

## 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 1966 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 & Rescue is both a Youth and Adult organization accepting members age 14+. Members are welcome and encouraged to participate in our missions, searches, monthly meetings, public outreach events, 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:

[Course 1A/B Sign Up Link](#)

- 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/Guardians – please attend to fill out paperwork and stay for the equipment orientation.)

*We know the way! Follow us!*

Facebook: [@PierceCountyESAR](#)

Instagram: [@PierceESAR](#)

Twitter: [@PierceESAR](#)

Web: [pcesar.org](https://pcesar.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/Wilderness 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 times in December, on a Saturday. Bring a lunch, warm clothing and your leather gloves for work with the stokes.

## **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, shelters, and battling the harsh conditions of January in the Northwest. On Saturday, they rotate throughout different locations in the field, participating in a series of stations. Each station 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, first aid, 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 ground searchers. \*This course is only offered once.

## **First Aid/CPR Card**

A First Aid/CPR/AED card is required. Attendance and passing of all courses will result in a card being issued.

## 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. However, before you can join Search and Rescue you must 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 complete these exams prior to holding positions such as firefighters, law enforcement, rangers, affiliated with any SAR group, or other emergency responders. The registration and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) approval process cannot be completed until these courses are completed and sent a copy of the certificates. **These three tests are the NIMS IS-100, NIMS IS-200, and NIMS IS-700.**

A FEMA Student Identification (SID) Number is required. One may 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 the email from FEMA is received, open it and click on the pdf link. Save the files containing the certificate. Please email the certificates to: [membership@pcesar.org](mailto:membership@pcesar.org) One copy will be added to your ESAR file and one to sent to DEM as part of the application review.

## **Pierce County Explorer Search & Rescue 2021/2022 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 6 & 7, 2021 7am-4:30pm or B: Nov 20 & 21, 2021 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 4, 2021 or B: Dec 8, 2021**

Tacoma Police Dept 3701 S Pine St

**Course 2: A: January 7-9, 2022 or B: January 21-23, 2022**

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

**Course 3: A: February 4-6, 2022 or B: February 18-20, 2022**

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

**Course 4: March 12-13, 2022**

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

\*Eligibility to respond to missions is pending approval by DEM and receipt of your DEM ID Card.