



## **New Member Packet**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Summit County Rescue Group!

This New Member Packet includes the following:

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## **Introductory Letter**

Dear prospective member,

Thank you for your interest in the Summit County Rescue Group! SCRG was formed in 1972 and has been serving the community ever since. We have the training, experience, skill, and equipment to handle any backcountry emergency.

Some basic facts about SCRG: The Group generally has about 50 to 60 active members at any given time. We work under the statutory authority of the Summit County Sheriff's Office, and we work closely with the Summit County Water Rescue Team and with all other Summit County emergency service departments. The Wilderness Paramedics of the Summit County Ambulance Service are also members of our team. Approximately half of the Group's active members hold EMT certification, and we have several avalanche/search dogs and handlers. Flight for Life has a helicopter in the county and participates in a program that allows us to use it for certain emergency situations and avalanche response. SCRG is a fully accredited member of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) and a member of the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) and the Colorado Search and Rescue Board (CSRB). We are proud to serve Summit County and any other county that needs our help.

The Summit County Rescue Group is comprised of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and effort in many ways to achieve one common goal: SAVING LIVES. SCRG accepts members from all genders, races, and backgrounds. No special skills are necessary to join, and we find that everyone brings a different set of strengths and talents to the team. But becoming a member takes a big commitment and requires a lot of time for training and missions. It also requires a financial commitment, because of the personal gear you will be required to have.

Search and rescue is a difficult job for volunteers because the rewards are not always immediate or visible. Members of SCRG do not always receive a "thank you" after a job well done and are very rarely recognized for their actions. This is not a group of individual "hero's". Instead the members of SCRG pride themselves in working together as a group to accomplish the difficult and challenging task of backcountry search and rescue. The members of the Group are motivated not by personal recognition but by working as a team to save lives and serve the community.

Members view their involvement with the Summit County Rescue Group as a selfless act; but that doesn't mean there are no personal benefits to be gained from volunteering your time. The training you receive through the Group will improve your backcountry skills and better equip you for whatever you like to do, recreationally speaking. Many of our members have used the skills they learned to become ski patrollers, backcountry guides and/or instructors, and to serve in various EMS positions. You'll learn how to work as part of a team to accomplish new and challenging tasks every time you respond to a search and rescue call. This will allow you to grow as a person and give you a great sense of purpose and accomplishment. You'll see the

beauty of Summit County by daylight and headlamp, in all weather and situations. The list of rewards and benefits is endless and varies greatly from member to member. However, the true beneficiary of your participation is the Summit County Rescue Group. SCRG would not exist without people like you volunteering their invaluable time and dedication. So once again, thanks for volunteering your time, and welcome to the Summit County Rescue Group!

When a member reaches probationary status they will be eligible for:

- Continuing education in the form of avalanche, medical, technical and search related classes and conferences
- Eligibility for pro deals and discounts on gear available through the team
- A pager to monitor the ES channel and receive mission pages

When a member reaches active status they will be eligible for:

- An SCRG t-shirt, which is yours to keep
- A team-issued SCRG jacket, which is given to you at the next annual holiday party after you pass six months of active status, and must be returned if you leave the team
- Access to logo'd items in the SCRG store

## **The New Membership Process**

SCRG holds classes for incoming members twice a year. You can find out when the next new member class is beginning by checking the training schedule at [www.scr.org](http://www.scr.org), or by speaking with the Training Director, the Liaison Director, or any member of the New Membership Committee.

New member classes generally consist of a six-week to four-month program, including an introductory orientation class, four skill-based classes, and a final practical field exercise. There are also a number of requirements you must meet on your own during the program (see below). Once you've met all requirements, completed the classes and passed the final practical exercise, you are eligible to become probationary. A probationary member may attend missions and generally perform all of the same functions that an active member can perform, subject to the discretion of the Mission Coordinators. The probationary period lasts for six months, and gives both you and SCRG a chance to ensure that your membership is a good fit for both of us. At the end of the six month period you are eligible to become a fully active member of the group, subject to the approval of the Mission Coordinators and the Board of Directors.

### **To Become Probationary**

- Must be 21 or older
- Attend all new member program classes
- Complete all required paperwork during the initial orientation session
- Pass the final field practical exam
- Be currently certified in CPR for the Professional Rescuer and Basic First Aid (at minimum)
- Complete all additional requirements of the new member checklist, including a pack check, a knot test, and attendance at four Wednesday night training sessions and one weekend training session (in addition to the specific new member training sessions)
- Upon becoming probationary, the candidate is eligible to receive pages and to respond to "all-calls" for missions

### **To Become Active**

- Must complete six months of probationary status
- Must maintain the required minimum attendance for active members during the probationary period, including 15% mission attendance and 15% training attendance
- Must have the majority vote of the currently serving Mission Coordinators and Board of Directors
- To remain on the active roster, a member must continue to maintain an average annual mission attendance of 15% and training attendance of 15%. The Liaison Director will notify members who are falling below the minimum requirement during the third quarter, and any status changes that result from failure to meet the standard will be made after the end of the year, after discussion and vote by the Board. The Board may, at its discretion, make exceptions for members in cases where there are determined to be extenuating circumstances.

## Prospective Member Checklist

Prospective Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Required certifications and forms</b>
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- |                          |   |                       |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CPR ( <i>attach copy front &amp; back</i> ) _____             | Expiration Date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First Aid Level ( <i>attach copy front &amp; back</i> ) _____ | Expiration Date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hepatitis B Vaccination form _____                            | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Background check form _____                                   | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copy of driver's license ( <i>attach</i> ) _____              | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Medical conditions form ( <i>attach</i> ) _____               | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information entered in sarteams _____                         | Date _____            |

<b>New Member Training</b>
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- |                          |                                    |                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Orientation class                  | Instructor sign-off: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic SAR skills class             | Instructor sign-off: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Search and navigation skills class | Instructor sign-off: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical skills class             | Instructor sign-off: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Snow and avalanche rescue class    | Instructor sign-off: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Final practical                    | Instructor sign-off: |

Required check-offs	Date	Instructor Sign-off
Pack check		
Knot test		

Wednesday Training Attendance		
Date	Description	Instructor Sign off

Weekend Training Attendance		
Date	Description	Instructor Sign off

## Pack Checklist

*You must have all the items in 'Essentials' and 'Clothing' in your pack or be wearing them on specific rescues.*

### Essentials (required)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Knife  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp with spare batteries and bulbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire starting kit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothing                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Water (2 liters)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses or goggles                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra food (est. to sustain for 24-48 hours)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leather rappel gloves                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Space blanket (tarp style)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helmet                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal first aid kit (medical tape, face shield & gloves a must) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harness                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps covering all of Summit County                                 |

### Clothing (required)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boots (beefy, warm & comfortable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermal undies (to keep you dry against your skin)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermal socks (wool or poly)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Insulating top & bottoms (to help with warmth)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hats, gloves, etc                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Shell pants & top (to keep you dry when wet outside) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaiters                           |   |

*These items are optional but recommended. In some cases you may borrow team gear for a specific mission (e.g. an avalanche beacon, probe or shovel).*

### Other

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bivy sack | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp stove & cook set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TP        | <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle   | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange flagging       |

### Winter

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crampons                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Avi shovel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice axe                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Probe pole |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skis, snowshoes or split board | <input type="checkbox"/> Avi Beacon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ski poles                      |                                     |

### Technical

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 locking carabiners                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 8mm x 53” prusik |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – large belay biner                | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 8mm x 65” prusik |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5ft 1” tubular webbing (yellow)  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 8mm x 30ft cord  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 10ft 1” tubular webbing (orange) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue ‘8’ with ears |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 15ft 1” tubular webbing (red)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Purcell prusiks      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 20ft 1” tubular webbing (blue)   |   |

**Your pack must have sufficient design and capacity to carry all of your gear plus additional team gear. An internal frame pack is recommended, with a capacity of at least 2500 cc.**

This checklist must be signed off by a Team Leader, Mission Coordinator or a member of the New Membership Committee.

**Sign-off:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This form was created so you could tell us a little bit about yourself and why you joined the Summit County Rescue Group.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you decide to move to Summit County?

Where are you originally from?

What did you do there?

Why did you leave?

What motivated you to want to spend lots of your own money to be cold, wet, hungry and in the dark?

How long have you lived in Summit County?

What do you do for work?

What do you do for fun?

Who are the important people in your life (cats and dogs are included)?

What are your goals with SCRG?

Are there any past experiences or quotes that describe who you are?

**New Member Information**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Data**

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Male  Female

Blood Type \_\_\_\_\_

General Health \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Resident Status  Permanent  Summer  Winter

**Employer**

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Immediate Family**

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

**Member Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**In the event of accident or emergency, notify the following in the order listed:**

- |    |               |                    |
|----|---------------|--------------------|
| 1) | Name _____    | Relationship _____ |
|    | Address _____ | Home Phone _____   |
|    | _____         | Work Phone _____   |
|    | _____         | Mobile Phone _____ |
| 2) | Name _____    | Relationship _____ |
|    | Address _____ | Home Phone _____   |
|    | _____         | Work Phone _____   |
|    | _____         | Mobile Phone _____ |
| 3) | Name _____    | Relationship _____ |
|    | Address _____ | Home Phone _____   |
|    | _____         | Work Phone _____   |
|    | _____         | Mobile Phone _____ |

**Please notify the following friends for help and support:**

- |    |                     |             |
|----|---------------------|-------------|
| 1) | Name _____          | Phone _____ |
| 2) | Name _____          | Phone _____ |
| 3) | Name _____          | Phone _____ |
|    | Church/Clergy _____ | Phone _____ |

**Special Requests or Instructions:**  
**I would prefer notification of the next of kin by the following Sheriff / rescue personnel, in this order.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Hepatitis B Refusal

I (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ have been informed that as an active member of the Summit County Rescue Group I am eligible for the 3 step hepatitis B vaccination at **no charge**. I am hereby refusing the vaccination because **I have proof** that I have already started the vaccination or have received the vaccination in the past.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Request for Hepatitis B Vaccination**

I (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ have been informed that as an active member of the Summit County Rescue Group I am eligible for the 3 step Hepatitis B vaccination at **no charge**. I will report to \_\_\_\_\_ on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ to begin the vaccination series.

1<sup>st</sup> (location) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> (location) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> (location) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Screening Checklist for Summit County Rescue Group Applicants**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*print name*), am willing to agree to allow a representative of the Summit County Sheriff’s Office to review my driving record, criminal records and history, and military records. I am aware that failure to fully submit to these listed reviews will be grounds for disqualification from the new member process.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT TRUTHFULNESS...**

If you are untruthful, dishonest, knowingly omit, falsify, conceal or obscure required information, or engage in any similar misconduct or deception during any part of the application, you may be permanently disqualified from being considered by the Summit County Rescue Group

Please circle the correct answer to the following questions. If you answer “yes” to any question you must provide additional information about the circumstances, including dates. Attach additional pages if necessary. A “Yes” answer may not automatically bar a volunteer from becoming an active member, however, you must provide detailed information about each “Yes” response. Failure to provide the information requested will disqualify you from the process.

Have you ever:

- Been convicted by any court of a felony or entered a guilty or nolo contendere plea? Yes or No
- Falsified any document, form, testimony, or pleading as an officer of the court or as a witness? Yes or No
- Omitted, misstated or falsely stated any information, in writing or orally during an application process with any agency? Yes or No

**AFFIDAVIT:**

I certify that the answers given by me to the foregoing questions and statements are true and correct without consequential omissions of any kind.

I understand that any false statement in this document or willful misrepresentation will result in disqualification from the application process. If the misrepresentation is discovered after attaining active status, I may be subject to an inquiry and appropriate administrative or disciplinary actions may be taken.

**NOTE: APPLICATIONS MUST HAVE AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE – NO EMAILED OR FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

**DRIVING RECORD:** You are applying for a volunteer position that may require driving. Please complete the following.

**Driver's License Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State of Issue:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a photocopy of your driver's license**

***Summit County Rescue Group  
Voluntary Emergency Medical Information Form***

NAME:

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Known Allergies:**

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**Present Medications:**

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**Medical History and Conditions:**

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**Other information:**

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**Vital Notes:**

Emergency Contact: . \_\_\_\_\_ .

Personal Physician Contact: . \_\_\_\_\_ .

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Updated: \_\_\_\_\_ Updated: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Updated: \_\_\_\_\_ Updated: \_\_\_\_\_

## **IT'S 1:00 AM AND MY BUTT IS COLD – by Matt Hage**

It's 1:00 a.m. and my butt is cold. I am beginning to lose the feeling in my toes. My fingers feel like they are about to fall off, and my nose is running. There's a cold wind blowing across my face and down my neck. I am miserable despite the fact that I'm wearing all the extra warm clothing from my pack. I stand up to start my warm-up procedure, which consists of a series of gyrations, shakes, swinging of the arms and jumping up and down. When I did this about twenty minutes earlier I caught a pika in the beam of my headlamp, staring at my movements, frozen in fear and amusement. I look around for my little audience and survey my surroundings. I determine that I am completely alone in a sea of boulders with a dark horizon of jagged peaks and ridges surrounding me. A few minutes and crazy gyrations later, I'm warm and can return my attention to the reason I'm on the side of Mt. Quandary on this cold, early September night. The vertical face of the mountainside rises up in the distance like a black canvas, devoid of detail and depth. On it climbing upward like an erect version of the constellation Orion's Belt, are the pin-sized lights of my fellow teammates. The lights have not moved an inch in the last couple hours, and I don't expect to see any real movement anytime soon. I have been playing the role of spotter since I arrived on scene around 7:30 pm, and progress has been slow and hazardous. The sound of rocks cracking and rumbling off the mountain, raining down terror and destruction, has ceased for the moment. But there was a time at the beginning of the rescue operation that it was nonstop. One such boulder, which was later described as being the size of a small Volkswagen, broke loose when Charles tried to use it to pull himself up the mountainside. Despite its immense size the boulder gave way, and there was a loud crack that I heard half a mile away, immediately followed by the yell of "ROCK!" The boulder managed to fall and roll over Charles' right leg, leaving a nice sized gash. He walked out a short time later with Katie Lumian and I saw in person his injured right leg. Another Quandary mission and another close call.

I gaze out into the darkness and start counting lights, mentally reviewing who is out there and which light represents each. To do this I turn off my own headlamp, not only to conserve my battery, but also to let my eyes adjust to the night so I can distinguish the lights better. Starting at the base of the cliff that my teammates are currently assaulting are Shawn Davis and six members of Alpine Mountain Rescue. On a ledge above them sits Glen, Anna and Colin Dinsmore on what must be a very narrow and lonely perch. Going up climber's left and out of sight behind a rock outcropping is Brian Taylor. Brian was one of the original members on scene, having gotten a lift in from Flight for Life. He also helped decide the route and is currently playing the role of belayer for the final two rescuers who are above him. Those two are Hunter and Jim Koegel. Hunter reached the three stranded hikers first, more than three hours earlier. He flew in with Brian and was the first to lay eyes on the difficulties and dangers that were about to be encountered. His lead climb up the completely vertical face was later described as epic, not least because water flowed down the face, and he tackled it in the dark by headlamp. Jim followed a short time later, also doing a heroic job to reach the top.

All told there are fifteen souls scattered across the side of Mt. Quandary. Some are setting anchors, some are waiting to belay, some are standing by with extra equipment, some are providing additional light, and three are patiently waiting to be lowered down to safety. Which brings up the question, what am I doing out here? My usefulness has long since diminished. At the beginning I was busy and involved. I talked with the victims on the radio, keeping them

informed of our progress and what they needed to do to help. I played traffic control. I sent teams in from my location to the base, showing them the best route to stay out of the rockfall. I used Charles' binoculars to scan the mountainside for alternative routes up. I relayed radio traffic back to base. Finally I helped guide Hunter the final hundred or so feet to where the stranded party was.

But now the radio was silent, and there was absolutely nothing for me to do but shiver and wait. I sat down on my cold rock, looked up at the spectacular Milky Way above, and contemplated my answer. Was I out here for three hikers stranded on a cliff? Or for the twelve teammates who have purposely ventured into danger to get those three off that cliff? It is only later that I realize fully how much danger some of my teammates were in. Brian Taylor recalls that he stood cowering on a narrow ledge, clipped into the side of the cliff for three hours as rocks continuously rained down on him from above. His was just one of the many stories I later heard from that night that sent chills down my spine.

Which brings me to my answer: there is no way I could be anywhere else than out here supporting my teammates. They are the reason I am out here and not in my warm bed; the three stranded hikers are merely the cause. When the pager goes off for any reason, I am not responding because someone is hurt, lost or in danger. I am responding because my team is responding and they need my support, whatever that might be. Tonight I am just a glorified spectator, while others are out in front being the tip of the spear, doing the hard work. Next time might be different though, and I know that there will always be someone staying behind and watching my back. I turn on my headlamp again, but not to look around. I want the lights that I am watching to know that someone is still here, awaiting their safe return. I imagine what my light must look like from their perspective. A lone light down below surrounded by a sea of darkness. And I hope that as they fight to stay warm, my light serves as some sort of motivation. That my light represents to them what their lights represent to me. That we are all out here together, and no matter how long this rescue takes, we will all be walking out together. For this is the essence of what we do as members of the Summit County Rescue Group. No matter the reason we find ourselves in the wilderness, whether it be for the lost, the hurt, or the stranded, we respond as a team, we work as a team, and we end the rescue mission together as a team. And if we happen to save the lives of three people who were stuck on the side of Mt. Quandary in the process, then all the better.