



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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505 / 827-3370

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
505 / 827-9277

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE
505 / 827-9219

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
505 / 827-3332

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
505 / 827-9262

MOTOR TRANSPORTATION POLICE
505 / 476-2457

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
505 / 841-8053

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
505 / 827-9221

TRAINING AND RECRUITING
505 / 827-9251

February 7, 2012

New Mexico Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Teams:

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) acknowledges the contributions that can be provided by young adults within the SAR community. Many young adults that participate in wilderness explorer programs and other similar type programs bring many levels of skills and wilderness experience to SAR missions. Young adults between the ages of 16 and 18 are encouraged to participate on SAR missions within New Mexico.

In order to allow young adults to take an active role on SAR missions the following must be accomplished:

1. The participant must be a member of a state recognized SAR resource team. Team membership shall be within the rules and regulations of the said organization. The state recognized organization must agree to become the sponsor of the participant. Agreement shall be inferred by membership in the organization.
2. The participant must have a notarized waiver signed by a legal guardian and the participant which has been filed with NMSAR office. A copy of the waiver has been included with this letter.
3. The participant must complete the online NMIS ICS-100 training and submit a copy of the completion certificate to the NMSAR office.

Once the participant has submitted a waiver and certification of completion DPS shall provide proper identification to the young adult signifying that the holder is a minor who is authorized by the SAR office to participate in SAR operations.



CALEA
ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



The state recognized teams will be responsible for the training of the young adults. It is recommended by the NMSAR office that the training includes but is not limited to:

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Land Navigation
- Search Theory and Techniques
- Communications Protocols and Techniques
- Safety in SAR

The participant is encouraged to become certified under the NMSAR Field Certification. For the participant to become certified by other NMSAR certification programs will be at the discretion of the agency head.

The state recognized teams shall be responsible for the behavior of the participants of this program on SAR missions. Any unwarranted behavior or attitude towards the ICS staff, on-scene agency personnel or other SAR responders shall not be tolerated and the state recognized teams will be notified and permission to participate may be revoked.

Likewise, the participant shall immediately inform the incident commander or agency head of any unwarranted behavior or attitude directed at the participant from any person during a SAR mission.

The state recognized team shall maintain emergency contact information on the participant to include name, address, and phone number of the minor's parents/legal guardian. The above information shall be available to the ICS staff at any SAR mission that the young adult is participating in.

The SAR office shall inform the certified field coordinators of the program and their responsibilities in regards to the utilization of minors on SAR operations.

The incident commander shall be the final authority of the utilization of minors on the SAR mission and may limit the type and duration of an assignment for a minor. Additionally, the incident commander shall avoid searchers/rescuers under the age of 18 of handling or viewing a deceased subject.

In the event of an injury to the minor the incident management team shall follow the established medical plan and include notification of the minor's parents/legal guardian. The participant's sponsoring organization shall have the needed information available at the incident base.

The NMSAR office encourages state recognized teams to consider allowing young adults to become members of their organizations and allow them to provide services to the New Mexico Search and Rescue program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ROBERT E. RODGERS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT E. RODGERS
New Mexico State SAR Resource Officer

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Under age 18 participation during
New Mexico Search and Rescue missions and trainings

PARENT/GUARDIAN

The undersigned party is the parent or legal guardian of _____, participant, a minor, who wishes to participate and perform duties during Search and Rescue operations and trainings. I understand that the Agency Head of the New Mexico Search and Rescue Department must approve my child's participation.

As the Parent/Guardian, by signing this form, I acknowledge that:

- Participant is at least 16 years old.
- The Agency Head has the authority to govern my child's participation in this process.
- Participant shall comply with all directives, procedures, standards and policies that govern the operation of Search and Rescue missions.
- The Search and Rescue Incident Command Staff may limit the type and duration of duties assigned to the participant
- Search and Rescue incidents are emergency operations and inherently have greater risks associated with the incident.

The undersigned understands and accepts the requirements for participation of a minor on Search and Rescue operations

signature of parent or guardian

date

printed name of parent or guardian

NOTARY

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF _____

The Foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this ____ day of _____, 20__
by _____

Notary Public

Participant

By signing this form, you acknowledge that participation on Search and Rescue operations and trainings is conditional on:

1. Following the reasonable commands or orders of those appointed above you.
2. Search and Rescue operations have increased risks associated with the incident than you normally encounter thus
 - a. You have the right of refusal of any task assigned.
 - b. The Incident Command Staff may remove you from any Search and Rescue operation at any time, or limit your assignment.
 - c. Your parent or guardian may remove you from any Search and Rescue operation at any time
3. You will strive to complete your tasks in a professional matter and be prepared to be self sufficient for a minimum of 24 hours during SAR incidents.

The undersigned understands and accepts the conditions for participation of a minor on Search and Rescue operations.

signature of Applicant

date

printed name of Applicant

APPROVAL

Signature of Agency Head

date