

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.

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.scrg.org](http://www.scrg.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, including a knot test, a pack check, CPR and First Aid certification, and attending some of our regular meetings and training sessions so you can start to meet and learn from our active members. 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.

If you decide that you're interested in joining one of our new member classes, you are welcome to attend our Wednesday night meeting and training sessions while you're waiting for the class to begin. In fact we encourage you to do so, because you'll start to meet our people and get to know what we're all about.

If you have questions in the meantime, here are the people you can contact:

Matt Hage, Training Director, 410-212-8022, [scrg41@yahoo.com](mailto:scrg41@yahoo.com)

Anna DeBattiste, Liaison Director, 303-187-5663, [adebattiste@aol.com](mailto:adebattiste@aol.com)

Joe Ben Slivka, Mission Coordinator & New Member Committee, 970-418-0120, [rescue25@scrg.org](mailto:rescue25@scrg.org)

Rob Sollenberger, New Member Committee, 970-513-0150, [robsollnavy@comcast.net](mailto:robsollnavy@comcast.net)