

orienteeing type compass, the student is encouraged to bring the compass to the course; however, this is not a requirement.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Scheduling Information

For open enrollment Search Responder Class visit [www.wildernesseri.com](http://www.wildernesseri.com).

To set up a course or if you have a question contact -  
Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC.  
PO Box 24  
Windber, PA 15963  
814-659-7017  
[administration@wildernesseri.com](mailto:administration@wildernesseri.com)

Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC  
PO Box 24  
Windber, PA 15963



## Wilderness Search and Rescue – Search Responder



16-Hour Course

# **The Pennsylvania Local Level SAR Training- Search & Rescue Disciplines**

In Pennsylvania, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) was the first state organization to show interest in Search and Rescue for missing persons. The DCNR is the primary coordinator for search and rescue efforts on state forest and state park lands within the commonwealth.

Over the years, the bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, being responsible for over 2 million acres of forest land, recognized the need for trained personnel in search and rescue. Using the information available at the time, training modules were designed. The 4 modules that were designed for emergency responders are the Wilderness Search and Rescue: Search Responder, Wilderness Search and Rescue Basic Grid Team, Wilderness Search and Rescue: Advanced Grid Team and Wilderness Search and Rescue: Search Management.

The DCNR also created 3 levels of search and rescue certifications: Field Team Member, Field Team Leader and Air

Scent K9. All of the courses and certifications were originally designed for DCNR personnel.

The DCNR realized that these were the only missing person search courses being offered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The DCNR opened the courses to the emergency responders of Pennsylvania. In 2009 the DCNR decided to eliminate their Search and Rescue courses. However; the DCNR has authorized the PA State Fire Academy and the Pennsylvania Community College System to continue to offer these courses.

It is now left up the State Fire Academy to update and authorize Community Colleges to use these courses. The PA DCNR no longer has any authority over these courses. Only Certified State Fire Academy Local Level Instructors teach the PA Search and Rescue Curriculum.

## **The Course**

The Wilderness Search and Rescue Search Responder Course is designed to familiarize the student with basic search and rescue techniques to begin initial operations and provide organization to the search operation.

The Search Responder course provides training in initial response techniques, obtaining and utilizing planning and

operation information, briefing and debriefing techniques, utilizing investigation and interviewing techniques, initial search management concerns and basic navigation knowledge and skills.

The course is presented in 16 hours: 8 hours are lecture, 4 hours are hands on classroom skills and the last 4 hours include hands on field skills. This course prepares the student for the DCNR Field Team Member certification test.

## **General Information**

The Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Courses can only be offered inside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To successfully pass the Wilderness Search and Rescue Search Responder Course the student must attend all 16 hours of the class and actively participate in all discussions and hands on skills.

There is no written test for this course. Students need to wear appropriate clothing for the outdoor environment and time of year for which the course is being offered. This will include appropriate footwear (hiking boots), proper insulating layers and rain wear. The student also needs to provide materials for taking notes (pencil or pen and tablet). Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC provides all other equipment. If the student has access to an