



FAQ Sheet

How do I become a team member?

To become a member, you can email Lisa Rice at Lrice@ptd.net and request a membership application or ask any active member and we will get one for you. You will need to complete the application, a background check (which is free) and submit to Lisa Rice with \$45 one-time application fee.

How much does it cost to become a team member?

There is a one-time application fee of \$45, with yearly dues of \$45. Once received, applications will be submitted to the board for approval. After approval, new members can sit in on monthly board meetings and vote.

What is the probationary period?

All incoming active members will go through a six (6) month probationary period. You will be expected to attend 50% of trainings and become involved in fundraising and public relations events as any active member of the team. After the probationary period has ended, any members wishing to bring a dog to the team, can request a vote at an upcoming board meeting.

During this time members can hone their skills in search and rescue and work on their prerequisites. This is also a great bonding time!

How many activities or time would I need to put in to be an active team member?

Active members are required to participate in 50% of trainings. We train twice a week during peak seasons, but usually during winter months we will move

trainings down to once a week. The team trains rain or shine and in most weather conditions and terrains. We may cancel if there is hazardous travel or extreme weather conditions. Come prepared for all weather.

It's also requested that members join us in public relations and local fundraising events. Fundraising is crucial for the team to be able to provide good working equipment and have everyone prepared when called for a search.

How much is equipment and supplies to be on an active search team?

The cost of equipment can range greatly from person to person or dog to dog. It's best to wait to buy equipment until you know which direction your dog will train, and members often share tips on good buys. The great part of being a team member is that members receive perks including some team owned equipment such as, radios, life jackets, helmets, compass, etc.

Can I join even if I don't have a dog?

Yes, you can! We have several people without K9 partners who are dedicated members of our team. We absolutely could not do it without them. You could join us as a volunteer or as an active member.

Can I just volunteer?

Yes, we love having volunteers join us for training or activities. The plus side to volunteering is you are not beholden to the 50% attendance policy. This is a great option for those who cannot commit to the time, have crazy work schedules, are looking to gain volunteer hours or just want a few hours to play some hide and seek with the pups.

What kind of dogs do you accept on the team?

We will accept most breeds of dogs that are physically capable to field work. We do not discriminate against breeds. Dogs with high drive and friendly dispositions are very successful in SAR. We do not allow dogs that show aggression at any time during a search or training.

Do I need training or just my dog?

Both dogs and handlers receive training in search and rescue as well as separate certifications. See below for more on certifications.

What sort of professional training would I need to become certified in search and rescue?

As a handler you would need to complete NIMS online courses, CPR & First Aid for both Humans and K9s. We highly suggest taking the pre-requisite courses for Wilderness Search & Rescue and Basic & Advanced Grid Search Courses. These would prepare you to take and certify for the SARTech exams. Members would need to obtain a SARTech level II to be considered field operational. This certification is valid for two (2) years.

There are several additional courses and paths of interest members can choose at anytime to continue training.

What organizations do you work with to certify K9 partners?

Each dog handler can choose which organization they go through for certifications as long as they are nationally recognized. National Association for Search & Rescue (NASAR) or American Working Dog Association (AWDA) are two examples of nationally recognized organizations. All dogs must pass their Canine Good Citizen (CGC) before they can certify with these groups. Dogs must be certified to be considered field operational, most certifications are valid for two (2) years and must be retaken to maintain operational status.