

Oswego County Search and Rescue Team

SAR Academy 2016



The Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue team will be conducting its 3rd SAR Academy to be held in the later winter, spring of 2016. Class size is limited to 24. Classes will start March 3rd and end around June 18th. The Academy will be held primarily at the Oswego County Emergency Response and Training Center, 720 East Seneca Street, Oswego. Classes will be held on Thursday 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 a certified 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.

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 (cost may be less if family members can share books). Applicants do not need to reside in Oswego County. Students should be in good health, at least 16 years of age, and capable of passing a moderate physical fitness test. Students under the age of 18, must have parental approval and attend with a parent. 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 2015, the team responded to over 50 calls for service. More information can be found at the team's web site www.oswegosar.org.

Individuals interested in attending the Academy should obtain an application at the team's web site or contact Dan Arena at djarena@gmail.com. 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 February 19th, 2016.