

## About Pierce County Explorer Search & Rescue:

In 1956 Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) was formed in King County starting with one explorer post. Search and rescue (SAR) was in its infancy in the United States and many of the current SAR practices and tactics were developed by the founders of the ESAR program. ESAR has grown in Washington with 9 counties supporting active ESAR programs. A state organization, Washington ESAR, (WESAR) was formed to ensure that consistent standards and training are maintained to provide a quality program throughout the state. WESAR is comprised of youth and adult volunteers dedicated to helping those who are lost or injured in wilderness or urban settings. We also assist the Sheriff's Department in other missions such as flood control and crime scene evidence searches.

In 1965 the second ESAR unit was formed in Pierce County. It has grown over the years into one of the premier organizations in the Search and Rescue community in the State of Washington.

Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue members are welcome and encouraged to participate in our monthly meetings, Public Relations events (such as the Daffodil Parade), and fundraisers. In order to be qualified to respond to search missions, all members must go through the appropriate training.

### How to Join Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue:

- Go to [pcesar.org/join](https://pcesar.org/join) to register for Course 1A or 1B and subscribe to the Membership and Training Information Mailing List
  - Do not click Create new account until you have passed Course 1



**SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER for Course 1A or 1B:**

- Complete the three FEMA NIMS courses and provide the completion certificates at Course 1
- Show up for Course 1A or 1B @ 7:00am at Camp Lakeview at 32919 Benbow Dr E, Graham, WA 98338 (Parents – please come to fill out paperwork and stay for the equipment orientation.)

*We know the way! Follow us!*

Facebook: [@PierceCountyESAR](#)  
Instagram: [@PierceESAR](#)  
Twitter: [@PierceESAR](#)  
Web: [www.SoOthersMayLive.org](http://www.SoOthersMayLive.org)

## **Course 1**

Course 1 serves as an introduction to ESAR. Scheduled in November, this classroom course teaches the basics of many techniques required for SAR field personnel, including map and compass skills, a basic understanding of search techniques, and the types of equipment necessary for SAR missions. The course also gives suggestions for purchasing and storing equipment, and teaches our organization's rules and regulations. Course 1 is Saturday and Sunday, morning until afternoon. Bring a lunch and warm clothing as part of the weekend will be spent outside.

## **SAR Oriented First Aid**

SAR Oriented First Aid covers the basic first aid situations most commonly encountered in the Search and Rescue environment. Items covered will include bandaging, splinting, hypothermia, hyperthermia, subject packaging (preparing them for transportation) and transporting the subject in a stokes (litter). This is a one day course and will last approximately 6-7 hours. It is offered 2- 4 times in December, on a Saturday or on a Sunday. Bring a lunch, warm clothing and your leather gloves.

## **Course 2**

Course 2 is a hands-on approach to studying the concepts involved in search and rescue. The weekend begins Friday night, and lasts until Sunday afternoon. The trainees spend the weekend in teams, living out of their packs, and battling the harsh conditions of January in the Northwest. On Saturday, they rotate around the campground attending a series of stations, each of which focuses on a different skill associated with SAR. Saturday evening trainees break into pairs to complete a number of nighttime compass legs. On Sunday, they continue their stations, and conclude the weekend with a mock search.

## **Course 3**

Course 3 is primarily a test of endurance, but also tests map and compass techniques, motivation, and teamwork. The weekend begins Friday night, and lasts until Sunday afternoon. The trainees are paired up and given a list of coordinates. Their objective is to attend each one of the coordinates in the order given before the weekend is up. Each pair will travel about 15 miles, assuming they choose the most efficient route from point to point.

## **Course 4**

Course 4 is a mock search. Saturday morning, trainees go to stations where they practice patient assessment, packaging, and search techniques. Saturday afternoon, trainees are assigned to teams, and they complete a search assignment just as if it were an actual search. On Sunday, once all the subjects have been found, treated, and evacuated, the training is over, and the trainees become certified brushmonkeys.

## **First Aid/CPR Card**

A first aid card is also required. Classes will be available to membership prior to graduation.

## Required FEMA Courses

Thank you for taking an interest in Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue. It is a vital asset to our community and our training program is what makes our unit one of the best in the country. However, before you can join Search and Rescue you need to take three online FEMA courses and their open-book tests. These have to be completed before Course 2. All emergency workers in the nation are required to do these tests before they can be firemen, police, sheriffs, or affiliated with any SAR group or other emergency responders. The registration process cannot be completed until you complete these courses and send us a copy of your certificates. These three tests are the NIMS IS-100, NIMS IS-200, and NIMS IS-700.

You will need a FEMA Student Identification (SID) Number. You can register for one at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. This link is also available from the FEMA Independent Study Program web page.

The link to do the courses and tests is: <https://training.fema.gov/nims>

This will bring up a page for the Emergency Management Institute –FEMA Independent Study Program.

- Click on Independent Study and it will list all of the Independent Study Courses.
- Select your course from the list.
- Review course materials by choosing any one of the options in the "Take This Course" box on the right-hand side of the page.
- Submit your final exam online.
- You will receive an email confirmation at the email address provided on your final exam submission within 1-2 business days for the course.

When you get the email from FEMA open it and click on the pdf link. Save the file and print out your copy of the certificate. Then forward that email to me so that I can print out two copies...one to keep in your file and one to send to DEM. Please keep that email until I reply back to you that I have received it. If you need any help, please call or email me.

Phyllis Posey  
PCESAR Membership and Records

[pcesarmemrec@yahoo.com](mailto:pcesarmemrec@yahoo.com)

253-862-8821 (leave a message)

## **SAMPLE ESAR EQUIPMENT LIST (use the one handed out at Course 1)**

### **(Do not purchase equipment until after Course 1)**

There is a significant amount of equipment required for ESAR training. Approximate low end retail prices are listed for key items. The prices are approximate and may seem overwhelming. Many trainees have saved tremendous amounts of money by shopping at thrift stores for outdoor clothing and borrowing existing equipment from family & friends. REI garage sales and other equipment sales can lead to tremendous savings over the prices listed below.

At this point, the sole function of this list is to make you aware that there is an equipment requirement. Please do not be overwhelmed by it and please do not begin purchasing items on it. Detailed descriptions of each piece of equipment will be given at Course 1. Existing member will be showing trainees what they use and what they find most effective. Remember the only thing worse than paying too much for a piece of equipment is paying too much for it and then finding out that it isn't the correct type.....please wait.

- Back Pack (~\$150)
- Sleeping Bag (with stuff sack) (~\$100)
- Sleeping Pad (full length) (~\$30)
- Boots (~\$160)
- (2 pair) Wool or Fleece Pants
- (2) Wool or Fleece Shirts
- (2 pair) Wool Socks (~\$12 pair)
- Wool Gloves (several pairs) (~\$10 pair)
- Long Underwear (Top & Bottom) (~\$25 each for top & bottom)
- Coat and/or Sweater
- Winter Hat (~\$25)
- Leather Gloves (~\$5 to \$20)
- Rain Coat (with hood) (~\$50)
- Rain Pants (~\$50)
- 50' of ¼" Rope
- Shelter Tarp (9'x12') (~\$12)
- Ground Tarp (4'x 8') (~\$10)
- Tent Pegs (8 each)
- Stove (~\$35)
- Extra Fuel
- Cooking/Eating Kit
- Utensils (Fork/Spoon)
- Matches
- 6 Hot Meals
- Trail Food
- Knife (folding type)
- (2) One Quart Water Bottles (~\$9.00 each)
- Water Purifier Tablets (~\$10)
- Headlamp(~\$30)
- Flashlight (4 watts minimum)
- Extra Bulbs/Batteries
- Compass (may be purchased at a discount at course 1)
- UTM Ruler (included in registration fee)
- Notebook
- Ball Point Pen or Sharpie
- Whistle
- Grid Tape (~\$5)
- Toilet Paper (2 small rolls in zip lock bag)
- First Aid Kit
- Fire Starters
- (2) Garbage Bags
- Gaitors (\$30)

## **Pierce County Explorer Search & Rescue 2019/2020 Training Season:**

The basic training program to become a certified Brushmonkey consists of 4 courses plus first aid scheduled on weekends throughout the winter. Each of the 4 courses gives the trainee a new level of qualification, and a better understanding of Search and Rescue. There is a training fee of a maximum of \$115 at registration. Additional equipment may cost hundreds of dollars if you do not already have backpacking gear. Trainees must have all items on the equipment list to attend courses 2, 3, and 4. Courses must be completed in order.

As part of the WA State SAR Standards, trainees must also have their CPR/First Aid/BBP card or equivalent. This will be offered prior to graduation. There will be an additional charge for the Red Cross workbooks (~\$25) if you do not have a current card.

**Course 1: A: Nov 2 & 3, 2019 7am-4:30pm or B: Nov 16 & 17, 2019 7am-4:30pm**

Course 1 is at Camp Lakeview located at 32919 Benbow Dr E, Graham, WA 98338.

Registration begins @ 0700.

(After completing Course 1 you may respond to in-county Evidence Searches)

**SAR Oriented First Aid: A: Dec 7, 2019 or B: Dec 21, 2019**

Tacoma Police Dept 3701 S Pine St

**Course 2: A: January 3-5, 2020 or B: January 24-26, 2020**

(After completing Course 2 you may respond to in-county Evidence and Urban Searches)

**Course 3: A: February 7-9, 2020 or B: February 21-23, 2020**

(After completing Course 3 you may respond to all in-county Missions)

**Course 4: March 7-8, 2020**

(After you have completed Course 4 and have been signed off on the WA SAR Standards you may respond to all Missions)