

Oswego County Search and Rescue Team

SAR Academy 2018



The Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue team will be conducting its 4th SAR Academy to be held in the later winter, spring of 2018. Class size is limited to 20. Classes will start February 28th and end June 10th. The Academy will be held in various locations in Oswego and Onondaga counties. Classes will be held on Wednesday nights and 1-2 weekend days a month. The curriculum will provide a thorough introduction to Search and Rescue and meets the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's minimum training requirements.

The SAR Academy will cover topics such as map and compass, global positioning systems, man-tracking, wilderness survival, radio communications, search techniques, cold weather emergencies, crime scene preservation, the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS), and a variety of other topics. For an individual who completes the Academy, they will be certified as a NYS Dec Basic Wildlands Searcher, certified in Wilderness First Aid, American Heart Association CPR, certified as a Project Lifesaver Electronic Search Specialist, and will have received all of the necessary training and skill practice to certify as a NYS DEC ASTM Level I Searcher, once they acquire actual SAR experience. Students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assignments, and pass all written and practical testing.

The Academy is open to all interested individuals, regardless of where they reside, and is offered at \$100 per student to cover the cost of student manuals and supplies. Applicants do not need to reside in Oswego County. Students should be in good health, at least 18 years of age, and capable of passing a moderate physical fitness test. Graduates of the Academy who are accepted onto a local SAR team may be eligible to have their course fee reimbursed.

OCSAR is an all-volunteer unit, founded in 1971, and funded through community donations and grants. They are the primary Search and Rescue resource for the county working closely with the Oswego County Sheriff's Department, the NYS DEC Forest Rangers, NYS Police, and other law enforcement agencies. The team is dispatched through the county's 9-1-1 system and is recognized as a public safety agency. Although the team's primary response area is Oswego County, they actively participate in searches across the state when additional resources are needed. In 2017, the team responded to 36 calls for service. More information can be found at the team's web site www.oswegocountysar.com.

Individuals interested in attending the Academy should obtain an application at the team's web site. Completed applications, along with a check for \$100, should be mailed to the team at:

Oswego County Search and Rescue

PO Box 229

Parish, NY 13131-0229

All applicants will be contacted and interviewed prior to selection to the Academy. As soon as the class selection is finalized, applicants will be contacted. Individuals who are not accepted into the class will have their money refunded. Applications must be received no later than January 31st, 2016.