

Skagit Mountain Rescue Unit MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Thank you for your interest in joining Skagit Mountain Rescue Unit, a non-profit volunteer member of the Mountain Rescue Association. SMRU will consider your application if you are over 21 years of age and have a firm foundation in wilderness travel and mountaineering.

You're welcome to attend a monthly meeting to learn more about us. We meet/train at 6PM on the second Thursday of each month. In winter usually at the Skagit County SAR Building, 11525 Knudson Rd, Burlington, WA. In other seasons at field locations, often Mt. Erie.

Before preparing an application consider the below questions. They'll help you understand what SMRU membership entails.

Why do you want to join SMRU?

It's not about wearing the MRA logo and getting free training.

What can you offer SMRU?

Team membership is more than attending monthly meetings and responding to callouts. There's Board and Officer responsibilities, and other tasks such as training/grant/membership/equipment/outreach/projects. What type of skills do you have that you'd be willing to contribute to team administration and well-being?

Do you have a firm foundation in wilderness travel and technical rope work?

SMRU training sessions focus on melding the knowledge and experience of individual members so that they work well together as a team. The sessions aren't designed to provide basic mountaineering/rope rescue training. Although SMRU supports members attending skill training as funding allows, such training is limited in both availability and content, and doesn't substitute for experience.

How long do you intend to be a member?

Even for an experienced mountaineer it may be several years to become fully qualified.

Are you willing to put in the energy to maintain proficiencies and respond to callouts?

Can you regularly attend monthly meetings/trainings, meaningfully contribute to the team's well-being, maintain/gain proficiencies beyond the team's monthly training, and respond to callouts even when inconvenient or in conflict with personal schedule?

Can you afford it?

Besides your time, you will be financing training and "out of pocket expenses" such as meals, fuel, and expendable supplies. You will be purchasing and maintaining your personal outdoor clothing, equipment, and supplies.

Are you mentally and physically able to deal with stress, chaos, difficult terrain, hostile environmental conditions, and traumatic incidents?

Can you maintain a commitment to safety?

The application is on the next page. Upon application submission you'll be contacted to schedule an interview with several members, the purpose of which is to provide an opportunity for you and the team to get a better understanding of each other. The interviewers will forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors. If the Board approves your membership request, you'll be provided instructions for completing Skagit County's application for a DEM Emergency Worker number. Upon issuance of the DEM number, you'll join SMRU at the Provisional Level. Provisional members have one year to complete a self-initiated task book addressing some fundamental topics. Upon completion of the task book the Board will vote whether to enroll you as a full member at the Support Level. Provisional and Support Level members are fully functioning team members, except they only deploy under the supervision of a Rescue Level member.

Skagit Mountain Rescue Unit
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

This Word document is a fillable form. If completed longhand, use back or additional sheets to fully explain responses.

Name:

DOB:

Street Address:

City:

Zip Code:

Email:

DEM# (If you have one):

Cell #:

Cell Phone Provider:

Emergency Contact Name:

Cell #:

Describe your SAR training/experience:

Describe your mountaineering/climbing/backpacking experience:

Describe your EMS training:

Describe any other skills that could be useful to SAR:

Do you have as a minimum a climbing helmet, harness, boots, and equipment for a 24- hr. pack?

Yes ☐ No ☐. Explain:

Why do you want to join SMRU?

How would your membership benefit SMRU's mission?

Are you willing and able to attend monthly meetings/trainings (6PM, 2nd Thursday of the month)?

Yes ☐. No ☐. Explain:

Are you willing and able to contribute to the team by serving in elected or designated positions, and/or volunteering for project or task assignments? Yes ☐. No ☐. Explain:

To apply, CC this completed application to SMRUinfo@gmail.com