

Class Descriptions for 2024 SARCON

ATV/UTV - Instructor – Game and Fish Officer Hauser

Operating Off Highway Vehicles (OHV's) is inherently dangerous due to the design of the machines, the varying road conditions, and human nature/driving behavior. This course is designed to provide, law enforcement agencies and volunteers, with responsible and ethical OHV operation training to their people. This course provides the students with basic knowledge in all aspects of OHV operation and enforcement. The topics covered during the 1-day school include:

Safe/responsible operation of OHV's (for both ATV's and side-by-sides). Half the day is dedicated to operation of ATV's (which need be provided by operator and equipped properly), and half is dedicated to side-by-sides (SxS). This course will give students training and experience operating both types of OHV's. The training takes place on a flat "track" as well as various obstacles including: traversing rocks, boulders, mud, sand, hills and water crossings. The course covers different concepts and techniques that help to safely operate different types of OHV's, including different body positions for ATV's, 2-footed operation, approach angles, evasive maneuvers, rollover angles and more. Students should bring a lunch to the training as there may not be enough time to get lunch and finish by 1700. (10 students max)

Basic Helicopter Safety: Instructor – DPS Trooper Hecht

This is a SAR II Taskbook course. The Helicopter Safety classroom portion will provide knowledge on being safe around helicopters. The classes with Ingress/Egress include loading and unloading from the helicopter with the blades spinning. Anyone taking the ingress/egress option must bring a signed authorization letter from their SAR Coordinator and will need eye, ear and head protection (hard hat with chin strap). (15 students max)

Bone Identification: Instructor – Dr Vollner with Pima County

Learn to identify the differences between human and animal bones. (15 students max).

CISM: Instructor - TBD

This class will teach healthy coping skills to release stress/tension, and tips to help empty your "emotional trash can" after tough calls involving serious injuries or death. Learn to recognize signs of emotional stress, and steps to take when you think a fellow Searcher / Teammate needs help. (20 students max)

Fitness Test / Pack Test: Instructor- Various

This is a SAR II Taskbook requirement – Pack with at least 25lbs of weight, required for a 2-mile fitness hike that must be completed in 60 minutes. There will be a pack inspection of required equipment.

Introduction to Family Liaison Officer: Instructor – Amanda Kaufman, Mohave Co SAR

There will be a discussion on roles and responsibilities encountered as a family liaison officer for search and rescue operations. (30 students max)

Introduction to Management of Spontaneous Volunteers: Instructor – Amanda Kaufman, Mohave Co SAR

Discussion will include management, assignments, and potential liabilities of managing spontaneous volunteers for search and rescue operations. (30 students max)

Land Navigation: Instructor – Alan Kropiewnicki, Yavapai County SAR

This is a SAR II Taskbook course. You must have a compass, a GPS, search pack, appropriate clothing and footwear. Participants must be prepared for approximately a 1-mile hike using their compass and GPS to complete the evaluation course. Participants will be expected to be able to navigate with a map, compass, and GPS, along with correctly locating and plotting several points on the map. (20 students max)

Lost art of Survival: Instructor – Scott Kozakiewicz, Maricopa County SAR

Topics covered will include: 20 edible plants, medicinal plants, buddie burners, making cordage, flint knapping, non-compass navigation, and other little known tricks of the trade. (Max 25 students)

Low Angle Rescue / Patient Packaging: Instructor – Mountain Rescue, Maricopa County

This is a SAR II Taskbook course. Topics covered will include how to package a patient for transport and how to navigate with a litter over varied terrain. (15 students max)

Search Tactics: Instructor – Deneise Piepiora, Yavapai County SAR

This is a SAR II Taskbook course. You will learn different search tactics for use in the field and what your subject may be doing. You will also get a better idea of why the IC might be doing certain things during a search. (20 students max)

SAR Topo Basics: Instructor – Terry Cook, Yavapai County SAR

You will learn the basic operations of SAR Topo/CalTopo. Creating maps and running a search mission. If you have a laptop running SARTopo, please bring it to class. If you have a jetpack, or other portable MiFi device, please bring it as well. (15 students max)

SAR Topo Mobile App: Instructor – Eric Leader, Maricopa County SAR

Attendees of this course will learn the basics of using the Caltopo application on their smart phone. The focus will be on the configuration and use of the Caltopo App during a planned search. The class will start with instructions on setup and use of the Caltopo App. A sample search plan will be used to demonstrate the use of Caltopo in a simulated field search. Each student will receive a Caltopo SAR “cheat sheet” to assist them in the field.

Students will learn Caltopo setup, shared search map downloads, track recording, basic navigation, object recording, and practical use of Caltopo in a simulated field search. (20 students max)

Technical Rope Rescue: Instructor – Tom Pendley

This year Tom Pendley and Dale Stewart will facilitate a two-day high angle rope rescue workshop. The focus this year is on light weight back country gear.

We'll bring out the SMC Vector back country gin pole. We will also test out light weight TTRS systems with 9.5mm Sterling tactical rope dual Guide ATC style devices with a Schwabisch hitch (max over 1 asymmetrical prusik).

Our focus this year will be on edge transition without a high directional, so we will do variations on Pike and Pivot. Participants will rotate through as many rolls as possible. We will have discussions on small team tactics and leadership, for safety and success in situations where you are limited on gear and rescuers.

This course is for students who have a good working knowledge on rope rescue operations. The second day will be off site.

Tracking Courses: Instructor – Dr. Bob Rose, Mohave County SAR

Tracker III is a basic introduction to the art of man tracking. You will be taught how to recognize and read sign left behind by your missing subject. The morning will be in the classroom with practice in the afternoon.

Tracker II will be a midlevel course for people who wish to advance their tracking skills.

You must have your search pack and appropriate clothing and footwear for the conditions. A tracking stick, measuring tape, and notepad/pencil are highly recommended. Tracking II must have proof of Tracking III, or be taking it at SARCON. (25 students max)

UAS Small Unmanned Aerial Systems: Instructor – Dep. Paul Clifton, Coconino County SAR

(sUAS) have become ubiquitous in modern search and rescue operations. This course / workshop seeks to improve collaboration among Arizona SAR units and to utilize sUAS, or “drones,” as data collection devices to improve the probability of locating subjects, primarily during area searches and mutual aid requests for searches in difficult terrain or concealed environments. Beginning with an overview of data collection concept of operations (CONOPS), this workshop will also cover payload configuration for optimized data collection for data analysis software, such as Loc8 (pixel-detection) and RDT (radiometric analysis). Once targets are identified, this course will conclude with potential workflows to transmit imagery locations to personnel in the field and to incorporate the data into the search planning process. Drones or a Part 107 license are not needed for this course - even if you do not have drones or a UAS program this course may assist in guiding your unit's decision-making regarding future UAS and software acquisitions. There will be 2 hours CONOPS / 2 hours Data analysis demonstrations. (15 students max)

Vehicle Recovery: Instructor – David Miles, Cochise County SAR

This class includes equipment safety and identification, self-recovery, recovery of other vehicles, moving debris, and recovery accessories. Students need gloves and eye protection. The instructor will provide a winch equipped vehicle and accessories. Student equipment is encouraged, but use will be based on instructor discretion. (12 students max)

Wilderness Survival: Instructor – Scott Kozakiewicz, Maricopa County SAR

This is a SAR II Taskbook course. This course covers the basic knowledge, skills, gear and attitude, essential to survive in the wilderness or in an isolated environment for 24-72 hours. (25 students max)