

Southern Arizona Mounted Search and Rescue BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be: Southern Arizona Mounted Search and Rescue (SAMSAR).

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be:

- A. To serve the residents of Pima County AZ and surrounding communities.
- B. To assist the Pima County Sheriff's Department in the performance of its duties.
- C. To provide the membership with training in search and rescue duties and first aid.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is open to all persons, regardless of sex, race, creed, color, or religious preference.

Section 2. Requirements for new membership shall be as follows:

- A. Member must be a citizen of the United States of America.
 - B. Member must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
 - C. All members will meet all state laws and county ordinances as directed by the Sheriff's Department and will be residents of Pima County.
 - D. Prior to final acceptance, the applicant shall have successfully completed and passed a Sheriff's Department background check.
 - E. All new members, after being accepted, must complete the minimum training requirements as required by SAMSAR within a reasonable amount of time.
 - F. By invitation only
 - G. By unanimous vote of all board members
1. No member shall be considered a full member of SAMSAR until fully field qualified and voted upon by membership.

Section 3. A member in good standing shall be defined as:

- A. A member current on all requirements, training and financial obligations.
- B. A member with a positive attitude who contributes to the goals and purposes of SAMSAR.

Section 4. Before assisting in a search and rescue mission, members must complete SAR training as directed by SAMSAR and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Such member will only be allowed in the field with a fully FQ member.

ARTICLE III. TERMINATION OR WITHDRAWAL

Section 1. Termination of membership shall be by or for any of the following reasons:

- A. By the Sheriff of Pima County in his sole discretion for any reason, with or without cause. Said decision shall be final and not appealable by the affected member or the Board, nor shall said decision be the basis for any legal action by the affected member against the Sheriff or the Board.
- B. By the Board of Directors for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. By action which will embarrass or discredit SAMSAR.
 - 2. Failure to maintain minimal safety standards.
 - 3. Insubordination to any field leader, Sheriff Officer or ICS commander at any time.
- C. Any allegation of misconduct or malfeasance will be referred to unanimous board for investigation and/or action.
- D. A member's participation in SAMSAR functions and or activities shall not be required when such attendance would jeopardize the member's means of livelihood, but any member whose livelihood is jeopardized by a reasonable participation in SAMSAR functions and or activities should reconsider their continued membership.

Section 2. Withdrawal from SAMSAR

- A. Any member may withdraw from SAMSAR by submitting to the SAMSAR Board a written resignation. Any such letter will be considered and acted upon by the Board promptly.
- B. The member must return all badges, shoulder patches, identification cards, and all other SAMSAR property when presenting their resignation.

ARTICLE IV. GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. The government of this organization shall be vested in its officers and board members.

Section 2. The elected officers of this organization shall consist of:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Section 3. Except for founding members, only members in good standing with an active SAMSAR

membership of at least 1 year who are current in all training requirements may run for an elected office. Members not present may be elected if prior consent is given. All board members must be field qualified.

Section 4. All officers may be re-elected and may succeed themselves.

Section 5. The chain of command of the board of directors shall be as follows.

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary.

Section 6. New officers will assume office on Jan 1st.

ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the President shall consist of the following:

- A. The President shall have general supervision over the affairs of the organization and shall also perform **all** other duties as directed by the board or as assigned by these Bylaws.
- B. The President shall preside at all SAMSAR meetings and of the Board and shall present a report of the affairs of the organization to SAMSAR at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Duties of the Vice President shall consist of the following:

- A. The Vice President shall assist the President whenever needed and shall perform all the duties of the President at his/her request or in his absence or disability.
- B. The Vice President shall assume the duties of Training Officer and shall act as chairperson of the Training Committee.
- C. The Vice President shall keep an account of the attendance and training certification for each member and submit a written report annually to the Board.
- D. The Vice President shall maintain a historical record of SAMSAR activities and distribute appropriate news material or articles to interested organizations and to the news media.
- E. The Vice President shall also perform all other duties as directed by the board or as assigned by these Bylaws.

Section 3. Duties of the Treasurer shall consist of the following:

- A. The Treasurer shall act under the direction of the Board and shall have responsibility for all the funds of the organization.
- B. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate written record of all transactions of the organization.
- C. The Treasurer shall also perform all other duties as directed by the board or as assigned by these Bylaws.

Section 4. Duties of the Secretary shall consist of the following:

A. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Board and General meetings. In the absence of the Secretary, Directors present at any meeting may designate any person to act as Secretary for such meeting.

B. Maintain and send annual reports to the Arizona Corporation Commission.

C.. The Secretary shall also perform all other duties as directed by the board or as assigned by these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

Section 1. The Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 4 board members. The President reserves the right to appoint 2 alternate board members.

Section 2. A quorum shall consist of a majority of board members present.

Section 3. Each member of the Board shall have one vote.

3a. President shall not have a vote except in the case of a tie.

Section 4. Motions voted upon by the Board shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board members present.

Section 5. The Board shall meet at least 5 times per year. The President may call additional meetings at his/her discretion.

Section 6. The Board shall create and prescribe duties of the committees and appoint members thereof.

Section 7. Annual meeting will be held at the January meetings each year.

Section 8. The Board may impose disciplinary action or expel any member guilty of any conduct which adversely affects the best interests of SAMSAR.

Section 9. The Board may remove from office any member of the Board who does not perform his or her duty as outlined in these By Laws. All removals must have the approval of the majority of the Board.

Section 10. Roberts Rules of Order shall supplement and govern parliamentary procedure where the Constitution and By-Laws are silent.

ARTICLE VII. BYLAWS

Section 1. Bylaws of this organization may be amended, altered, repealed, changed or corrected, in whole or in part, by majority vote of the members present at the annual SAMSAR meeting. Nothing contained within these bylaws shall supersede any Policy, Order, or Directive of the Sheriff. Changes to the bylaws are subject to the final approval of the Sheriff.

Section 1. (a) During the first year of its existence, the Board may by special meeting called by the President, amend these bylaws as needed to address unexpected issues which may arise.

Section 2. Each member shall be given a written copy of any proposed changes at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual SAMSAR meeting.

Section 3. A proposed bylaw change that is submitted in a timely matter, may be amended, altered, changed or corrected by a majority vote of members present at the annual SAMSAR meeting, resubmitted in its adjusted form and be presented for vote to the membership.

Section 4. Any changes of the bylaws shall become effective immediately after adoption by the membership.

ARTICLE VIII. VOTING

Section 1. Each member of this organization, including the Sheriff or his Representative, is entitled to one vote on all matters referred to the membership.

Section 2. Absentee and proxy votes must be in writing and signed by the member issuing the proxy vote. A proxy is a vote made by one member on behalf of another. Email authorizations are acceptable.

Section 3. Absentee and proxy votes must be in the hands of the President prior to the time the issue is voted upon.

Section 4. Unless otherwise specified by these bylaws, business matters voted upon by the members shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present, in person or by representation as in Article X, Section 3.

Section 5. Only members in good standing may vote on any matter requiring said vote.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION OF SAMSAR

Section 1. Upon dissolution of SAMSAR, its assets shall be distributed to any charitable organization in the United States which qualifies under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and/or according to a plan of distribution to be approved by the membership.

Section 2. Any assets provided by the Sheriff's Department will be returned to the Sheriff's Department.