

# Anderson County Sheriff's Office MSaR Program

## Overview

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue (MSaR) program is an extension of the Sheriff's Office, which means that all members are held to the same standards of conduct concerning departmental rules and regulations as a sworn Deputy.

The MSaR program was organized in 2011 to serve as a search and rescue function and to create positive public relations within the community. On July 28, 2011, Sheriff John Skipper approved the incorporation of a MSaR program, a totally **volunteer** program of the Community Services Division.

CERT / MSaR Program Manager: Anita Allison Donley  
(864) 844-5005, [adonley@andersoncountysc.org](mailto:adonley@andersoncountysc.org)

MSaR Coordinator / First Responder: Randy Creamer, Captain (Retired)  
(864) 844-3571, [randy@trainatc.com](mailto:randy@trainatc.com)

Training Coordinator / Safety Advisor: Mike Kinsey, 864-933-6713,  
[Mike@StartemRight.com](mailto:Mike@StartemRight.com)  
Assistant Lori Childress and SeR staff, 864-561-0500, [Lori@StartemRight.com](mailto:Lori@StartemRight.com)

Any questions or concerns may be addressed to:

Anita Allison Donley  
Community Projects Coordinator  
CERT / MSaR Program Manager  
Anderson County Sheriff's Office  
305 Camson Road  
Anderson, South Carolina 29625

Unlike a riding club where members may have a vote, MSaR program members are subject to the particular rules, regulations and departmental policy and procedures set by the Sheriff's Office. Any disagreement is reviewed by the chain of command. Due to the high liability of the unit, rules violations will be dealt with severely and expeditiously.

Anita Allison Donley, Community Projects Coordinator, CERT/MSaR Program Manager  
Randy Creamer, MSaR Coordinator  
John Skipper, Sheriff

# ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MSaR Program

## GUIDELINES

### PURPOSE

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office MSaR program is a unit of volunteers within Anderson County. Members of the MSaR program are expected to abide by the policies and procedures of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office while participating in the MSaR program. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office recognizes the volunteer as a valuable resource for the Sheriff's Office. Volunteers embody the concept that law enforcement is the responsibility of every citizen. The members of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office MSaR program will consist of the eligible citizen volunteers who wish to contribute their time and talents to assist and support the Anderson County Sheriff's Office in the delivery of search & rescue services to the community.

### POLICY

#### **Authority**

- Members of the MSaR program have NO **law enforcement** authority.
- Authority granted to a MSaR program member by the Sheriff shall be valid only while the volunteer team member is engaged in the actual performance of Anderson County Sheriff's Office authorized duty or approved functions.
- Volunteers who participate in the MSaR program of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office shall NOT abuse the authority granted to them for any reason.
- All participants must recognize that as volunteers they do NOT have the authority to arrest any individual or to assist in the arrest of any individual.
- Participants in the MSaR program must complete an equestrian training program approved by the Anderson County Sheriff's Office **prior** to any participation in the MSaR program.
- Volunteers must also sign a release from liability form approved by the Anderson County Sheriff's Office before participation in the MSaR program.
- Failure of any volunteer to adhere to all policies, procedures and regulations of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office will result in the volunteer's immediate expulsion from the MSaR program.

**Eligibility** – MSaR program volunteer applicants must, at a minimum, meet the following basic requirements:

- Be a graduate of Basic CERT within one year of membership in MSaR
- Complete the approved horsemanship training program
- Complete the Anderson County Sheriff's Office approved release of liability form;
- Must possess the qualities of honesty, maturity, self-discipline and good judgment;
- Maintain the highest standard of personal appearance and professional conduct;
- Must be 16 years of age. Participants 16 years of age must be accompanied on duty with another team member 21 years of age or older;
- Members under 18 years of age must have all paperwork, including waivers, signed by a parent or guardian;
- Participants under 18 years of age are required to wear helmets. Helmets for participants 18 years of age and older are optional;
- Must be able to pass a Anderson County Sheriff's Office background check;
- Members shall attend at least 30% of team meetings, 30% of searches, practice or real, 30% of the Horsemanship training;
- Members failing to meet these minimums for one quarter will provide a written plan to the MSaR Coordinator that will bring the member into compliance.
- Members failing to meet minimums will be placed on probation.
- Members failing to resolve deficiencies over a year may be released from the program by the CERT / MSaR Program Manager.
- Members shall possess suitable tack and carry minimum required equipment on all combined or individual team exercises;
- Members shall keep qualified horse fit to ride, is sound and passes inspection. Horse must be maintained in a healthy manner and under no circumstances be abused or neglected;
- Members must demonstrate adequate horsemanship skills. Qualification rides are scheduled throughout the year;
- Members must be in good health and physical condition;

- Members must comply with Incident Command System (ICS) guidelines;
- Members must be reasonably accessible by phone or text and available for emergency callouts\*;
- Members must take direction from sheriff's office officials and team leaders. The member assumes the risk of facing stressful, demanding, and difficult situations;
- Members must have access to a horse, trailer, vehicle to pull and required equipment at all times in case of emergency call-outs;
- Members are required to wear designated safety vests, long pants and appropriate shirts while on duty. Boots are recommended when on duty. No tennis shoes are allowed;
- Members are not to permit non-members to use horses or equipment while on duty. Special conditions apply to community appearances;
- Members are not covered under Sheriff's Office insurance or workers comp insurance.
- All new members serve an initial six month probationary period.

*\* Although we request that all members be reasonably available, this is a volunteer organization and all members have the right to refuse to participate in a search or emergency incident.*

**Duties** – While horseback riding involves some inherent danger, MSaR program members will be utilized in non-violent situations and situations which do not involve dangerous criminal activities. MSaR program members shall NOT undertake any task which they know or suspect that they or their animal is unable to complete safely and effectively. MSaR program members may be called upon for special details including:

Parades

Public relations demonstrations

Large scale civic events

Searches and rescues of missing persons

Other activities as approved by the Sheriff

## **Responsibilities:**

- Members are required to maintain and keep a personal inventory of all issued equipment.
- Each MSaR program member is responsible for maintaining proficient riding ability, training proficiency, including exercising caution, safety and responsibility to the mount. Each member will pass an annual qualification test.
- MSaR program members shall exercise proper judgment in utilizing corrective or disciplinary measures upon their mount. This is especially true in areas where MSaR program members are within view of the general public.
- All MSaR program members are responsible for the proper disposal of their mount's manure unless safety dictates otherwise.
- Public relations are a very important aspect of the MSaR program's mission. All members of the MSaR program will display above average public relations techniques that contribute to the mission of the MSaR program and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

## **Reports:**

- The MSaR Coordinator in charge of the MSaR program shall make an annual report to the Sheriff of the hours worked for each year by each MSaR program volunteer.
- The MSaR Coordinator shall be responsible for insuring the proper training of each member of the MSaR program whether a sworn member or a volunteer.
- Any injury resulting from an encounter with a member of the MSaR program shall be immediately reported to the Sheriff through the chain of command.
- A comprehensive written report (Incident Report) shall be filed documenting any injury or other mishap which may occur or be complained of having occurred as a result of an encounter with a member of the MSaR program.
- The MSaR Coordinator in charge of the MSaR program shall maintain a copy of all reports filed by members of the MSaR program as well as training records for each member of the MSaR program and each horse utilized by the MSaR program.

**Dismissal or Resignation from the MSaR program** – Any major or repeated safety violations, or allegations of impropriety, criminal misconduct or violations of Anderson County Sheriff's Office policies, procedures or rules by any member of the MSaR program shall be properly documented and referred to the CERT / MSaR Program Manager for investigation.

- The CERT / MSaR Program Manager and the MSaR Coordinator shall thoroughly investigate all reports of misconduct and make a written report with recommendations to the Sheriff.
- The Sheriff and the CERT / MSAR Program Manager shall be the only persons with authority to dismiss a member of the MSaR program from service to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.
- The Sheriff and the CERT / MSaR Program Managers' decision to dismiss or retain a member of the MSaR program from service to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office shall be final.
- Upon termination or resignation of a member of the MSaR program from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, the former member of the MSaR program shall return all material belonging to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office or Anderson County within twenty-four (24) hours of the termination or resignation.

*The MSaR program does not teach basic riding/training lessons or how to care for your horse. The MSaR program improves upon the "basics" and works with skills and training needed for a "mounted" program.*

### **Qualification Course**

- The qualification course starts with horses on the trailer.
- The applicant will report to the evaluator with a copy of MSaR Guidelines and filled in forms from the last pages of this document.
- Then, at the evaluator's direction, the applicant will be observed leading the horse(s) off the trailer.
- Proper tying horse to the trailer - Evaluator will observe the rider properly tie the horse to the trailer in a way that the horse will not be able to break free.
- Tacking the horse - Evaluator will observe the rider tack the horse.
- Mounting/Dismounting - Rider will mount and dismount from both sides of the horse with no assistance from another person, stool, trailer etc.

**The Obstacle Course.** All parts of the course will be performed mounted, unless the judge directs the horse be lead through or over an obstacle. The rider will be evaluated on maintaining control of the horse at all times, safety, and completing at least 70% of the obstacles. The course may consist of items similar to the following:

**Black Tarp** - horse will be able to walk over a black tarp on the ground. Rider will maintain control of the horse

**Shinny Things Into Narrow Passage** - Rider will guide the horse past shinny things hanging from a tree, then in between traffic barrels that become narrow. Horse will be under control at all times.

**Slalom Course** - Rider will navigate back and forth around traffic cones maintaining control of the horse.

**Bags On Poles** - Rider will walk horse between two poles with plastic trash bags attached.

**Bridge** - Rider will cross a wooden bridge.

**Lope\Canter** - At the direction of the evaluator, the rider will lope or canter the horse.

**Step Over** - Rider will guide the horse to step over a pipe

**Clutter** - Rider will guide the horse through clutter on the ground.

**Car Wash** - Rider will guide the horse through strips of canvas and ribbons.

**Police Line** - Rider will guide the horse between yellow police crime scene tape,

**Water Crossing** - Rider will navigate across a stream of water.

**Drag** - Rider will pick up a rope and pull a log behind the horse.

**Side Pass** - Rider will side pass over a PVC pipe.

**Pivot In Box** - Rider will turn horse in a small circle in a box.

**Move Blanket** - Rider will move a blanket from one post to the next post

**Move Bucket** - Rider will move a bucket from one post to the next post

## **Emergency Equipment**

The horse will be tied during the first iteration of the Emergency Equipment sounds, then with the rider mounted.

**Rider blows the whistle three times.**

**Siren is activated.**

**Firearm is discharged in the area.**

**Search** -Applicant will form up with a horse and rider that he/she does not normally ride with into a column of twos and await movement to "move-out". When the command "On-Line" is given by the team leader, all members will line up facing perpendicular to the line with other horses and conduct a line search through an open field and through a wooded area.

- At the completion of the qualification course, the evaluator will discuss with the applicant any areas of concern they he/she has. At this time the applicant will be advised if he/she has passed the qualification course. If the applicant does not pass the qualification course, the applicant will be advised on what areas of concern the evaluator has and will be allowed to work on these areas and try out again at a later date.
- After successfully passing the qualification course, the rider will be placed on the team in a probationary status. The rider will then be required to participate in the Horsemanship training program.

**Horsemanship Training** is offered to provide the rider and mount the ability to handle unknown obstacles and situations that may be outside their confidence level and comfort zone. The training will help the rider train the horse to accept the rider's guidance and leadership and not just tolerate the rider. The training will NOT just rely upon a rider and mount being accustomed to apparatuses, situations, noises and close events, but rather teach the rider to maintain control using techniques that are fair, reasonable, and understandable to the horse.

The training is intended to provide a minimum level of safety while participating in special public activities without undue risk to themselves, fellow VMSaR program members, or to the general public. The training will help establish knowledge and awareness in the member that will encourage calmness and confidence necessary to work with the public while in a mounted or dismounted activity. The entire horsemanship training course must be completed by each horse in order to move on for possible certification. There are three phases to this training.

The member should view the Defensive riding DVD before attending the training.



**1) Round Pen Observation** - This exercise is intended to help members learn to observe horses, to "read" the horse's body language, and interpret the signals to determine the horse's attitude. There is NO intent that this is to train the horse. During the round pen observation, the member will be observed by a team trainer staff member with an unknown horse and then the member's horse in the round pen. The member will demonstrate their ability to successfully control the horse using the member's attention to detail, observation of the horse's body language, interpretation of those signals, and by using the member's body language to control the horse. The member will provide an oral explanation of what signals the horse is sending, and what attitude is being demonstrated. Examples of body language could be "playful", "inattentive", "uncooperative", "concerned", etc. Examples of attitude interpretation could be "willing", "not willing", "willful", or "hateful".

**2) Hobble Training** - During the hobble training the member learns to hobble the horse in a safe manner and setting. The member will learn to interpret the horse's response to the hobbles as frustration, angry, or anxiety. The horse will learn to be constrained without disruption or retaliation as it should if caught in wire, briars, etc.

**3) Defensive Riding** - During the Defensive Riding training the rider will learn to respond to out-of-control situations such as bucking, run-away or other dangerous situations. The member learns techniques that regain control without increasing the horse's anxiety, and without risking fighting, rearing or throwing itself down. Tying and trailering principals are discussed.

## **Certification Requirements**

Each member is required to successfully complete the MSaR program Obstacle Course, Practice Search, and Horsemanship Training prior to participation in any mounted activity.

Certification takes place on an annual basis. Every member and horse must certify (Qualification) each year and each member must certify on every horse they are going to ride for duty each year.

The certification process will be evaluated by the CERT / MSaR program Manager and the MSaR Coordinator's appointed Training & Safety Officer of the Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program.

## **Certification Test Results:**

- Class One – Allows the member to participate in most MSaR program functions:
  - Search and Rescue
  - Community Events
  - Horse Shows
  - Parades, etc.
- Class Two – For probationary members. Can possibly participate in the above activities but:
  - Must have approval from both the MSaR Coordinator and the Training & Safety Officer.
  - The horse and rider must be observed to see how both handle new situations out in the public.
  - Probationary members **must** ride with a senior member.
- Class Three – Cannot participate in MSaR program functions or activities. Can continue to come to all trainings and participate. This is highly recommended because the more training and riding time, the better horse and rider should become.

***Note: The MSaR Coordinator and the Training & Safety Officer reserve the right to approve of or disapprove of any member who has signed up to participate in any MSaR program function at any given time. Members are to understand there are functions the MSaR program is asked to participate in that the MSaR Coordinator and Training & Safety Officer will pick riders specifically for that function.***

**Uniforms** – The MSaR program has two uniforms:

- The field uniform of long trousers or jeans, with the issued vest, and Riding boots or Western boots. Tennis shoes are not acceptable. A helmet is permissible. During cold or inclement weather, the reflective safety vest must be worn over the jacket.
- The static display uniform of MSaR logo T-shirt or hoody.

## **MSaR Coordinator Requirements**

- The MSaR Coordinator is required to meet all regular member requirements.
- Communication
- Provide a quarterly memo to the Sheriff to describe team activities, training exercises, planning and member status each March 15, June 15, Sept. 15, and Dec. 15.
- Disseminate information from meetings as well as announcements of planned activities to team members.
- Training - Organize and conduct at least four (4) riding/training activities per year. These activities should include but not be limited to the following:
  - Search and rescue techniques
  - First aid and CPR
  - GPS and/or compass and map exercises
  - Trail riding safety and weather condition awareness
  - Radio communications
- The MSaR Coordinator is required to attend meetings with the Sheriff as requested.
- Participation as member of "evaluating team" when qualifying rides are scheduled.
- Record Keeping
- Keep records of team activities and each member's participation (important because each member is required to attend a minimum of 30% of all team activities). Those team members who have not attended at least 30% of all team activities in the calendar year will not be eligible for placement on the team the next year.
- Keep records of horses qualified by each member.
- The MSaR Coordinator is required to limit all activities to qualified members and qualified horses only. Exception is made for horses/riders that are conditionally qualified to participate in training activities but not in actual missions.

## **Horse Requirements**

- Horse Gender
- Horses must be 4 years of age or older
- Stallions– **not** allowed
- Mares – Allowed if not lactating
- Foals – **not** allowed
- Geldings – Allowed
- Shots and Coggins
- SIX way vaccinations (West Nile, Rhino, Flu, (E,W,V) Sleeping Sickness, Tetanus) or equivalent, and Rabies are required.
- Strangles vaccination is recommended.
- Negative Coggins: A current copy of Coggins report is mandatory to be kept on record and maintained in MSaR program files.
- All horses must be certified before participating in MSaR program duties. Non-certified horses that members are preparing for possible certification may attend regular training sessions.
- Shoes are recommended. Those using boots must demonstrate reliability. Delays or incidents due to boots will require shoeing for future participation.

## **Tack Requirements** – All tack must be in good repair.

Saddles may be any style except treeless, or pads. Bridles with snaffle, or curb with shanks less than 6” and ports less than 2” are acceptable, as long as they are appropriate for the rider’s skill, and the horse’s level of training experience. Bosal hackamores, side-pulls, and halter hackamores are allowed unless a horse and rider demonstrate control issues. Mechanical hackamores and tie downs are not authorized.

Halters and leads must keep horses safe from getting loose and becoming safety issues. Rope halters with attached leads with no hardware are required. Break-away halters, leads, or other gimmicks are safety issues and not allowed.

- Chest bands are suggested. Cruppers are allowed.
- Items to be carried or in saddle bags will include:
  - Compass
  - Fly repellent
  - Water
  - Rain gear
  - Wire cutter (adequate to cut barbed wire and vines)
  - Whistle
  - Vest
  - Mirror (Optional)
  - Rope halter and lead (Optional).
  - Eye Protection (Optional)

### **Call-Out Procedures**

Call-Outs are executed through the Anderson County Sheriff's phone and text procedure process.

In the event that communications are down, MSaR program members are to report to their Team Base for further instructions. ***DO NOT BRING HORSES TO TEAM BASE IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.***

MSaR program members are to check in at their designated staging area before joining a mission. In addition, team members are to check out at their staging area before leaving an incident. This is for the safety and accountability of all of our members.

MSaR program members are to ***never self-deploy*** to the scene of an incident. Any member reported self-deploying to an incident will immediately be asked to leave the scene and will be removed from the MSaR program.

### **Selection, Training & Qualification**

#### Stage 1

If all requirements are met, a private citizen may submit their application to the CERT / MSaR Program Manager of the Community Services Division. The application will be reviewed to ensure all paperwork is complete.

#### Stage 2

If an applicant passes the initial inspection and their paperwork is complete, the applicant will participate in the Qualification exercise.

#### Stage 3

Applicants designated for further consideration will be directed to participate in a Roundpen familiarization session, and hobble training session.

# ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## MSaR PROGRAM

### ORGANIZATION AND CHAIN OF COMMAND

#### Anderson County Sheriff

#### Community Projects Coordinator, CERT / MSaR Program Manager

- In relation to MSaR, issues and supervises activities, reports to the Director of Community Services.
- Prepares newsletters for mailing to all members.
- The CERT / MSaR Program Manager, during on-scene incidents, is responsible for:
  - Maintaining and reporting all mapping and trail assignments to the Incident Commander
  - Communication with the MSAR Coordinator
  - Reporting field status to the Incident Commander
  - Ensuring that operations and communications of logistics, staging, field operations and safety aspects are followed according to the program guidelines.

#### MSaR Coordinator

- Review all upcoming events, public relation activities and MSaR program operations;
- Assesses each activity to determine mounted or non-mounted member requirements;
- The MSaR Coordinator is to coordinate scheduled activity ensuring that each activity has the required number of member participation needed.
- The MSaR Coordinator, during on-scene incidents, is responsible for:
  - Mapping and trail assignments
  - Communication with field units
  - Reporting field status to CERT / MSaR program Manager
  - Securing the scene if a missing person is located by a mounted unit
  - Enforcing laws and executing arrest powers (only by certified law enforcement officers)

## **Training / Safety Officer and Assistant**

- Supervises all mounted training for the MSaR program to provide a minimum level of safety prior to participation by members in mounted or dismounted special public activities without undue risk to themselves, fellow members or to the public.
- May suspend any member from the current operation having a major or repeated safety infringement, and will report the incident to the MSaR Coordinator for further disposition.
- All other duties as requested by the MSaR Coordinator. May be directed to assume acting Coordinator duties in the absence of the MSaR Coordinator.
- Chosen by the Community Projects Coordinator / CERT / MSAR Program Manager.

## **Logistics & Staging Administrator (CERT)**

- Assists with safety and direction during mounted training for the MSaR program. Assists to ensure safety requirements prior to participation by members in mounted or dismounted special public activities without undue risk to themselves, fellow members or to the public.
- During on-scene incidents, is responsible for:
  - Radio/walkie-talkie and GPS distribution
  - On-scene contact for veterinarian in the event of an injured horse.
  - Arranging water supply for horses in the event of extensive hourly searches and rescues.
  - Establishing a staging area on scene that includes:
    - Shade for volunteers and horses
    - Adequate space for loading / unloading horses
    - Check-in / out control for volunteers entering and leaving an incident scene.

- Submit report to CERT / MSaR Programs Manager detailing all MSaR members on scene, their status and the status of the staging area.
- All other duties as requested by the MSAR Coordinator.
- Chosen by the Community Projects Coordinator, CERT / MSaR Programs Manager.

### **Chain of Command**

John Skipper – Sheriff

Anita Allison Donley – CERT / MSaR Programs Manager

Randy Creamer –MSaR Coordinator /First Responder



# ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MSaR PROGRAM

## SEARCH PROCEDURES

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain proper search procedures to assist and support sworn and non-sworn personnel in the performance of their duties.

### PROCEDURES

**The "Call-Out" for a search is issued by the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.**

The 9-1-1 Central Communications Center contacts the CERT / MSaR Program Manager of the MSaR program when the team has been requested. The CERT / MSaR Program Manager contacts the MSaR Coordinator, who, in turn:

MSaR Coordinator – Notification of Search and Information of Search

The MSaR Coordinator is responsible for "call-outs" and will call members that are certified for "search and rescue" and advise the members of the following:

The MSaR program has been "called out" for a search;

Ascertain if the member is available to participate in the search;

Give information to the member(s) relating to the search:

Place to meet

Who to report to (This is usually the CERT / MSaR Program Manager or MSaR Coordinator).

**Search Procedure** - The MSaR search is conducted with members riding in partner pairs of two. There must be at least two members together at all times. Members will never be sent out by themselves. Probationary members will be required to partner with a senior member.

When you arrive: Park your truck and trailer and go directly to the check-in point and staging area; report in with name and current cell number.

You will be given specific information regarding the search as follows:

Who you are looking for;

Last seen;

How long they are missing;

Area, trail or section that your group will be in charge of covering in the particular search

After receiving your orders and being assigned a riding partner:

Prepare your horse and yourself for the search;

See the MSaR Coordinator so they may notate the trail you are assigned to and the time you leave the staging area.

Senior team members will be assigned probationary team members for riding partners.

Riding partners will not separate unless directed by the MSaR Coordinator.

### **If the missing person is found:**

If the person or persons are found en-route to the search staging area, you will be notified by cell phone or you will be advised of this when you reach the staging area. Every effort will be made to contact members early if the search is cancelled for any reason.

If your group **finds the missing person(s)**, immediately call the MSaR Coordinator.

Your group will be called, contacted by radio, or when your search area is completed when and if the person or persons are found.

Three long blasts on an air horn will be a signal for all members to return to base.

### **Clothing/Uniforms- When you arrive at the staging area, you should be in:**

Vest

Boots (Required) – **One cannot ride in tennis shoes.**

Long Pants

**Items needed on a search** – Depending on the weather (remember the weather can change at any given moment) **always be prepared for a search**. Once you have prepared yourself for a search, most of your supplies can be left in the trailer or truck so that you have these things available at a moment's notice.

Jacket/Rain Coat – Lightweight or Heavyweight

Saddlebags (see Horse and Tack Requirements Policy)

Food (snacks and water)

Cell phone

Reflective safety vest

Riding Helmet (*Optional*)

# ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MSaR PROGRAM

Please complete and bring these last pages to the Obstacle evaluation course.

## Statement of Compliance

I have read, understand, and will comply with the ACSO MSaR program Guidelines  
I understand that failure to meet the requirements may result in my suspension from  
the MSaR.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EVALUATION SHEET

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rider Handler Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rider Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Horse Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

### **Trailing/Unloading/Loading**

Attitude towards activity:

Willing \_\_\_ Unwilling \_\_\_ Willful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_ Fearful \_\_\_

Attitude towards Human:

Respectful \_\_\_ Familiar \_\_\_ Disrespectful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_ Fearful/Intimidated \_\_\_

### **Tying**

Horse's Reaction to being tied: \_\_\_\_\_

Human's ability to tie: safely \_\_\_ securely \_\_\_

Tack used to tie: safe \_\_\_ secure \_\_\_

### **Tacking**

Attitude towards activity: Willing \_\_\_ Unwilling \_\_\_ Willful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_ Fearful \_\_\_

Attitude towards Human: Respectful \_\_\_ Familiar \_\_\_ Disrespectful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_  
Fearful/Intimidated \_\_\_

### **Mounting**

Attitude towards activity: Willing \_\_\_ Unwilling \_\_\_ Willful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_ Fearful \_\_\_

Attitude towards Human: Respectful \_\_\_ Familiar \_\_\_ Disrespectful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_  
Fearful/Intimidated \_\_\_

### **Riding w Control**

Attitude towards activity: Willing \_\_\_ Unwilling \_\_\_ Willful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_ Fearful \_\_\_

Attitude towards Human: Respectful \_\_\_ Familiar \_\_\_ Disrespectful \_\_\_ Hateful \_\_\_  
Fearful/Intimidated \_\_\_

## ACSO MSaR Qualification

Points:

- **1** for every completed maneuver or obstacle (m/o)
- **0** for m/o not attempted
- **-1** for m/o failed
- **-5** for out of control or unwillingness w/o correction, i.e., 2xfront or 2xback 1 foot in the air
- **-10** each willfulness, -25 each hatefulness, -50 for hatefulness with intent

No: Stallions, tie-downs, treeless saddles/pads, "mechanical" hackamores

This qualification is meant to simulate the conditions, and stress horse & rider may encounter during training or operations.

### **Step 1**

Members name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender S, M, G

Color \_\_\_\_\_

### **Step 2**

Horses individually unloaded, loaded, tied, tacked, and mounted.

Time started \_\_\_\_\_ Time rode off \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

### **Step 3**

Obstacle course, Trotting between obstacles Start time: \_\_\_\_\_

- #1 CANTER ACROSS DAM
- #2 THEN WALK THRU TALL GRASS TO:
- #3 MUD HOLE
- #4 DRAG
- #5 SIDEPASS
- #6 PIVOT BOX
- #7 RAIN COAT
- #8 TARP
- #9 SHINY DISK
- #10 DISMOUNT
- #11 WEAVE SLALOM COURSE
- #12 MOUNTING (STANDS QUIETLY AND WAITS, OR...)
- #13 BRIDGE, LEADING (FOLLOWS, OR 'DRAGS', IE WILLING, VS UNWILLING)
- #14 CANTERING, AROUND THE LOOP
- #15 GUIDING WHILE CANTERING
- #16 STOPPING BACKING (WILLING, OR THROWS HEAD, RESISTS, OR ...)
- #17 STEPPING OVER OBSTACLE AND THRU CLUTTER
- #18 CAR WASH STRIPS
- #19 JOG BACK ACROSS DAM
- #20 Walk thru Gauntlet.

Time off course: \_\_\_\_\_ Course time: \_\_\_\_\_



# MSaR Qualification Course

MSaR Qualification Course will be in two phases

## Phase One

Qualification Course (See qualification course outline in policy)

Ability to safely walk or trot horse in column of two

Ability to safely conduct a line search

## Phase Two

Round Pen Observation

Hobble Training

Defensive Riding

## **MSaR Members will be divided into Three Classifications**

### Class One

Member has completed the Phase One and Two Qualifications with a passing score:

Is current with 30% of training, 30% of Meetings, and 30% of all call outs in the last two consecutive quarters.

A status of Class One MSaR Member gives the member the right to:

- Wear the Orange MSaR Vest
- Participate in all MSaR functions

### Class Two

Member has completed the Phase One MSaR Qualification Course with a passing score but has not completed Phase Two.

Is current with 30% of training, 30% of Meetings, and 30% of all call outs in the last two consecutive quarters.

A Class Two member will be issued a Green CERT vest and will be required ride with a Class One Member (Orange Vest) on any training or active search.

### Class Three

A class three member has attempted but not passed the qualification course **or**

A member has fallen below 30% in two consecutive quarters of training, callouts, and meetings. A class three member will not be allowed to wear a MSaR vest nor participate in an active search,



## Anderson County Sheriff's Office

Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue  
305 Camson Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
864-260-4205  
Fax: 864-260-1373

### Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue Waiver and Release From Liability

By my signature below I attest that I desire to participate in the Anderson County (SC) Sheriff's Office Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program, a special team of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). I recognize that I will be riding a horse, which is in and of itself a dangerous activity and that I will receive supervision from a Sheriff's Office official under the authority of the Sheriff of Anderson County. I agree to abide by all rules, directions and orders given to me by the official who supervises my activities and recognize that my failure to do so will result in my being expelled from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program.

I realize that I may be exposed to any number of dangers while participating in the Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program, including diseases, bloodborne diseases, intoxicated persons, violent persons, persons with mental disorders and persons who may have dangerous weapons.

I recognize that the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Warren Evans/Willow Creek Equine Services, Mike Kinsey and associates/Start'em Right and the County of Anderson cannot and does not guarantee my safety during my participation in the Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program. I recognize that the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Warren Evans/Willow Creek Equine Services, Mike Kinsey and associates/Start'em Right and the County of Anderson cannot and does not guarantee my horse's safety and health during my participation in the Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program.

I agree to hold harmless any owner of land on which we may be using for training or any activities .

I recognize that I am not a law enforcement officer and, therefore, I do not have the authority to arrest or to assist in the arrest of any person.

By my attached signature I certify that I have considered all of the factors above and any other possible danger involved in the Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program and that I agree to hold the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Warren Evans / Willow Creek Equine Services, Mike Kinsey and associates/ Start'em Right and the County of Anderson harmless and I hereby waive any claim which may arise against the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Anderson County, Warren Evans/Willow Creek Equine Services and Mike Kinsey and associates/Start'em Right as a result of my participation in the Anderson County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue program.

#### Participant:

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

DOB\_\_\_\_\_

#### Witness:

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_