Lewis County Sheriff's Office
Search and Rescue Volunteers

Lewis County Sheriff's Office • 345 W. Main St., Chehalis, WA 98532 • (360) 748-9286

GUIDELINES

PURPOSE
Lewis County Search and Rescue Volunteers use their unique skills and tools to assist in searching for lost or rescue of injured persons. They help the community during natural disasters and educate the public on wilderness safety.

POLICY
Search and Rescue Volunteers provide valuable and necessary additional services to the Lewis County Sheriff's Office on a daily basis. In order to maximize the productivity of this program, the following procedures and regulations are established.

ELIGIBILITY
Search and Rescue Volunteers must pass a background check and have established a consistent pattern of responsible citizenship and use of good judgment as evidence by the **absence** of any of the following in your background.

- Convictions for an offense that is a felony in Washington State.
- Convictions for a gross misdemeanor offense in the past (7) years.
- Convictions for a misdemeanor offense in the past five (5) years.
- Convictions for any domestic violence offense.
- Convictions for any charge/offense that shows aggression toward or disrespect for law enforcement officers.
- Indicators that your integrity, honesty, character or work habits would be incompatible with the ethical standards and values of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office.

APPLICATION/STEPS TO BECOMING A SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEER

- Complete and sign the volunteer application and waiver form, mail or submit in person to the Lewis County Sheriff's Office.
- Successfully pass a criminal history and driver's license check AFTER Unit Leader approval.
- Understand and agree to the terms and conditions of volunteering for LCSO.
- After completing the application, it will then be forwarded to the Unit Leader. The Unit Leader will contact the applicant with the dates and times of meetings for the volunteer unit the applicant is interested in.

Lewis County Sheriff's Office
Search and Rescue Volunteer Program

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Volunteers are invaluable to the Sheriff's Office. They contribute to the ability of the commissioned officers to perform the duties of their positions and provide a service that contributes to the quality of life in our community. They help make Lewis County a great place to live, work and raise our families by supporting the Mission and Code of Ethics of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office.

Minimum Requirements for Lewis County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Volunteers:

- SAR Volunteers must be able to successfully complete a background check, which includes a criminal history check, after Unit Leader approval.
- SAR Volunteers must support the Lewis County Sheriff's Office and comply with confidentiality requirements and agency policies and procedures.
- SAR Volunteers must attend meetings appropriate to their interest. Dates and times will be provided by the Unit Leader after contact with the applicant.
- Members must maintain at least the minimum WAC 118-04-120 training classes and remain active and available for call-out status.
- The minimum age is 16. (Juveniles between the ages of 14 and 16 may join if they have a parent or guardian volunteering in the program).
- Must possess a valid driver's license and insurance if operating a motor vehicle.

SEARCH AND RESCUE UNITS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Cascade Dogs – Specialized unit with trained tracking dogs used in Search and Rescue.

Lewis County Sheriff's Mounted Posse – Specialized unit made up of horse mounted search teams.

Lewis County ATV – Specialized unit where members have their own all-terrain vehicles.

Mossyrock Search and Rescue – Provides ground teams for urban and wilderness search and rescue. They also have teams who are qualified with snowmobiles for winter conditions.

Packwood Search and Rescue – Provides ground teams for urban and wilderness search and rescue. They have team members who are specially trained in rope rescue.

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) – Assist with communications during search operations and during natural disasters.

Lewis County Sheriff's Office
Search & Rescue Volunteer Application

(Please Type or Print)

UNIT INTERESETED IN JOINING: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Middle Name _____ Other Names Used _____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip_____

Date of Birth _____ Social Security #_____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email _____

List any skills or interests that would assist in placing you in an appropriate assignment. (Attach additional sheet, if necessary).

_____

_____

List any memberships in any community organizations and previous/present volunteer experience.

_____

_____

Briefly state why you wish to volunteer your time to the Lewis County Sheriff's Office. (Attach additional sheet, if necessary.) This question must be answered.

_____

_____

_____

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EDUCATION BACKGROUND & MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Please circle the highest level of education completed:

High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Degrees or Certificates Earned _____

Military Service Branch _____ Rank _____

Time Served _____ Date Discharged _____

Do you speak or read a foreign language? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, list: _____

CRIMINAL HISTORY & DRIVING RECORD

Washington Driver's License Number _____

Has your license ever been suspended or revoked? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Traffic citations and accidents for the last five (5) years:

_____

_____

Have you ever been questioned, detained, arrested, investigated, warned or issued a citation for any misdemeanor or felony, other than traffic, either as an adult or juvenile?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: (Use additional sheet if necessary.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever been fired, discharged, or asked to resign from any position?
2. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have the police ever been called to your home?
3. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever committed any criminal violation that has gone undetected?

4. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you or your spouse ever been sued or summoned into court?

5. ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you now or have you ever had any gambling debts?

6. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever used an employer's money to gamble with?

7. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever had an F.B.I. fingerprint check done for any reason?

8. ☐ Yes ☐ No In any employment setting, including military service, have you received any verbal or written reprimands or suspensions for violations of company policy?

9. ☐ Yes ☐ No Would you have difficulty working with members of the opposite sex, different origin, race, religion, or nationality?

10. ☐ Yes ☐ No In any job that you've held, have you been involved in any physical or major verbal confrontations?

11. ☐ Yes ☐ No Would you be able to follow direct orders, even though you may not agree with them?

12. ☐ Yes ☐ No In any previous employment setting, were you ever exposed to any high stress or an extreme emergency condition?

13. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to the point that you knew you should not have been driving?

14. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever had your license revoked, suspended, or restricted?

15. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever had any of your financial obligations turned over to a collection agency?

16. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever been placed on court supervision or probation?

17. ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever had any court proceedings expunged?

Please use this area to explain your Yes answer to questions 1-17. (Attach additional sheets, if necessary).

Question #	Date	Explanation

CURRENT EMPLOYER

Business Name _____ Supervisor _____

Address (include city/state) _____

Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

List persons to notify in case of an emergency:

(1) Name _____ Relationship _____

Address *(include city/state)* _____

_____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

(2) Name _____ Relationship _____

Address *(include city/state)* _____

_____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize any city, county, state, former employer, or any other agency to furnish to any member of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office any information considered necessary for the purpose of processing this questionnaire. A copy of this authorization shall be considered as valid as the original. I consent to the Lewis County Sheriff's Office performing a background check into my history in accordance with RCW 43.43.834, and waive any right of privacy I may have in such information for the limited purpose of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office considering it for determining my suitability as a volunteer.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I understand that I am not an employee of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office. I am not entitled to payment for services rendered, nor am I entitled to compensation or fringe benefits other than set out below. I further acknowledge that I am a volunteer for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act. I wish to volunteer my services to the Lewis County Sheriff's Office and/or observe members of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office perform their duties. I understand that my status as a LCSO volunteer may be revoked at any time. In consideration of the above granted authority to observe and other good and valuable consideration, I, my assigned heirs, executors, or agents hereby agree to hold the Lewis County and the Lewis County Sheriff's Office harmless. I agree to indemnify Lewis County, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, and their agents and employees from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses arising out of the above described observations, volunteer work, and related activities, which is for bodily injury, illness or death, or property loss of use.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you are under 14 years of age, please have your parent or legal guardian sign below.

By signing for my son or daughter, I understand he or she will be required to commit time to this program in Lewis County. I also understand a background check will be completed by the Lewis County Sheriff's Office.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian of: _____

For Official Use Only	
Date Received:	
Spillman Information:	
NCIC III/WACIC:	
Driver's Check:	
Search and Rescue Unit Leader Approval:	
Liaison Deputy Signature:	
Chief Deputy Signature:	Date:
Person Conducting Background Check:	
Date Background Check Completed:	

Please return application to the Sheriff's Office or mail to:

Lewis County Sheriff's Office
Attn: SAR Coordinator
345 West Main Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

If you have any questions about the Search and Rescue Programs, please e-mail Detective Gene Seiber at
Gene.Seiber@lewiscountywa.gov
or call at 360-740-1324