



**London Search & Rescue**

## **Application Information Pack**

## Introduction

Thank you for your enquiry regarding joining London Search & Rescue. (LONSAR) Being a member of our organisation can be both very rewarding but also occasionally challenging, so we ask you to carefully read the following documents before making an application to join the Team:

- Team history and background
- Information on our team selection, induction and training process
- Application forms and person specification.

Having read these documents should you decide to proceed, please complete the application form online at <http://www.londonsar.com>

A paper version is available on request from the Recruitment Officer – email: [recruitment@londonsar.com](mailto:recruitment@londonsar.com), Please return your completed application form to the Recruitment Officer either by post or, preferably, by email.

Please be aware that should you be successful at the interview stage of the process; you will be invited to attend our next Search Technician course which will take place over four weekends and designated mandatory training evenings. The details and dates of the course will be explained during your recruitment evening.

Thank you for your interest.

Steve McGowan  
Operation Director

# LONDON SEARCH & RESCUE

## Team Background

London Search & Rescue (LONSAR) is an entirely voluntary lowland search and rescue organisation providing vital Search and Rescue services to local Police forces and other agencies. Its members share a common interest in providing this life-saving service for the people of London, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Today the team consists of around 85 members from all walks of life and locations across London and our neighboring counties. We pride ourselves in consistently providing a first-class professional Search and Rescue service whenever and wherever we are called upon. This is achieved through the commitment each member makes to continuous training, in the core skills of Search and Rescue. In addition to this many members train in the advanced capabilities of casualty care, Navigation, Mountain Bike Search, Search Dog Support, Radio User and Water Bank Search.

London Search and Rescue is a registered charity that provides teams of qualified search technicians to search for high risk vulnerable missing persons such as children and older adults. We are deployed by the Metropolitan Police but can also be called to assist other Lowland Rescue search teams and organisations in the UK.

We could provide search teams, rescue teams or first aid teams in support of the legal emergency services. We are called upon to search for high risk vulnerable missing persons, people who under normal circumstances may not be able to look after themselves; this includes children, older adults with dementia, Alzheimer's or people with learning disabilities. We also get many calls to search for people who are depressed or suicidal. We provide a Search Control, qualified Search managers and Search Teams.

## Who Can Join LONSAR

London Search and Rescue is an equal opportunities organisation. Any person who is over 18 and under 70 may apply for membership.

Due to the nature of our work we do require that operational searchers are fit enough to carry out the duties of a search team member. The ability to walk on uneven terrain which includes farmland, forests and open downland in both summer and winter conditions is required. You are required to complete an annual fitness test. (5 miles in 2 hours).

Also, due to the sensitive and confidential nature of vulnerable missing person cases, all members must be trustworthy and have high levels of integrity, so all members are required to successfully pass a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before joining.

Being a member of a search and rescue organisation is a significant commitment that should not be taken lightly. We realise that while we are all volunteers and have work, family and social obligations that sometimes preclude us taking part as much as we would like, we cannot compromise the maintenance of our high standards and operational capabilities. As a functional member, you should endeavour to make a commitment to attend searches when available and as much training as possible. Currently, core training nights are generally twice a month and one Sunday a month.

London Search and Rescue also welcomes 'non-operational' members. To assist in many different roles, such as fundraising, administration, etc.

### Training

We provide training for operational search members in a range of subjects, recognised with a Skill for justice (SFJ) Search Technician qualification.

- Basic Search Techniques
- Emergency First Aid to First Responder Tier D
- Radio Communication

- Scene of Crime Preservation
- NNAS Bronze Map Skills
- GPS training
- Canoe Search and Rescue
- Search Dog Support role
- Mountain Bike Search
- Water Bank Search
- Team Leadership
- Search Control Technician

## **Sponsorship**

We are always looking for sponsorship. This takes many forms and some local organisations and business provide services and equipment. If you can help please contact us to discuss what can be done.

London Search and Rescue is a registered charity and entirely community supported. To keep the team operational and trained, currently requires approximately £30,000 per year. This money can come from various grants and the rest from donations. All members are expected to assist in our fundraising efforts.

Team funds must cover the maintenance, repair and replacement of:

- Team equipment – vehicles, control trailer, technical rescue kit, stretchers, personal protective clothing.
- Medical/casualty care equipment and supplies.

As well as the above we must fund:

- Continuous training of team personal
- General running cost, insurance, administration, fuel etc.

## **Fees**

LONSAR members are required to pay an annual membership fee of £5.00;

Additionally, there is a one-time £35 refundable deposit for new members for the search kit LONSAR supplies to ensure it is returned.

# London Search & Rescue

## Selection, Induction and Training Process

1. The Recruitment Officer will initially process all applications to join the Team and acknowledge enquiries.

Enquirers can download an Application Pack from the [www.londonsar.com](http://www.londonsar.com) website.

The pack includes:

- a) background information on the team
  - b) an outline of the selection procedure including dates of the next Induction night and Search Technician's course
  - c) a person specification
2. The applicant then completes the online application form. A copy of this will be retained centrally. A copy will be sent to the Training Officer. The Recruitment Officer will invite applicants to an recruitment evening. The person specification will provide the criteria for selection and applicants will need to demonstrate that they satisfy all essential criteria.
  3. After the recruitment evening the applicants will be invited to an interview which is designed to further assess the applicant's motivation to join the Team, their fit within the Team and their capability in terms of personal skills and commitment. The Recruitment Group will aim to interview candidates at the earliest opportunity, and the interview will generally last 30 minutes. If the interview is not held within 8 weeks of the application being received, then the Secretary should write to the applicant to explain the situation.
  4. Following the interview the applicants will be informed in writing by the Secretary as to the decision made:

*--- If successful the applicant will be invited to attend the next Search Technician's course.*

*--- if unsuccessful reasons will be provided and if the Recruiting Group feels the applicant could support the team in other ways this will be highlighted*

5. The Recruitment Officer will send to the applicants relevant joining forms (which will include DBS vetting, Medical, Next of Kin and Additional information forms). They will also receive the details of the next Search Technician's course.

**Notes:**

***As part of the application process, due to the sensitive nature of information handled by the Team, vetting is mandatory.***

6. Applicants will not be allowed to attend the next Search Technician's course until they have been DBS vetted. Those who successfully complete the Search Technician's course will then be invited to join the Team as a Trainee Member. Trainee members will be added to the Call out List and can take part in operational searches.

**Notes:**

***Once on the call-out list ongoing commitment and skill levels will be assessed during the training period.***

If any areas for development have been identified, the Course Co-ordinator will inform the applicant of these at the end of the course. The Training Officer will retain a brief written report for each applicant, a copy of which will be available to them on request.

7. Following acceptance Trainees are given 3 months to satisfy the requirements of Full Team membership – a breakdown of these requirements will be provided by the Training Officer and set out in the logbook. At the end of this period a review with each Trainee will be organised by the Training, Operations and Borough Team Leaders who will be responsible for co-coordinating their training and development. Trainee members will be supplied with basic personal protection equipment by the Logistics Officer on successful completion of the Search Technician's course – a £35 refundable deposit is required at the time of issue.

**Notes:**

***Trainee members will be expected to demonstrate a minimum commitment – 50% of all training nights. Trainees demonstrating a higher commitment will be likely, if expectations are met, to be considered for Full membership prior to the end of the training period.***

***Membership Subscription of £5 is now due to be paid***

***At any stage in the process the Committee has the right to reserve judgment as to the suitability of the individual concerned.***

8. At the end of the 3-month training period the Training Officer will review the progress of each trainee and make recommendations to the Committee as to those who should be accepted as Full Team members.
9. The Training Officer will then confirm the decision made by the Committee.

## **Contact Us**

Website

<http://www.londonsar.com>

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