

## What is SAR?

All 58 Counties in the State of California are mandated by Government Code to have a Search and Rescue Team to look for lost persons within the County. The Madera County Sheriff's Office has 1 Part Time Sergeant and 10 As Needed Deputies assigned to the team. The Sheriff's Office recruits volunteers to help bolster its Search and Rescue Team. These members respond to the call to look for missing persons.

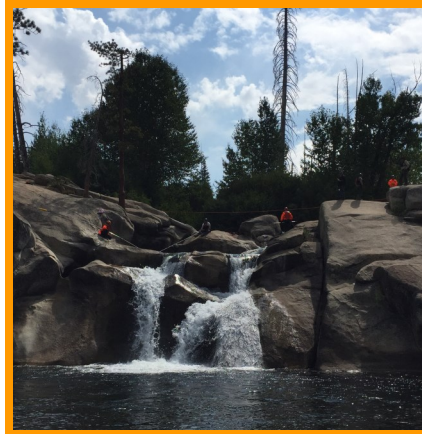


## Training

In order to join the team, applicants have to pass a background check with no major criminal convictions. After background checks, the Sheriff's Office trains to the standards put out by the California Office of Emergency Services. The basic SAR Academy Class is about six months long held on even numbered years from January to May. Classes are held on Saturdays and Wednesday Nights.

## Applications

Applications can be picked up at either the Sheriff's Headquarters or Oakhurst Substation during business hours. The application is also on the County Web Page at under the Sheriff's Page and click on SAR. Any questions can be answered by calling the Sheriff's Office! Ask to speak with the Search and Rescue Sergeant.



[www.madera-county.com/sheriff](http://www.madera-county.com/sheriff)

### Sheriff's Headquarters

2725 Falcon Drive  
Madera, CA 93637  
559-675-7770

### Oakhurst Substation

48267 Liberty Drive  
Oakhurst, CA 93644  
559-642-3201



# Search & Rescue



## After the Academy

After completing the basic academy, you will be able to join specialty teams with Search and Rescue (SAR).

- Type 1 Ground Searcher (Elevation 7000+ Ft)
- Type 2 Ground Searcher (Elevations 7000 Ft to 3000 Ft)
- Type 3 Ground Searcher (Elevation - 3000 Ft to 0 Ft)
- Type 4 Ground Searcher (Urban Setting)
- 4X4 Team
- Overhead Team
- K-9 Team
- Operation Lost and Found Team
- Logistics Team
- Snowmobile Team
- Technical Rope/Swift Water Team
- OHV Team



## Time Commitment

The team trains all of the time. The required team training is quarterly. Each quarterly training session is about six hours. Those trainings focus on perishable skills such as map reading, GPS, First Aid and CPR. Specialty teams with in SAR have additional training. Each specialty team has their own training requirements but on average each specialty team trains each month from three to six hours.



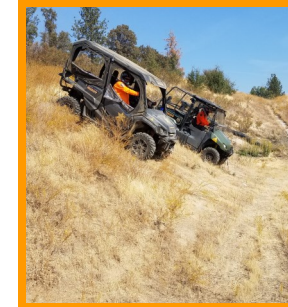
## Missions

Missions can happen any place and at any time. Missions can take our SAR Members from the valley floor all the way to Ritter Mountain, the highest peak in Madera County just under 14,000 Feet. Our members enjoy variety opportunities from riding in military Blackhawk helicopters to hanging off granite cliffs. Parts of Madera County are even on the eastern side of the Sierra such as Devils Postpile National Monument, Reds Meadow, Rainbow Falls, Pacific Crest Trail, and John Muir Trail.



## Mutual Aid

We do Mutual aid too! The basic concept of mutual aid is neighbor helping neighbor. When other Sheriff's Office's are in need of Search and Rescue help, we respond. Madera County has sent SAR Members as far north as Nevada County and as far south as Riverside County. Our Members get the opportunity of traveling to help other agencies such as Yosemite National Park.



## Is There a Place for Me?

YES! If you just want to help, you can. Our Logistics Team has many tasks they complete to support the overall mission. Our Logistics Team takes care of our communications, food service trailer, vehicle and equipment maintenance. Our Overhead Team assists the Sheriff's Office with incident management including large disasters such as fires and floods.

