

STAFFORDSHIRE SEARCH AND RESCUE
A Member of the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue



REGISTERED CHARITY
No. 1105836

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PACK

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF STAFFORDSHIRE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM (SSART) REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT OF YOUR TIME AND EFFORT. ANY APPLICATION TO THE TEAM SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN WITHOUT DUE THOUGHT AND RESPECT FOR YOUR FAMILY / PARTNER / EMPLOYER etc. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY AND CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE THE COMMITMENT REQUIRED. WE STRONGLY ADVISE ALL APPLICANTS TO VISIT THE TEAM TO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED OF INDIVIDUALS AND TO TALK TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

INTRODUCTION:

SSART is a voluntary organisation which works with the Police and other category 1 Emergency Services. SSART is dedicated to the search, location and recovery of any person in need of help.

SSART is a registered charity, and a member of the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue (ALSAR); the governing body for all lowland search and rescue teams. Primarily we operate throughout Staffordshire, but we offer and provide support to other SAR teams in adjacent counties/areas.

We welcome volunteers from all walks of life, regardless of skills as full training will be given. However, you must be able to meet the following requirements:

- Must be willing to abide by the SSART Constitution, rules, regulations, policies and procedures
- Be in good health
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be reasonably fit and able to walk 5 miles in under 2 hours over mixed terrain carrying your personal kit (assessed annually)
- Be willing to attend an interview with the Membership Secretary and another member of the SSART Executive. SSART reserve the right to refuse membership.
- Undergo a CRB check
- Have your own driving licence and unhindered access to a motor vehicle
- Have a mobile telephone which has reception at places you frequently visit (home, work etc.) remains charged, switched on and accessible at all times, and that you are able to answer whenever possible
- Able to attend 50% of weekly training events – held on Wednesday evenings plus ad hoc weekend days
- Able to attend some fundraising and team promotional events held throughout the year, largely at weekends (fundraising is the only means for team to move forward and survive)

AIMS OF SSART:

Our principle aims are to:

- To provide a 24 hour per day, 365 days per year cover for an emergency call out team to assist Category 1 Emergency Services in whichever way we can
- To assist Staffordshire Police with searching for missing persons in rural and urban areas
- To provide cross country transport and medical assistance to casualties in areas where normal land based ambulances cannot reach
- Provide backup to the emergency services conducting evacuations due to inclement weather, terrorist attacks or for any other events they request
- Using team 4x4 vehicles to provide cross country and on road transport for members of the emergency services and voluntary sector personnel including their equipment

SSART ORGANISATION:

SSART is managed by an Executive Committee. Executive posts are elected annually by members and elections are overseen by a Board of Trustees.

Operationally the team is 'on call' to provide qualified personnel to search, locate and rescue if needed missing persons, and to provide transportation by 4x4 vehicles. Members can participate in all aspects providing training has been completed.

Fund raising and recruitment are also vital activities and all members are **expected** to play their part by attending collection days, shows, fun days etc. throughout the year

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY:

SSART also offers to help other community voluntary organisations and groups, especially those working with the disadvantaged, with talks and displays/demonstrations. Members are also expected to support these events whenever possible.

MEMBERSHIP:

Full membership:

Is currently £30 per annum. Full membership is the minimum requirement to enable you to attend training and to allow application to attend an ALSAR recognised Search Technician (ST) course.

You will need to gain a Search Technician qualification to enable you to attend 'live' searches.

Before a membership application form is given to you, you will need to provide a current basic CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) disclosure. This can be obtained by applying through your local Police Station.

SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP:

Is currently £10 per annum

In this capacity you can take part in some informal training, help with fundraising events and support the team during 'LIVE CALL OUTS'. Assistance at live call outs would involve helping with the preparation of equipment around the muster area/making sure there are refreshments etc. available.

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE ACTUAL SEARCH

4x4 Team:

You will need to be a fully qualified Search Technician before being able to join the 4x4 transport and rescue team.

Your vehicle will be required to have up to date paperwork i.e. comprehensive insurance (which allows for the carriage of passengers in a voluntary capacity), road tax, and MOT if applicable. Your vehicle must **not** be fitted with any form of flashing beacons unless they are of a permanent fixture for the business for which the vehicle is registered e.g. a works vehicle, **they must not be activated whilst on any SSART activity.**

All memberships are probationary for 6 months; please note your subscription is not refundable.

Friends of SSART:

As a friend of SSART you will have made a donation to the team. Individual annual Membership – a minimum donation of £10 per annum.

As well as our friendship, Friends of SSART will receive:

- A copy of the SSART newsletter
- A free brass and enamelled badge.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

For the safety of yourself, other team members and our insurers, it is a requirement that the Clinical Lead is made aware of **ANY** medical condition(s) which may affect your ability to fulfil your role. Similarly you **MUST** declare any serious life threatening illness or condition past or present.

TRAINING:

Training is organised on a regular basis and all members are required to participate in the core subjects/courses. As far as possible they are conducted locally but it may be necessary to travel out of the immediate area. The mandatory Search Technicians Course run twice a year is paid for by you at a cost of £45, but all others are normally paid for by the team subject to approval by the Executive.

Also, you must have attended fundraising in order to be considered for further training courses.

The Search Technician course fee is £45. However, on successful completion of the ST Course, Fitness Walk and that you remain with the team (and have completed 50% of training events), the following year's SSART membership of £30 is waived. The other £15 covers accommodation and food at the ST weekend.

Please Note: training courses are not available to Support Members.

Supplementary to the weekly training, we also arrange regular training exercises. As well as refreshing our skills, these events enable members to get to know each other socially. These exercises are normally held within Staffordshire. Support members are welcome to attend and assist and see the team at work.

QUALIFICATIONS and SKILLS:

We welcome volunteers from all walks of life, regardless of skills as full training will be given. If you decide to join then it is very useful for you to include any skills /experience/ qualifications that you may have e.g. involvement with outdoor pursuits, First Aid

organisations, Emergency Services, Police, Military, other Rescue Services, Radio Operations, Training Skills, and Team Leadership etc.

Just as important are the skills of Marketing, Public Relations and dealing with the media, Fund Raising and Sponsorship, Graphic design, IT etc.

The more we know, the better the use of your skills can be made. We would like to develop our skills further and would be interested to hear from anyone involved with search dogs, technical rope work etc.

MEETINGS:

Everyone is encouraged to attend Team meetings to discuss events and future developments, they are held bi-monthly. This is also a good time to get to know other team members. You will also have the opportunity to get involved yourself with events and to participate in all the background work. We encourage pro active involvement by our members.

GIFT AID:

As a registered charity we can reclaim an additional 28% of any subscription (£5 approx.) back from HM Revenue and Customs provided you have paid the equivalent amount in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax over the current tax year.

If you decide to join SSART and are a tax payer please complete the Gift Aid Form and return it with your application form. Every little bit helps towards funds.

DONATIONS:

If after reading this you decide not to join us, we would be grateful for any donation large or small. These can be made by cheque or postal order sent to the address below and made payable to; 'Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team'.

INSURANCE:

We hold a 'Public Liability Policy' which covers us against claims from the general public. It also covers other SSART activities for any claims by volunteers due to our negligence. However, you are responsible for insuring your own person, personal equipment and personal vehicles.

ID CARDS:

On joining as a full or support member you will be issued with an ID card. This remains the property of SSART and must be returned when you leave the Team. A digital photograph will be taken for our records and ID card.

CONTACT US:

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

E mail: membership@ssart.org

Telephone: 07791 763641

Mr Richard Archer,
SSART Membership Secretary,