Skamania County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue

Application & Questionnaire

Fall/Winter 2026 Cycle · Application Window: October 1–31, 2026, 11:59 PM PDT

Search and Rescue can be physically demanding, time-intensive, emotionally challenging, and deeply rewarding. Volunteers train regularly and are expected to meet ongoing standards. This is not a casual volunteer role. If you are looking for meaningful service that will challenge you and help you grow, and you are ready to commit to the expectations of a volunteer first responder team, we would love to learn more about you.

STOP — DO NOT SIGN OR SUBMIT YET UNLESS…

You have attended **at least one SCSOSAR All-Hands Meeting within the last 3 months AND at least one Info Session within the last 8 months** before the date you submit.

Applications submitted without both may be administratively returned and not reviewed. Log every meeting and Info Session you have attended in Section C.

How to submit: save this completed PDF and email it, together with Document 3 (Background Check & DEM Form) and any certificates you already hold along with any other relevant certifications, in **one email** to **recruiting@scsosar.org**. Subject: *Fall 2026 Application – Last Name, First Name*. Please do not change the file into an image or photo.

A · About You

First name	Last name

Cell phone	Home phone (optional)	Email

Physical address (street, city, state, ZIP)

Mailing address, if different

Occupation	Preferred contact method

Are you at least 18 years of age? *Must be 18 at the time of application.*

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have reliable transportation?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Typical availability (weekdays, evenings, weekends, work schedule, travel)

How did you hear about SCSOSAR? (check all that apply)

- ☐ scsosar.org website
- ☐ Facebook / social media
- ☐ Info Session or community event
- ☐ A current SCSOSAR volunteer
- ☐ Friend or family
- ☐ Other (below)

If other, or to name the volunteer who referred you

B · Volunteer Role Interest

See **Three Ways to Serve** in the Information Packet. Check every role that interests you. You can change your mind; we will talk it through at your interview and/or during Academy.

- ☐ Field Volunteer
- ☐ Support Volunteer
- ☐ Community Support Volunteer
- ☐ Not sure yet. Help me decide.

If you checked more than one, which is your first choice?

Support and Community Support areas that interest you (check all that apply)

- ☐ Search-base operations
- ☐ Logistics
- ☐ Communications / radio
- ☐ Equipment and gear
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Records and administration
- ☐ Technology / data / D4H
- ☐ Public info / social media
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Training support
- ☐ Outreach and education
- ☐ Event staffing
- ☐ Rehab / wellness support
- ☐ Other (below)

Skills, experience, or professional background you would bring to a support role (and any "other" areas)

C · Meeting and Info Session Attendance Log (required)

List **every** SCSOSAR All-Hands Meeting and Info Session you have attended, including older ones. We verify dates against our attendance records. To apply, you need at least one All-Hands Meeting within the last 3 months and one Info Session within the last 8 months before you submit.

All-Hands Meetings attended (date, MM/DD/YYYY)

Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Date 4

Date 5	Date 6	Date 7	Date 8

Info Sessions attended

Date	In person or virtual	Location / host(s), if you remember

Date	In person or virtual	Location / host(s), if you remember

Date	In person or virtual	Location / host(s), if you remember

Other SCSOSAR trainings, events, or tabling you have attended (optional)

D · Eligibility and Background Disclosure

A "yes" answer does not automatically disqualify you. Each disclosure is reviewed individually. Honest disclosure matters; omissions discovered later may affect eligibility.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list the offense, jurisdiction, and year

Do you currently have any pending criminal charges or unresolved court cases?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain

Have you ever been arrested for or convicted of a misdemeanor offense other than minor traffic violations?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list the offense and year

Background check authorization

☐ I understand that a Skamania County Sheriff's Office background check is required, and that it is processed only after I accept an invitation to Academy. I consent to that check.

Do you currently hold one of the following? (check all that apply)

☐ Valid Washington State driver's license
☐ Valid driver's license from another U.S. state
☐ Valid state-issued identification card
☐ None of the above

Is your driver's license currently valid and not suspended, revoked, or restricted?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable (no license)

Do you carry motor vehicle insurance that meets Washington state minimum requirements?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

If you intend to use a personally owned vehicle for SAR activities, does it meet Washington registration and safety requirements?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

Washington State SAR registration requires compliance with applicable motor vehicle and insurance laws (RCW 46.04.670, RCW 46.30.010–040, RCW 46.20.001–017).

E · Training and Certifications

None of these are required to apply. First Aid/CPR/AED and FEMA IS-100 and IS-700 are required for every volunteer by an onboarding milestone (typically by Qualification Day, depending on role). Holding them now may strengthen your application. Attach copies of any certificates you have.

Do you currently hold valid First Aid / CPR / AED certification?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Issuing organization	Issue date	Expiration date

FEMA Incident Command System courses

IS-100 completion date (if done)	IS-700 completion date (if done)

☐ Not yet, but I am willing to complete them by my onboarding milestone

Other medical, first responder, outdoor, technical, or specialty training (none required)

F · Physical Readiness and Commitments

Field Volunteers: are you able to hike uneven terrain carrying a 25–35 lb pack?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable (support roles only)

Are you willing to purchase required personal gear applicable to your role (see Document 4)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Acknowledgments (check each)

☐ **Training.** I understand and agree to complete required training for my role, including Orientation, online core competency trainings, FEMA IS-100 and IS-700, First Aid/CPR/AED, and any Academy and local SAR training requirements that apply to my role.

☐ **Physical demands.** I understand the physical demands of the role(s) I am applying for, including difficult terrain and adverse weather for field roles, and I believe I can participate safely.

☐ **Drug and alcohol policy.** I understand that volunteers must comply with all applicable drug and alcohol policies while participating in SAR activities.

☐ **Probation.** I understand that new volunteers complete a probationary period of approximately 12 months.

G · Questionnaire

Short, honest answers are best. There are no "right" answers.

1. What draws you to Search and Rescue specifically, not just volunteering in general?

2. Why did you choose Skamania County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SCSOSAR)?

3. Considering your career, family, friends, and personal life, how many days per month could you realistically give to SAR after Academy Completion (trainings, meetings, missions, community events)? Missions can occur day or night, in severe weather, and on holidays.

4. Can you commit to the dates in the Information Packet, including Orientation on January 9, 2027, Academy dates, Team Meetings and Trainings? List any conflicts, including with backup dates.

5. What aspects of SAR attract you most? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Evacuating a subject from the wilderness
- ☐ Backcountry medical care
- ☐ Being part of a team
- ☐ Community outreach and education
- ☐ Serving the community in a meaningful way
- ☐ Learning new skills
- ☐ Behind-the-scenes support that makes missions work
- ☐ Other

6. Specialty or strike teams that interest you (future, after qualification)

- ☐ Advanced ropes rescue
- ☐ Drones
- ☐ Swiftwater
- ☐ E-motos
- ☐ K-9
- ☐ Other

Other (for question 5 or 6)

7. SAR can be rewarding but physically and mentally demanding. What support network do you have?

8. Describe your current fitness level and any outdoor experience. (Support roles: describe what you are comfortable doing physically.)

9. What might be the most difficult part of volunteering with SAR for you?

10. SAR requires taking direction under stress within an ICS command structure. Describe a time you worked within a chain of command.

H · Returning Volunteers (Policy 411)

Have you previously served with Skamania County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SCSOSAR)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, skip to Section I. If yes, please complete this section.

Prior service: from (month/year)	To (month/year)	Prior DEM number, if known

Previous classification(s), position(s), or role(s), if known

Please briefly describe the circumstances under which your previous SCSOSAR service ended.

When your service ended, were there any unresolved conduct, participation, training, qualification, safety, equipment, or administrative matters associated with your service?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain

Were you ever advised that your service, participation, operational status, or eligibility to return to SCSOSAR was restricted, suspended, terminated, or otherwise subject to organizational action?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain

Anything else about your prior SCSOSAR service or separation that you believe should be considered?

Applicant acknowledgment (type your initials)

Initials

I understand that SCSOSAR may review available prior service history as part of the returning-volunteer evaluation. I certify that the information I have provided about my prior SCSOSAR service is complete and truthful to the best of my knowledge. I understand that material omission or misrepresentation of prior service history may affect eligibility.

I · Interview Consent and Availability

Interviews are **in person** with a panel of 3–5 selected SCSOSAR volunteers and last about 20–30 minutes. We use the CAR format (Context, Action, Result) for questions about past experiences; see **Your Interview** in the Information Packet. ***If invited, you will choose a 30-minute time slot, first come, first served.***

If selected, do you consent to an in-person panel interview?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Which interview dates could you attend? (check all that apply)

☐ Thu, Nov 12 ☐ Fri, Nov 13 ☐ Sat, Nov 14 ☐ Sun, Nov 15

☐ Mon, Nov 16 ☐ Backup: Sat, Nov 21 ☐ Backup: Sun, Nov 22

Times of day that usually work

☐ Mornings ☐ Afternoons ☐ Evenings

Do you need an accommodation to participate in the interview? If so, please describe (optional).

J · Applicant Certification and Signature

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☐ I have attended at least one SCSOSAR All-Hands Meeting within the last 3 months **and** at least one Info Session within the last 8 months, and I have logged every date in Section C.

☐ I certify that the information in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information may result in denial of my application or removal from the team.

☐ I understand that submitting an application does not guarantee an interview, an invitation to Academy, or acceptance as an SCSOSAR volunteer, and that final approval rests with the Board of Directors.

Signature (type your full legal name, or sign after printing)	**Date**