



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the community with a viable, dedicated, and highly trained group of search and rescue volunteers. Through fundraising and management efforts, the Society enables volunteers to enhance and improve their skills while supporting the community.

NANAIMO SEARCH AND RESCUE SOCIETY

The Nanaimo Search and Rescue Society (NSAR) is a registered non-profit society in British Columbia. The group was formed in 1991 and is composed of volunteers with no yearly dues or fees. NSAR is responsible for ground and inland water search and rescue within the jurisdiction of the Nanaimo RCMP detachment. The area covered includes portions of the Regional District of Nanaimo, as well as within the City of Nanaimo.

The society is responsible for fundraising activities in order to provide the members with the necessary funds, equipment, and training to fulfill their mission. The society manages group assets and directs non-operational aspects, such as community education.

THE GROUP

The Nanaimo Search and Rescue Group currently consists of three search managers, six team leaders and between twenty-five to thirty members. Each of these contributes their own qualifications and skills to the group such as:

- Swiftwater Rescue
- Tracking
- Rope Rescue
- First Aid
- Mountaineering
- Survival
- Communications

TRAINING AND MEETINGS

New members are required to complete the Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) course to be qualified as a search member. The GSAR course is free and is only offered through the group when operations determine a course is needed. Volunteers should expect to obtain their Standard First Aid Ticket (or equivalent) on their own before they can be certified for GSAR.

GSAR certified members are permitted to participate in a number of training courses developed by the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC). The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) contracts out training for volunteer SAR organizations to the JIBC. PEP is accountable to the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Example training courses:

- Team Leader
- Swiftwater Rescue
- Tracking
- Search Management
- Rope Rescue
- Avalanche Rescue

Training takes place every Wednesday evening from 1900 to 2100 hrs, with additional monthly training sessions (4 hours, typically on a Sunday). The group conducts training at various locations around Nanaimo and at the Regional District of Nanaimo Building on the corner of Hammond Bay and Applecross Road. The facility provides a classroom setting, as well as an outdoor practice area.

Members are encouraged to help plan training activities and are welcome to share their ideas and skills with the group. Current training schedules and call-out lists are available online at www.nanaimosar.bc.ca as well as at each practice.

NSAR Executive meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at 1800 hrs. The executive consists of 7 committees: budget and funds allocation, fundraising, membership, equipment, vehicles, outreach and ops liaison.

Committee heads are elected at the "Annual General Meeting" in February of each year. All NSAR members are required to participate.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M CALLED OUT FOR A SEARCH?

All searches (or rescues) are initiated by the RCMP. The Search Managers receive a call from the RCMP, which starts the ball rolling. While the Search Managers get all the details regarding the search and do the necessary prep work, NSAR members are phoned via a call-out tree. Rendezvous locations are given, and members are expected to arrive, with all their necessary gear and 24-hour pack, as soon as possible. In most situations, the search bus is used as the search base and members are told to report to the bus. Once assembled, the search managers will issue directions to Team Leaders. Each Team Leader is responsible for directing his/her team in search activities and the search commences.

There are two forms a searcher is required to sign at every search. At all search and/or training sessions, members must sign a form stating the time they arrived and left the scene. At a search, time is recorded from the moment the members received the call out. Signing in and out assures that all members are accounted for at the end of a search. It is also required to ensure that all members are covered by WCB if any injuries or accidents occur. Mileage to and from the rendezvous point will also be compensated for, so it is important to keep a record of the kilometers traveled and report them on an expense claim. Meals will also be compensated for if searches last more than three hours.

NSAR CLOTHING

Members are required to be active with the group for at least 3 months before purchasing any "rescue" clothing items. Upon completion of the first 3 months, members can purchase rescue T-shirts and hats. After 1 year of volunteering, members are given a NSAR North Face T-shirt, at no cost, as a thank you for their service. After 2 years of volunteering, members are given the NSAR yellow Gortex jacket as appreciation for their long-term commitment with the group. Additional items are also for sale and listed below.

Item	Time in Group	Cost
"I Support" NSAR T-shirt	No time	\$20.00
NSAR Blue Cotton T-shirts	3 Months	\$20.00
NSAR Ball Cap	3 Months	\$ 17.00 - can be purchased at the Dog's Ear in Rutherford Mall
NSAR North Face T-shirt	1 Year	Group Purchases first one, additional shirts are \$38.00
NSAR Gortex Jacket	2 Years	Group purchases jackets only in large quantities when funds are available.