



Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

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Law Enforcement Division

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Reserve Deputy Sheriff

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office has a long history of citizen support through volunteerism. The Reserve Deputy Program is a prime example. Reserve Deputies are volunteers who receive the same training and meet the same qualifications as regular Deputy Sheriffs. They work shifts and assignments to augment the patrol bureau. These are men and women who perform as sworn peace officers while on duty.

Their contribution to the Sheriff's Office and community is significant and occurs at limited cost to the taxpayers. If you think you have what it takes to perform this job, and an interest to do so, you are encouraged to contact Captain Mike Voorhees for more information.

Search and Rescue Volunteer

To save a life would you...

- Hike into a forbidding wilderness?
- Ascend a mountain peak?
- Fight the driving rain?
- Stay out all night?
- Put up with the freezing cold?
- Hike in the hot-hot weather?

Volunteer members of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team do all of these and are willing to do much more!

The VOLUNTEERS come from many walks of life. They are professionals, blue-collar workers, retired citizens, or students, but they all have one thing in common: A compassion for their fellow man. When a call comes for Search and Rescue assistance, they all cast aside their current projects and respond immediately. This selfless commitment is an indispensable life-saving service and is provided at no cost to Sonoma County taxpayers. Members of the team exemplify compassion and camaraderie. The Search and Rescue members ask for no monetary compensation for their endeavors. The satisfaction of a job well done is reward enough. Members serve, many times, at great personal sacrifice.

The Search and Rescue Team consists of approximately 50 highly motivated volunteers, both adult and Explorer Scouts, and is managed by a Sworn Sheriff's Sergeant and Deputy Sheriff assigned to the Helicopter/SAR Unit. The volunteers have varying degrees of first aid training and search and rescue skills. The SAR Team is used for lost persons and evidence searches. The SAR Team also responds to searches outside of Sonoma County when a mutual aid request is made through the State Office of Emergency Services.

BECOMING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MEMBER

Membership is available to all citizens of Sonoma County who are at least 21 years of age. The applicant must be in good physical and mental condition. Search and Rescue volunteers are members of the Sheriff's Office and therefore may not have a felony conviction, and must be free of misdemeanor convictions during the last three years. A background investigation and physical examination is performed on each candidate prior to employment. Once accepted, the volunteer must complete an extensive training program before he/she is allowed to participate in call-outs and searches.

EXPLORER SEARCH AND RESCUE

Membership for those under 21 years of age is available through the Explorer Search and Rescue post. Qualification is any male or female, ages 14 through 21 years of age. They must maintain a 2.0 grade point average in school and achieve a certificate in First Responder medical training. NOTE: Members must attend a majority of the search call-outs; certificate for First Responder within the first year of membership and attend 50% of the training offered each month during the year.

Volunteer in Policing

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Volunteers in Policing (V.I.P.) program was established to better connect with the community we serve. It is the latest chapter in a long history of utilizing volunteers to augment the paid law enforcement, detention and support staff, following other successful volunteer programs including Search and Rescue, Reserve Deputies and Explorer Scouts.

V.I.P. members contribute greatly to our organization through the donation of their time. Their contributions in the field, as well as in the office, enable our Deputies and Support Staff to better respond to calls for service and generally meet our responsibilities to the public.

The V.I.P. unit is designed to assist Sheriff's Office personnel with duties not specifically defined as law enforcement activities. V.I.P. members are not used to displace or replace paid staff, only to augment and extend services provided by staff or add an additional service.

The V.I.P. unit is composed of unpaid, volunteer adult citizens from Sonoma County. After receiving general and task-specific training, V.I.P.s are utilized as additional "eyes and ears" of the Sheriff's Office and to perform a variety of specialized assignments under the supervision of Sheriff's Office staff.

Applicants are required to possess a valid driver's license at the appropriate level, including necessary special endorsements, as required by the State of California to perform the essential job functions of this position. Candidates for this position will be required to pass a background investigation.

Volunteer Explorer Scout

WHAT IS THE EXPLORER PROGRAM?

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post is a group of young men and women interested in careers in law enforcement. Explorers get a combination of classroom trainings and hands-on experience that teaches them about the rigorous and challenging field of law enforcement.

Explorer Scouts is a program sponsored by both the Sheriff's Office and the Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life Program. It is open to young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21, who have completed the 8th grade. Sheriff's Explorers usually meet in the evenings on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Sheriff's Office (located at 2796 Ventura Avenue in Santa Rosa) and at off-site locations.

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Explorers receive instruction in the following areas:

- Laws of Arrest
- Arrest Techniques
- Defensive Tactics
- Firearms
- Crime Scene Management
- Fingerprinting
- Traffic Control
- Using Two-Way Radios
- Report Writing

Explorers are required to attend all regularly scheduled meetings and serve an additional four hours each month for community service duties. This may include assisting in Sheriff's Office sponsored activities, community events and parades. Additionally, Explorers participate in the Sheriff's Office ride-along program.

Explorers take part in local and regional trainings and competitions with other Explorer Posts. Each Explorer is expected to attend a one time, eight day Explorer Academy located at the local law enforcement training center.