New Member Policy- Updated 5/6/2025

Elkhorn Search & Rescue

PO Box 342, 4 Railroad Way, Clancy, MT 59634

Elkhorn Search and Rescue (Jefferson County) is a volunteer organization operating under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. ESAR member volunteers are expected to be active participants in ESAR activities during their membership timeframe. Members are expected to be physically capable of search and training requirements and should ensure their equipment is always ready for missions.

Prospective members of ESAR will be evaluated and admitted using the following procedures:

1. New ESAR applications will be accepted throughout the year and should be submitted to the membership coordinator via email.
2. Background checks will be requested through Jefferson County Sheriff by the membership coordinator in January and August to confirm eligibility for ESAR membership.
3. During the February and September B.O.D. meetings, the B.O.D. will determine the number of additional ESAR members necessary to continue operations. This number may be zero. Considerations will include the number of current active members, the approved budget, equipment on hand, and specific skills/resources necessary.
4. After the B.O.D. determines the number of open positions, the membership coordinator will present the applications who have passed the background check for B.O.D. consideration. Prospective members who are present at the B.O.D. meeting may provide their background, desire to join ESAR, and any search and rescue experience they have.
5. Following the introductions, all prospective members will be excused and the B.O.D. will go into an executive session to vote on each applicant's request for membership. Each applicant will be considered individually and may be either selected for probationary membership or not selected. Applicants will be approved for probationary membership by a majority vote of the B.O.D. members present.
6. Once the applicants have been voted on, the membership coordinator will contact all applicants and inform them of the B.O.D.'s decision. If accepted, the applicant will enter their twelve-month probationary period.
7. If an applicant is not selected, the membership coordinator will inform the applicant that they may resubmit their application for consideration at the next new member review meeting.
8. During the probationary period, applicants will be added to the call-out list for training, missions, and meetings. Minimal necessary gear will be temporarily provided when probationary members respond for missions or training. This will typically include a radio, compass, and GPS but may also include medical supplies and other equipment. Backpacks and uniform will not be issued until membership is fully approved.
9. Probationary members must attend a minimum of 10 ESAR trainings and a majority of all search and rescue missions (as defined in the bylaws) during their probationary period and be on probation for at least twelve months to be considered for full membership. Probationary members must also be certified in the following prior to full membership:
    a. University of Utah Online SAR Course (https://www.awls.online/sar)
    b. CPR
    c. Basic First AID

    ESAR will reimburse probationary members for the cost of these three certifications.
10. Active members must be certified in AWLS Online SAR Course **or** SARTECH III. Active members must maintain CPR and Basic First Aid certifications.
11. Any ESAR member or probationary member can be removed from membership as specified in the ESAR bylaws.