

Boot Camp Fact Sheet

*This Year's Boot Camp Session Starts **18 March 2017***

Why attend the STAR 1 Search and Rescue Boot Camp?

STAR 1 offers a search and rescue boot camp as a way to provide participants with the opportunity to learn the basic skills necessary for optimal performance on a search and rescue team. Searching for missing people requires a lot more than “just walking around and looking”. Search work requires specialized training in the areas of clue awareness, crime scene preservation, search strategies, land navigation, and survival, to name just a few.

We use many of the teaching materials from the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) to prepare participants for a NASAR certification exam at the conclusion of boot camp. That certification, SAR Tech II, is the standard for ground searchers according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The SAR Tech II certification is also a pre-requisite for achieving the NASAR canine certifications.

Our curriculum has been designed to allow participants to develop their skills through repetition by attending multiple training sessions extended over several months. Participants will spend their time in the classroom and in the field.

What are the expectations?

Participants should come prepared to spend time outside, as field time will be part of each session. Those not attending a minimum of 50% of the sessions offered will not be recommended for the certification exam. We strongly encourage you to come to as many of the sessions as you can, as that is where most of the field practice will occur.

We will not read the book to you, reading is your responsibility. We do provide practice questions that coincide with the chapters in the book. There are some short (1-3 hour) online classes at www.FEMA.gov that we encourage participants to take at home when they can. There is no charge to take the FEMA online classes.

We ask that participants RSVP when they know that they will miss a session so that we can more accurately plan our activities. Our instructors are members on an active search and rescue team and may be deployed at any time of night or day. If it appears that a search mission will interfere with a scheduled training session we will notify participants (to the best of our ability) that training will be postponed or rescheduled.

What is the cost and what will you need?

The cost to participate is **\$125**, due within 14 days after the first session. The course fee includes the NASAR testing fee for the SAR Tech II exam.

In addition, each person must have their own textbook for this class. No book, no class, no refunds. Books may be purchased from the STAR 1 Team, the NASAR bookstore at www.nasar.org, or www.Amazon.com, the title, "Fundamentals of Search and Rescue", edited by Donald Cooper, ISBN 0-7637-4807-02, dated 2005. If ordering from the NASAR bookstore, please be sure to allow plenty of time for the book to arrive since the bookstore is not open on weekends or holidays. NASAR voting members should receive a discount on the book if purchased thru the bookstore. There may be a few used books available from previous boot camp participants. We will advise you regarding availability.

Additionally, we strongly encourage participants to purchase a good compass; prices usually start at about \$45. Try to avoid military-style compasses unless you were trained to use one – in the military. There will be a night land navigation session that will also require, at a minimum; a helmet and a flashlight. Climbing-type helmets can be found for about \$45 and a headlamp is usually a better choice than a flashlight because you will then have your hands free for maps and compasses. If you don't currently have these items please wait to purchase them, as a section on equipment and clothing selection will be part of the boot camp. Fire helmets and ANSI-approved hard hats are acceptable for the night land navigation session as long as they have a functioning chin strap.

STAR 1 does not hold Boot Camp with the intention of making money. The instructors and other team members all donate their time to provide participants with a quality experience. The fees to take the course are re-invested in training materials and used to compensate guest instructors for mileage.

This is a physically demanding course and other Do's and Don'ts!

As part of the course requirements, you must actively participate in all outdoor practical exercises as a TEAM PLAYER, regardless of weather conditions or animal/insect influences. Students with medical problems or physical limitations should reconsider their decision to take this course. This is an important safety concern and the decision of the Lead Instructor is final.

The field training sessions do require that you have good mobility and endurance for uneven terrain, vision suitable for map reading, land navigation in daylight and darkness, and hearing that will allow you to follow verbal directions. Please note that this course is rarely canceled due to bad weather. Students should be prepared for sleet, hail, heavy rain, snow, drought, heat/cold, hurricanes, tornados, water spouts, dust devils, high winds, locust, starving ticks, earth quakes, bad drivers, fog, food-stealing critters, poison ivy, chiggers, fogging eye glasses, tsunamis, etc.

We will do our best to stay on schedule.... **Please strive to arrive at least 10 minutes before the class is scheduled to begin and be prepared to start on time.** We also ask that you be flexible. We may need to arrive earlier or stay later than the original schedule indicates to accomplish the goals of the course. With this in mind, **it would be to your advantage to bring your meals/snacks with you** to the course when appropriate. During all outdoor activities, **it is your responsibility to have at least 2 liters of water with you at all times.** It is ALWAYS a good idea to have extra water & spare clothes (including footwear) in your vehicle.

Of course the possession or consumption of alcohol and / or illegal drugs is NOT permitted during the length of this course at any time. Tobacco products, **including chewing tobacco**, are not permitted in the classroom or around any of the rescue equipment. During the outdoor practical exercises, you will be expected to "field dress" your smokes and carry **ALL** trash out with you. In addition, weapons are absolutely NOT permitted during this course, concealed or not. All course participants will be expected to follow host location rules & regulations while attending this course. ***Please do not bring children or pets of any kind to this course.***

As a courtesy to others in the course, please ensure that all pagers, beepers, cell phones or laptop computers are all switched to a silent mode or turned off during class. It is important to note that part of your course grade is your active participation and full attention to the class. Don't expect to pass the class if you spend time on the phone or running a duty call. **DO NOT TEXT or ANSWER PHONE CALLS DURING THE CLASS. This is important so here it is again: DO NOT TEXT or ANSWER PHONE CALLS DURING THE CLASS! DO NOT TEXT or ANSWER PHONE CALLS DURING THE CLASS!!**

Each person in this course will have two very important responsibilities:

[A] **SAFETY! Safety will be the absolute guideline for this course!** You are directly responsible for your safety and the safety of your classmates during this course. If you are unsure or concerned about any of the safety aspects of this course, please speak with any of the Instructors. ***As part of this safety guideline, each student must wear a high-visibility safety vest when asked to do so by the instructors, regardless of the activities or the season.*** Safety vests will be provided by the instructors when the conditions warrant use.

[B] **If you do not understand something, it is your responsibility to ask questions!** We will be operating on a tight schedule, however, we will always have time to answer your questions or assist you.

Prerequisites

There are few prerequisites for this training (aside from the materials and tools already mentioned). Missing person search work is a unique specialty within the realm of emergency response and it is not necessary that you have a background in the emergency services to participate in this training. Prior experience or training in EMS, the fire service, or law enforcement is definitely an asset – but not a substitute – for a comprehensive search and rescue training program.

Please feel free to contact the Boot Camp Coordinator with your questions;
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