



Welcome to the **Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference**

We're so glad to have you join the conference! This guide is meant to provide team specific information to help your group get off to a great and productive start.

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WHO WE ARE

We are a Search and Rescue:

- Credentialing Body
- Multi-agency Coordination Center
- Center of Excellence
- Professional Society, and
- Incubator for Innovation

Our mission

The mission of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) is to locate and rescue the lost person efficiently by enabling its Groups to provide the best search and rescue services possible to responsible authorities.

Our Core Values

- We expect honesty, integrity, and true professionalism in everything we do.
- We value Groups who show commitment through their training, actions, and leadership to the health and safety of all persons engaged in a mission or training exercise.
- We value Groups who work in close cooperation and coordination with responsible authorities before, during, and after missions.
- We value the fundamental principles and skills of search and rescue as the cornerstone for our Groups to be high quality resources for responsible authorities.
- We value technology leadership and practice innovation as the foundations to advancing the state and art of search and rescue in our region.
- We value search management excellence, with search managers embracing the critically important practices of safe incident operations, quality service to the responsible authority, best practice implementation, and an awareness of risk management.
- We expect teamwork and goodwill among all Groups, regardless of location or practice specialty.

Our Vision

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) is an organization of volunteer search and rescue teams (Groups) in the mid-Atlantic region who are aligned by the common goal to be the resource-of-choice that responsible authorities will turn to when they need to locate a missing person quickly. Our Groups exhibit outstanding professional qualities, share our simple core values, and possess a strong commitment to locating the lost person. Founded in 1974, the ASRC is one of the oldest search and rescue organizations in the United States and we lean on our extensive experience to guide us into the future.

We are a unifying organization that fosters an environment for our Groups to have the tools they need to be at their very best, when our Groups are strong, the ASRC is strong. Our world-class training standards enable our Groups to ensure their members are among the best trained anywhere. Our Groups are the employer-of-choice for people looking to volunteer in search and rescue. We provide opportunities and create a culture in which our Groups can share and promote operational best practices and tactical efficiency when engaged in a mission. Our Groups regularly evaluate and improve their capabilities by investing in training and continuing education. We value and embrace any resource type which improves the state of the practice of search and rescue in our region.

By advancing the practice of search management and planning, we grow with the changing needs that agencies responsible for search and rescue have. Each of our Groups are leaders and innovators in search and rescue by conducting research, evaluating new technologies, and developing new capabilities to offer to the responsible authorities with which they work.

Our Groups

- 7 Groups – search and rescue teams who hold membership in the conference
- 300 Members – the sum of the total personnel each Group brings to the conference
- 5 States where our Groups serve – Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio

Get to know your sister teams:

<http://amrg.info/>

<http://www.brmsg.org/index.php>

<https://marylandsar.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.wvmarg.org/>

<http://nwpak9sar.org/index.html>

<http://www.ohiosar.com/>

www.smsg.org

APPLICATION PROCESS

To become a Probationary Group, an organization must:

- Obtain a vote of two-thirds of the Group Membership voting on the question in a membership meeting.
 - Date of vote: _____
- Obtain a letter of sponsorship from a Certified Group.
- Agree to meet and maintain the standards and requirements of an ASRC Group as specified in the ASRC governing documents.
 - Date agreement signed: _____
- Have its members' qualifications endorsed by the sponsoring Certified Group's Group Training Officer and comply with the ASRC credentialing system.
- Provide copy of most recent Group bank statement or financial record.
- Submit proof of non-profit status
- Submit a membership roster to the ASRC Secretary
- Submit a guide to Group call-out procedures to the ASRC Operations Officer.
- Provide the Group's Bylaws to the ASRC Secretary.

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- Select one Member to become a non-voting delegate to the ASRC Board.
 - Member name: _____
 - Be voted in as an ASRC Probationary Group by the ASRC Board.
 - Date of vote: _____

Probationary Group to Certified Group status

- Demonstrate the ability to effectively carry-out the mission of the ASRC.
- Be in good standing with the ASRC Administrative requirements, including roster submission and the annual conference dues payment.
- Be financially solvent and be able to certify that the group meets the requirements of non-profit status as defined by the IRS.
- Maintain an up-to-date version of the Group's Bylaws with the ASRC Secretary.
- Present a written recommendation to move to full Certified Group status from the sponsoring Certified Group.
- Select a Group Training Officer of FTL or higher status.
 - GTO: _____
- Obtain an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Certified Members voting on the question at an ASRC Membership meeting.
 - Date of vote: _____
- A Certified Group will have two voting Board of Director representatives
 - Voting Member 1: _____
 - Voting Member 2: _____
- Have at least:
 - FTM or higher: the team must have 1 member certified at the level of FTM or higher plus 1 additional member at FTM or higher for every 7 active members, rounded to the nearest whole number.
 - FTL or higher: the team must have 1 member certified at the level of FTL or higher plus 1 additional member at FTL or higher for every 49 active members, rounded to the nearest whole number.
- Remain active in ASRC affairs and demonstrate the ability to effectively carry out the mission of the ASRC to the satisfaction of the ASRC Board of Directors.

RESOURCES

- www.asrc.net
- [Articles of Incorporation of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.](#)
- [Bylaws of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.](#)
- [Administrative Manual](#)
- [Training Standards](#)
- [Operational Guidance Manual](#)
- [Branding Guide](#)