

## **Article 1**

This organization shall be known as TRI-COUNTY Search and Rescue. The organization is based in Southeast, AR.

## **Article II**

### **Purpose and Objectives**

Provide the highest quality of care/assistance when called upon.

Provide assistance without regards to age, sex, ethnicity, or gender.

Promote educational programs to better prepare the public to cope with disasters.

Conduct meeting to promote Search and Rescue.

## **Article III**

### **Definitions**

The Board of officers shall be referred to as Board Search and Rescue be referred to as SAR.

## **Article IV**

### **Membership**

Membership is open to any persons who meet the following

Be 16 years of age or older

Have submitted waiver of liability

Have a interest in SAR

Shall have a 6 MOS probation period then be approved by the board

If denied by the board must return all equipment purchased by TRICOUNTY within 24 hours.

An annual membership fee is \$25.00, shall be due from all members of the corporation on January 5 for that calendar year. The annual membership fee will not be prorated for any partial year membership.

New members joining the corporation after the start of the fourth quarter of the calendar year will not be required to pay the annual membership fee for that calendar year.

Trainers and Honorary members shall not be liable for dues or assessments. They may attend regular meetings and may be heard at the discretion of the President. They may not vote or have any privileges that pertain to regular membership of the Association

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Title 1. Categories of Membership**

**Section 1. Voting Members.** Each voting member shall have one vote in the election of Officers, and in adopting and amending By-Laws.

Voting members include:

1. Founding members of the organization.

2. Those who are admitted to the membership by submitting an application for admittance to the corporation.

a. HANDLER. Handlers are qualified handlers of either qualified K-9

**Team or trainee K-9 Team.**

**It is recommended that they participate in unit training, successfully complete a RED CROSS First Aid course, an Emergency Medical Technician course or other similar first aid course, have CPR certification and a minimum of SAR TECH II, IS 100/200 & IS 700. K9 Evaluations are highly recommended for handlers. IS 300 and IS 400 are recommended for managers of a search incident.**

**b. GROUND SEARCH OPERATIONS. Ground Search Operations personnel report to the Ground Search Operations Officer. GSO members will work toward qualification. It is recommended that GSO participate in unit training sessions and successfully complete a RED CROSS First Aid course (or EMT course or other similar first aid course), have**

**CPR certification and a minimum of SARTECH II, IS 100/200 & IS 700. IS 300 and 400 are highly recommend for personnel who will be managing a search incident.**

**Section 2. Non Voting Members include Honorary Members such as Trainers and Out of State Members.**

**They also may not be elected to a Board of Directors position.**

**Title 2. Training and Qualifications**

**Section 1. Qualifications. The K9 Evaluation guidelines delineate the various qualifications and respective standards attainable by corporation K9 Handlers. Evaluation guidelines shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors when deemed necessary.**

### **Article V**

**The Chief Executive Officer/President position is a lifetime position as owner of the Corporation. And shall perform all duties necessary incident to the office. And shall, by signature, authenticate all official documents that are authorized by the Group. They shall appoint officers pro-tempore in the event of absences. This section is not amendable.**

**Board members consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 Directors. These positions are appointed by the CEO and are lifetime positions.**

### **Section 1: Definitions**

**Within this article, references to board members, officers and agents shall include past, present and future board members, council members, officers and agents whether or not so serving at the time of incurring the expenses or liabilities referred to herein. Board Members shall include any individual to serve on the governing body of the Team and the Board, as a body Officers shall include any individual to serve as an officer of the Team and any individual appointed**

or employed by the Team to serve in positions that, under the Bylaws carry officer status. Agents shall include any person authorized by the Team to enter into agreements for and on behalf of the Team in the name of the Team. It shall also include any person authorized by the Team to express the official position of the Team or to render qualified advice and counsel on behalf of the Team. Action, unless otherwise specifically indicated, shall include any civil, criminal or administrative action, suit, proceeding or claim, threatened or pending, in which a Board member, Council member, officer or agent may be involved, as a party or otherwise, by reason of failing to serve as such Board Member, officer or agent, or by reason of anything done or omitted by such person as a Board Member, officer or agent to have been done so or omitted. Determination by Independent Legal Counsel means a determination in the form of a written opinion addressed to the Board of Directors, by legal counsel, appointed pursuant to the By-laws of the Team, that indemnification of a Board Member, officer or agent is proper in the circumstances because they have met the applicable standards of conduct set forth in this article.

#### **Section 2: Indemnification**

Except to the extent prohibited by applicable law, the Team shall indemnify each Board Member, officer or agent of the Team or such person serving in the name of the Team as a Director or officer or another corporation, community organization, governmental commission, or governmental agency against any and all loss, cost, liability and expense which may be imposed upon or reasonably incurred by such person, including reasonable settlement payments, in connection with any action, if a disinterested majority of the Board or Directors not parties to the action, determines that such person(s) was acting in good faith.

#### **Article VI**

##### **Incident Command**

Tri County SAR will function under the ICS and/or NIMS Incident Command System during all operations.

#### **Article VII**

##### **Meetings**

Board meetings shall be held at such a time as deemed needed if not, meeting shall be held in January to elect officials. Section 1. Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the corporation in the month of January of each year, the time and date to be determined by the current officers. Notice of the meeting shall

be given by the secretary to all voting members at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

#### **Section 2. Special Meetings.**

A special meeting of the general membership may be called at any time following a majority vote of the officers. Such meetings may be scheduled by personal contact, by phone or by mail. The minutes of special meetings will be read at the next annual meeting.

#### **Section 3. Quorum.**

Fifty percent (50%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum to transact general business at any meeting. Two thirds (2/3) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum to amend the By-Laws or vote on dissolution. Section 4. Proxy. A written proxy, dated, signed and specific to the meeting and subject, shall count for a member's vote in that member's absence.

#### **Article VIII**

##### **Receipt of Revenue**

Cash donations or fees: All cash received by the Team shall be recorded by the treasurer. Receipts shall be issued for all cash received in accordance with all applicable regulations by the Treasurer. Records shall be kept by the Treasurer to include copies of receipts issued. Donations of assets and in kind services: All property real or otherwise, and all in kind services shall be recorded by the treasurer at fair market value. The Team's Treasurer in accordance with all applicable regulations shall provide receipts for all donated property, or services to the donor. Copies of all such receipts shall be maintained as part of the Treasurers permanent record. Property shall be permanently identified as Tri-County property.

#### **Article IX**

##### **Confidentiality**

All individual member and team financial and legal information must be safeguarded. No member may reveal or disclose such information without the prior approval of the Board.