

# Prerequisites

To attend the Introduction to Search Team Officership an individual needs to have taken the NASAR Introduction to Search and Rescue Course or the PA DCNR Course Wilderness Search and Rescue Search Responder course or equivalent. It is also recommended but not required that a student in the Introduction to Search Team Officership course has had 2 years of experience in Search and Rescue.

# Course Scheduling Information

For open enrollment Search and Rescue Public Educator course 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)

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Windber, PA 15963



# Search and Rescue Public Educator Course

**16-Hour Course**

# The Search Discipline

One of the most overlooked areas in search and rescue is search and rescue prevention education. People typically get in trouble in the outdoors for one of three reasons- not properly equipped, trying to travel too far, too fast or ignoring the signs of weather. To illustrate the prevalence of this problem just watch how people go into the woods at the local trailhead. Then watch these same individuals go into an amusement park. These people take no provisions or equipment with them into the woods but will drag 200 pounds of equipment with them into an amusement park in a wagon.

By addressing the above areas and other areas that cause individuals to get in trouble, a search team can change emergency response from reactive to proactive. Preventing emergencies from happening is the most cost effective route for emergency response.

All too often most of a Search Team's efforts and training are aimed at responding to an emergency. Responding to an emergency is a more reactive way of dealing with missing person incidents. A more efficient way of dealing with missing person incidents is a proactive stance.

Preventing a missing person incident from happening always is more effective than dealing with the missing person. However, to accomplish the proactive

stance, an individual needs to have special training and skills outside of the skills necessary for emergency response.

The Search and Rescue Public Educator Course provides search team members and officers the tools necessary to begin changing from a reactive response to missing person incidents to a proactive response to missing person incidents.

## The Course

The Search and Rescue Public Educator Course is a 16-hour course designed to turn a search team member into an entry-level public educator in the arena of search and rescue prevention. The course is presented in lecture and skills stations to allow the individual to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to begin creating and presenting missing person prevention education programs. All students will be required to create a presentation and present during the course.

The course consists of 8 hours of lecture (covering: introduction to missing person prevention education, review of the typical reasons why individuals get in trouble in the outdoors, creating search prevention education programs, selecting and determining the appropriate materials for a program based on audience, how to prepare written reports, creating and maintain public education work schedules, following the five step planning process, evaluating

programs and presentations, introduction to public speaking) 2 hours of classroom skills (covering: working with different medias,) and 6 hours of hands on skills (presentations by students).

During the course and after examination of the typical reasons why individuals get into trouble in the outdoors, the class will discuss educational topics that could prevent these incidents from happening.

## General Information

The Search and Rescue Public Educator Course can be presented anytime of the year and is done entirely indoors. Successful completion of the course requires 100% attendance and participation in all aspects of the course. After successful completion of the course the student will receive a certificate of completion.

This course is offered in both open enrollment classes and in contracted form. In the event of contracted classes, the Search Team is required to provide a classroom site suitable for PowerPoint presentations. Wilderness Emergency Response Institute provides all material for the course. Students taking the course will be required to provide materials for taking notes.