



# Lewis County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Volunteers



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

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## **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:**

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

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

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

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

**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.



# Lewis County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue Volunteer Application

*(Please Type or Print)*

Unit Interested in Joining: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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.)

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## 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 answers to questions 1-17. (Attach additional sheets, if necessary).**

Question #	Date	Explanation

## CURRENT EMPLOYER

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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## EMERGENCY CONTACT

List persons to notify in case of an emergency:

(1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION**

*(To print and sign)*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>For Official Use Only</b>	
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 [Sheriff@LewisCountyWA.gov](mailto:Sheriff@LewisCountyWA.gov),  
 or call at 360-740-1326**