

K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

35 Railroad Avenue, Dolores, CO, 81323 | (970) 882-4746 | Email: k9@k9team.org

Job Description: Dog Handler

The job description herein is not meant to be inclusive nor exclusive but rather broad, general concepts to guide members in their performance. All Team members are expected to be able to do any task as needed for overall team success and to follow all team Bylaws and Policies.

Summary

Team members that are capable of operating on foot over long distances with a dog in wilderness, urban, water, disaster, or snow environments and have training in appropriate search techniques. Must be able to search alone if so assigned. Must be able to perform first aid procedures. New Mexico Field Certification and Civil Air Patrol 101 cards are strongly recommended.

Purpose

To train a dog to standard with the ultimate goal of finding lost persons. Must be able to render emergency medical care. To be able to accomplish reasonable search or rescue assignments competently, including emergency locator beacons.

Supervision

The K-9 officer in charge of a given activity. For example, the strike team leader, based on the assignments from the Operations Section Chief, typically assigns search activities. Training is under the direction of the training officer. Business and overall operations are under the direction of the team leader.

Qualifications

Handlers must be at least 16 years old (parent permission required 16 – 18), able to meet the physical standard, financially able to purchase and care for a canine and required equipment, and able to donate the time necessary to train to the dog and handler standard and to respond.

Time frame

The time required to be a successful handler varies with background, desire, ability, response load, and attitude. Common averages quoted are 600 hours minimum per dog and 1000 hours minimum personal training. A prospective handler can expect to spend from 6 months to two years to meet standard. The team generally trains approximately 350 hours per year. Business meetings, public relations, and fund raising activities are also required. Active members are required to attend 75% of team activities and handlers should be active.

Site

The majority of team activities are in the Four Corners area but response requests can be worldwide.

K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

35 Railroad Avenue, Dolores, CO, 81323 | (970) 882-4746 | Email: k9@k9team.org

Benefits and Risks

The team can provide some response equipment such as pagers, radios, GPS, response vehicles, building, etc. The team provides training and training opportunities. The team will provide a framework and organization for all activities. Responses provide the opportunity to help others in need and to access restricted areas. Risk exposures include, but are not limited to: accident and/or sickness without readily available medical facilities, pathogens, the forces of nature, travel on the ground, on water and in the air, travel in high alpine terrain involving risks of falls, avalanche, exposure to the elements, exposure to deceased &/or seriously injured persons, strenuous physical work covering periods as long as several days, and the physical and other risks involved in high stress levels and high altitude work.