by an act or omission of the volunteer on behalf of the organization or entity if –
  - (1) The volunteer was acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity at the time of the act or omission;
  - (2) If appropriate or required, the volunteer was properly licensed, certified, or authorized by the appropriate authorities for the activities or practice in the State in which the harm occurred, where the activities were or practice was undertaken within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity;
  - (3) The harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless, misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed by the volunteer; and
  - (4) The harm was not caused by the volunteer operating a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other vehicle for which the State requires the operator or the owner of the vehicle, craft, or vessel to – (A) possess an operator's license; or (B) maintain insurance.
- (b) **CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITY OF VOLUNTEERS TO ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES** – Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any civil action brought by any nonprofit organization or any governmental entity against any volunteer of such organization or entity.
- (c) **NO EFFECT ON LIABILITY OF ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY** – Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the liability of any nonprofit organization or governmental entity with respect to harm caused to any person.
- (d) **EXCEPTIONS TO VOLUNTEER LIABILITY PROTECTION-** If the laws of a State limit volunteer liability subject to one or more of the following conditions, such conditions shall not be construed as inconsistent with this section:
  - 1) A State law that requires a nonprofit organization or governmental entity to adhere to risk management procedures, including mandatory training of volunteers.
  - 2) A State law that makes the organization or entity liable for the acts or omissions of its volunteers to the same extent as an employer is liable for the acts or omissions of its employees.
  - 3) A State law that makes a limitation of liability applicable only if the nonprofit organization or governmental entity provides a financially secure source of recovery for individuals who suffer harm as a result of actions taken by a volunteer on behalf of the organization or entity. A financially secure source of recovery may be an insurance policy within specified limits, comparable coverage from a risk pooling mechanism, equivalent assets, or alternative arrangements that satisfy the State that the organization or entity will be able to pay for losses up to a specified amount. Separate standards for different types of liability exposure may be specified.

All violations to the Volunteer Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct will be thoroughly investigated. During the investigation process, involved members will be temporarily suspended from all Program activities pending the outcome of the investigation. Said members will be notified as to their status with the Program by the CCP Program Manager/Coordinator. Progressive discipline includes, but is not limited to, counseling, written notice and restriction of involvement with the CCP and its various subgroups. Said members may be restricted from team meetings, trainings and refreshers, and/or may be terminated from the Program.

As an at-will volunteer, I may be released at any time with or without cause or appeal or notice at the discretion of either party.

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of the Volunteer Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER MENTOR QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS NOT MEANT TO BE NOSY, HOWEVER WE HAVE PUT THIS TOGETHER TO BETTER ASSIST US TO HELP YOU FIND A MENTOR THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING OTHER THAN SEARCH AND RESCUE IN COMMON. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO FILL IN COMPLETELY, HOWEVER YOU ARE NOT FORCED TO ANSWER ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO. THE INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BOARD, AND YOUR NEW PROSPECTIVE MENTOR ONLY.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT AREA OF TOWN DO YOU LIVE? MAJOR CROSS STREET  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

BEST TIMES TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU MARRIED? \_\_\_\_\_

ANY CHILDREN? \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES-AGES & NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE DO YOU WORK? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO? \_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES YOU ENJOY? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT KIND OF SPORTS DO YOU LIKE TO WATCH? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT SPORTS DO YOU PLAY? \_\_\_\_\_

ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU ENJOY? \_\_\_\_\_

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THAT DESCRIBES OR TELLS US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IS THERE ANYONE IN THE UNIT THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW/OR WORK WITH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE YOUR MENTOR (IF AVAILABLE)

FIRST CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

ANY ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WASHOE COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE- SPECIALIZED VEHICLE UNIT, INC. DOES NOT ALLOW DRINKING/OR INTOXICATION WHILE ON ANY SVU FUNCTIONS, FIREARMS ARE NOT ALLOWED, SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA REGARDING THE UNIT IS PROHIBITED, AND CONFIDENTIALITY IS MANDATORY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE DATE



WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
SPECIALIZED VEHICLE UNIT  
PROSPECTIVE MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. These questions are designed to let the SVU Board better understand the experience level and type of candidate that is seeking to become a member of the SVU.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. The SVU includes four areas of responsibility – ATVs, Boats, Snowcats, and Snowmobiles. Please mark which area(s) that you are interested in participating with a number that represents the amount of years that you have had experience with that type of vehicle.

ATV \_\_\_\_\_

Boat \_\_\_\_\_

Snowcat \_\_\_\_\_

Snowmobile \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you are interested in the ATV group, what make, model, and engine size of ATV do you own?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you are interested in the Boat group, what type/size of boat do you have experience with?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you are interested in the Snowmobile group, what make, model, and engine size of snowmobile do you own? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are interested in the Snowcat group, what experience do you have?  
\_\_\_\_\_

For the following questions, please circle your answer. If you need to explain yourself further, please use the area on the last page, and reference your answer to the question. If you feel a question pertains to a group (ATV, Boat, etc.) that you are not planning on working with, please leave the question blank.

- |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 6. Do you have experience with a GPS such as what might be used on an ATV?  | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 7. Do you have experience with winter-type conditions (snowshoes, proper clothing, survival gear, fire building, shelter construction?) | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 8. Do you have a current CPR certification?   | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 9. Do you have any medical training such as a first responder certificate?  | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 10. How many hours a year do you feel you can commit to the SVU for searches, trainings, and meetings?                                  | 50  | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 300 | 400 | 500+ |
| 11. Do you have SAR experience from somewhere else?   | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 12. Have you had training in avalanche awareness?   | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 13. Do you know how to use an avalanche transceiver?  | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 14. Are you comfortable in using a map and compass?   | Yes | No  |     |     |     |     |     |      |

- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 15. Do you know how to navigate using USNG?                          | Yes | No |
| 16. Have you been in the presence of a deceased person?              | Yes | No |
| 17. Do you have experience being around a helicopter?                | Yes | No |
| 18. Have you had any experience being around a forest or brush fire? | Yes | No |
| 19. Do you have experience talking on a radio?                       | Yes | No |
| 20. Do you own a 4x4 vehicle?  | Yes | No |

With 5 being the best, and 1 being the worst, please answer the following questions. If you feel a question pertains to a group (ATV, Boat, etc.) that you are not planning on working with, please leave the question blank. If you need to explain yourself further, please use the area on the last page, and reference your answer to the question.

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. Your ATV riding expertise                            | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 22. Team leadership qualities                            | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 23. Medical training                                     | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 24. Your boat driving capabilities                       | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 25. Your snowmobile driving expertise                    | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 26. Your snowcat experience                              | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 27. Expertise with a GPS                                 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 28. Experience with map reading                          | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 29. Physical fitness level for outdoor activities        | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 30. Family support for your SAR involvement              | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 31. Understanding of ICS (Incident Command System)       | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 32. Your ability to respond to searches at ANY time      | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 33. Your familiarity with western Nevada                 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 34. Your familiarity with the Reno/Sparks area           | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 35. Your expertise with operating a marine plotter/radar | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 36. Your ability to afford equipment purchases for SAR   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 37. Your ability to use a compass                        | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 38. Your level of tolerance to cold conditions           | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

If you feel that you need to explain yourself further on any of the above questions, please use this page. Make sure you reference you explanation to the question number.

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S SPECIALIZED VEHICLE  
SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT, INC.**

**911 PARR BLVD., RENO, NV.**

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization shall be "Washoe County Sheriff's Specialized Vehicle Search and Rescue Unit, Inc."

ARTICLE II

The aims and objectives of the Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit shall be and are:

1. To provide assistance in the search for and rescue of a person or persons, lost, missing and/or injured due to, but not necessarily limited to; outdoor activities, crashes of aircraft, industrial accidents, vehicle accidents, multi-casualty incidents, or other types of incidents.
2. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. In conformity with the aims and objectives of the Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit, any person who is of good moral character and standing may be eligible for membership, PROVIDED:
  - A. The applicant is 21 years of age or older.
  - B. The applicant is in good physical health and condition.
    - (1) Prior to acceptance of any application, the Board of Directors may require the applicant to provide the Board with a doctor's certification of physical fitness and ability.
    - (2) Following the interview by the Board of Directors the Board will vote to accept or reject the applicant with a majority vote prevailing.

- (3) New members shall be required to successfully complete a training program which shall be determined by the Board.
- (4) There will be a one year probationary period.

2. An individual may be accepted as an Associate Member if he/she possess particular knowledge, skill or talent that may be of benefit to the SVU.

A. Examples of such membership would include a skilled instructor or someone with special knowledge in one of the specialties of the SVU.

- (1) The individual will be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at a regularly scheduled board Meeting.
- (2) An Associate Member will be exempt from the dues, uniform, and attendance policies of the SVU and will not have a vote in SVU matters.
- (3) The individual may be removed from this category by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

3. The membership shall be functionally divided into three (3) Committees. The ATV Committee, The Marine Committee, and The Snow Cat/Snowmobile Committee.

A. Each Committee will consist of those Unit members who have volunteered to be active in that particular function.

B. Each Committee will annually provide a representative from that committee to the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IV

### DUES

1. Dues for the Unit shall be set by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE V

### FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Any member or officer who shall be guilty of any act(s) reflecting discredit upon this organization may be expelled from this organization by the Board of Directors with the following provisions:

- A. No member shall be so expelled without a hearing before the Board of Directors, accorded him in his own behalf.
- B. No member shall be so expelled without a hearing before the membership, accorded him in his own behalf, if he so requests.
- C. Voting by the membership on such hearings shall be by secret ballot.
- D. Any member who shall resign or be expelled from this organization, shall turn in his Sheriff's Office identification card, all equipment owned/provided by the Unit or the Sheriff's Office, and remove from his clothing, vehicle or any personal effects, any official insignia of the Unit, and shall do so within five (5) days of the resignation or expulsion from the Unit.

## ARTICLE VI

### MEETINGS

- 1. The Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit will meet regularly on the first Wednesday of every month, excluding holidays and other special occasions upon decision of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VII

### UNIFORMS

- 1. Each Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit member shall maintain a uniform as specified by the Board of Directors and approved by the Washoe County Sheriff.

## ARTICLE VIII

### OFFICIAL PROCEDURE

- 1. Established parliamentary procedure shall be used in all formal proceedings of this Unit as per Robert's Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE IX

### POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1. The Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit shall at no time endorse or recommend any candidate for political office, nor shall politics or political candidates be discussed at meetings or functions: neither shall religious discussions or arguments be tolerated at meetings or functions of the Unit.

## ARTICLE X

### AMENDMENTS

1. These By-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the Unit by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present provided that the membership shall receive, either mailed to them or transmitted by email, notification at least fourteen (14) days prior to the impending ballot.

## ARTICLE XI

### OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit shall be as follows:
  - A. President.
  - B. Vice-President.
  - C. Secretary.
  - D. Treasurer.
  - E. ATV Committee Representative
  - F. Marine Committee Representative
  - G. Snow Cat/Snowmobile Representative
2. The officers enumerated above shall comprise the Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XII

### QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS

1. Any member of the Unit shall be eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors of the Unit.

## ARTICLE XIII

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The election meeting of this Unit shall be held once yearly on the first Wednesday in December, with the officers elected to take office on the first of January. The Secretary shall notify all members of such election meeting at least fourteen (14) days in advance, in writing, either mailed to them or transmitted by email, notification at least fourteen (14) days prior to the impending ballot.
2. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected from the membership at large. Each Committee Representative will be elected from the members of that particular committee. No Committee Representative will be elected who is already holding another position on the Board of Directors. All officers will be elected for a period of twelve months.
3. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by a majority ballot of the members present. The Committee Representatives will be elected by a majority ballot of the members of that committee present.
4. Should any position among the officers become vacant for any reason, a special election for the vacant post must be called, provided more than four (4) months remain in the year. When four (4) months, or less, remain in the year, the vacancy may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIV

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the organization, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and shall preside at all regular meetings. In any committee appointed by the Board of Directors, the President shall act as Ex-Officio member.
2. The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President, and shall be responsible for the indoctrination of new members, overseeing training and maintaining records of training.
3. The Secretary shall perform all of the duties connected with correspondence, minutes of meetings, record keeping, membership roster and history of the organization.
4. The Treasurer shall perform all of the duties connected with receipts, disbursements and funds of the Unit and shall be required to keep all necessary financial records and provide a monthly written financial report to the Board of Directors.

5. The Board of Directors shall have full power to make policy, and commit the Unit to any course of action not specifically prohibited by these by-laws.

## ARTICLE XV

### ASSETS

1. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## ARTICLE XVI

### FUNDS

1. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.



## ARTICLE XVII

### PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3), of the Internal revenue Service Code of 1954.

These by-laws were AMENDED by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at a regular meeting of the Specialized Vehicle SAR Unit on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.