



# MIDDLE CREEK SEARCH & RESCUE, INC.

P.O. BOX 701      LANCASTER COUNTY  
EPHRATA, PA 17522      STATION 94



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[www.midsar.org](http://www.midsar.org)

**EMERGENCY DISPATCH – DIAL 911    REQUEST LANCASTER COUNTY STATION 94**

Thank you for your interest in Middle Creek Search and Rescue (MIDSAR) and specifically in our K9 team. Our K9 handler teams are in various levels of training for air scenting and trailing and they come from all over the south-central PA region, ranging from Chester, Berks, York and Lancaster County.

The MIDSAR K9 team formally trains together once a month. These training events are open to anyone who is interested in learning more about search and rescue training and how K9s are an invaluable resource. If you are thinking of becoming a K9 handler, we recommend you attend these training events to see the level of dedication required to become a competent handler, and what is expected of both the dog and the handler. MIDSAR membership is not necessary to train with the team, but is required prior to obtaining operational certification.

Training a search dog takes a serious commitment and requires extensive time, a willingness to train in all weather conditions, friends and family committed to assisting you with the training process, and the ability to purchase the necessary equipment. Training a successful search dog will require a commitment to train a minimum of 2 to 3 times a week, with the average dog needing 1 to 2 years of training before reaching certification standards.

Once certification is achieved, you must continue to train with your dog several times a month to keep their performance at a mission ready level. Since we only train together once a month as a team, this means that you must have friends and family available and willing to assist you as subjects (lost victims) for your dog to find. Keep in mind; this is a year round training commitment not only for you, but for your training assistants as well. It's possible that another handler on the K9 team may live in your area and may be willing to assist you with your training efforts, however you cannot count on this and you must be prepared to be self-sufficient with your training.

In addition, the dog you train cannot be aggressive toward people and must maintain control while around other dogs. It should not be overly shy or afraid of new experiences and settings. While all dogs have the ability to use their noses, some are not as proficient in doing so, or lack the drive (interest) needed to become a search dog.

Please understand that training a search dog takes a unique person and years of dedication. You need to know what you are getting into. To meet the other handlers and to learn more about K9 search and rescue training, we would encourage you to join us at a training event. To learn more about our training schedule, our team calendar is posted on the MIDSAR website ([www.midsar.org](http://www.midsar.org)). Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can prepare you for success!

Thank you again for your interest in the MIDSAR K9 team!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Renninger  
K9 Team Captain

Wes Clark  
K9 Lieutenant