

Program Outline:

To Seek and Save

SAR (search and rescue)

Pre-text: In general, we are asking our units to form a search and rescue team or teams. We prefer to keep your teams at 10 or under members. Teams are encouraged to use the BSA Scout Handbook, the Search and Rescue Merit Badge Book and online resources to learn about search and rescue methods and come up with a plan on how to carry out the stations your teams will be performing at the 2022 Klondike Derby. Situations such as spinal injuries or avalanche searches are only to be done by trained professionals but for the purpose of our theme you will be acting as a professional rescue team. Using the program outline below to prepare, we recommend that your teams should work on this at your meetings and perhaps have a trial klondike practice day of your own. A scout is prepared.

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What is Search and Rescue? Search is an emergency requiring a team of trained searchers to locate a missing person or people. Rescue is when a person or people have been found or their location is known, they would need to be taken to safety and may require technical rescue skills and medical care.

It is the policy of the Federal departments and agencies to provide a National Search and Rescue Plan of the United States (referred to as the "Plan") for coordinating search and rescue (SAR) services to meet domestic needs and international commitments.

General terms your team should know:

Incident action plan (IAP) This is an action plan where your team will set objectives and response strategy for priorities to accomplish its goals. Each patrol should prepare an IAP for each station.

Incident Command System (ICS) Is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

Mass Rescue Operation (MRO): SAR services characterized by the need for immediate response to large numbers of persons in distress, such that the capabilities normally available to SAR authorities are inadequate.

The Stations:

1) Avalanche

Search and Rescue teams are called upon to search for skiers in the event of an avalanche. Skiers in areas that are prone to avalanches will carry a beacon that help rescuers to find them. Your team will need a GPS app or device and a compass to locate the would-be skier using latitude and longitude coordinates. Your team must act fast. 93% of avalanche victims will survive if found with-in 15 minutes. The survival rates drop dramatically after that. After 45 minutes survival rates drop to only 25%. This is a race against time.

Perform the Search

Start the search in the area where the victim was last seen. Also look for clues like gloves and equipment.

Search methodically in swaths no more than 40 meters wide.

Yell to others when you get a signal or find a clue. Pull the clue fully out of the snow and leave it on the surface or place a marker where you first got the signal.

Follow the signal to the burial area. Slow down as you approach 10 meters.

Keep the transceiver near the snow on the final approach. At 5 meters place another marker on the snow pointing in the direction of your trajectory.

Locate the closest transceiver signal by bracketing: Slowly approach that point from ahead, behind and each side, maintaining consistent transceiver orientation.

2) Fire Emergency Rescue

Your team must be prepared to enter a burning building to search for and retrieve any victims trapped inside.

3) Avalanche Tree Trauma

Your team must be prepared for almost any type of hurried cases, your team will be put to the test at this station. To prepare for this station, your patrol should anticipate different emergencies and/or disasters that can occur in the outdoors during the winter.

4) Ice Rescue

Your team is conducting a search and rescue of a person who has fallen through the ice on a lake. The victim is about 30 feet from shore and the ice is too dangerous to risk having anyone else walk out onto the lake. Keep in mind that the window of opportunity to perform a successful rescue is quite short. Within minutes a person partially submerged in icy water will succumb to hypothermia and their ability to grasp things including the ice. Eventually they will lose their ability to speak clearly and become weak. Your patrol leader will need to organize the patrol to perform the rescue and anticipate what injuries you might have to render first aid for.

5) Mountain Search and Rescue:

This is a compass course; your team will be given the coordinate of an injured hiker that you must find and bring them back to your base of operations.

6) Neck Injury Rescue:

What you know: A hiker has been reported to have fallen down a ravine, your team will find the victim lying in the prone position. He is conscious and is breathing on his own. Also, it is well below freezing and a winter storm is heading your way. There is no time to get to the backboard so your team will have to lash one together. The victim will have to be immobilized to prevent further injuries. And your team will need to work quickly as a team in getting him to safety.

Emergency signs and symptoms of a spinal cord injury after an accident may include:

Extreme back pain or pressure in your neck, head or back.

Weakness, incoordination, or paralysis in any part of your body.

Numbness, tingling or loss of sensation in your hands, fingers, feet, or toes.

Loss of bladder or bowel control.

Difficulty with balance and walking.

Impaired breathing after injury.

An oddly positioned or twisted neck or back.

7) The Snowshoe Challenge

Snowshoes are an essential for traveling through deep snow.

Nothing brings a troop together more than working on a do-it-yourself project. So, we are asking for each team to make one pair of DIY snowshoes for your team **BEFORE** coming to the Klondike Derby. Your team's custom-made snowshoes will be judged and then your team will participate in the snowshoe relay. Each team member will take a turn running the course. After completing the course, the next team member will take the snowshoes from the previous member and put them on and run the course. This is a timed event and your team's total time will be divided by the number of members for their final time/score. Below are two DIY snowshoes or you can look for other designs online that your team might prefer better. There are many different designs to choose from check out the links below (no store bought shoes please).

<https://youtu.be/ImDIQtw-t-us>

<https://youtu.be/Tqk6CDW-yfCs>

8) Stranded

Every SAR team should plan for every emergency before they even set out for an assignment. Your team will need to do some research and come up with a plan and will demonstrate it for this scenario. Search the internet and refer to your BSA Scout Handbook (what to do when lost) for ideas on what your team would do if you were stranded in the wilderness in the winter.

In this scenario your team was on its way home from an assignment when the sled becomes trapped in a snowstorm way out in the middle of the wilderness. You have no cell service and you're many miles from the main highway. It's the middle of winter and chance of another group coming down this road is very remote. You are stranded in the middle of nowhere. So, what can your team do to be found? Come up with a plan and equipment you could use in such a situation.

SLED EQUIPMENT LIST: To assist your patrol in being prepared, we'll provide a list of equipment we suggest packing in your sled. Check back later for a complete list.