

GREATER PHILADELPHIA SEARCH AND RESCUE

"That others may live"

Dedication - Perseverance - Service
"Working Together, So Others May Live"
WWW.GPSAR.ORG



SEARCH IS AN EMERGENCY!
Time does make the difference!

Call Police officers to do police work.
Call Firefighters to do fire work.
Call EMS personnel to do EMS work.

Call GPSAR to do SAR work!

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Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA - STATION 2000 (EMS 391)

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## ASK ABOUT CANINE & EQUINE UNITS!

Being lost is a terrifying experience. Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue (GPSAR) is a volunteer group dedicated to finding lost persons by the most efficient means possible.

GPSAR's diverse personnel include firefighters, EMTs, ordinary citizens with specialized skills and more. Members are trained in search skills such as: land navigation, logistics, search resource allocation and, much more.

GPSAR can assist in the following:

- Search pre-planning
- Risk assessment
- Resources allocation
- Mutual aid planning
- Community education

Utilizing the expertise of our personnel, GPSAR provides coordination, support, communications and specialized resources needed for successful search efforts.

It should be noted that Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit Rescue Department,

## YOU CAN HELP US HELP OTHERS

is liability insured and, *does not charge for*

**- Our Mission Statement -**

**Dedication - Perseverance - Service**

***"Working Together, So Others May Live"***

Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue is committed to using all of the resources at its disposal to assist in disasters and to locate and rescue lost persons. Our mission is carried out through the use of the expertise and technology at the disposal of our department of dedicated volunteers, always with attention paid to the safety of all parties involved. Further, it is our intent to educate the public and private sector as to our mission and to help them in developing an understanding of what search and rescue is, how **not** to get lost and how **to** handle a disaster situation.

Founded in 1979, GPSAR primarily responds within Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. However, GPSAR has been requested by, and responds to missions in other states as well.

Please remember that we don't mind turning back if the victim is located, therefore, *be sure to call immediately, as seconds can mean the difference between life and death.*

When dispatched, Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue responds to your request for assistance, by

***"Working Together,  
So Others May Live"***

***YOU CAN HELP !***

FOR AN APPLICATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL  
GPSAR AT: (877) 598-5618 (business)  
or email [info@gpsar.org](mailto:info@gpsar.org)

***And don't forget to visit our  
web site at: [www.gpsar.org](http://www.gpsar.org)***

## Specialized Units

*Whatever your interest we've got something for you. Check out some of the units within the team.*

### **Boy Scouts of America** **Explorer Post**

Exploring is the Boy Scouts of America's youth development program for young men and women ages 14 through 20.

In addition to training, Explorers assist at special events, demonstrations, and on community service projects. Explorers participate in limited capacities on actual searches as well as many other aspects of search and rescue and emergency services work.

### **Communications Unit**

The Communications Unit controls communication between team resources in the field via radio, cellular, and other communications technologies.

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. GPSAR provides CERT instructors to train citizens in your community to organize and immediately respond to emergency disasters until emergency service personnel arrive.



## Dedicated People

### **EDUCATIONAL /** **OUTREACH UNIT**

#### ***Details / Demonstrations***

GPSAR provides speakers and/or displays at your location (time and distance permitting). Topics include canine demonstrations, search techniques, and our Lost in the Woods program for young children.

#### ***Lost in the Woods***

This child survival program is presented to students, clubs, parents and interest groups across North America. Unlike the "Hug a Tree" program, Lost in the Woods provides more information and survival skills. The complete presentation is one hour and thirty minutes but can be adapted to fit a reduced time frame. The maximum group size is about fifty. The film, "Lost in the Woods" by Barry Casson, is shown as part of the presentation. Experiments taken from the book, "Lost in the Woods" by Colleen Politano, are done during each session.

### **TECHNICAL UNITS**

#### ***Ground Search Unit***

Every team member is first and foremost a ground searcher. This encompasses the basic search techniques including land navigation skills, patient care necessary to locate and stabilize victims, map and compass, and more.

#### ***Medical Responder***

These are medically trained members with skills from basic first aid and CPR to doctors. Members are trained to stabilize, package, and transport patients given the limited resources in the wilderness.

## Diverse Talent

### ***CISM***

For years members of the emergency services community have dealt with stress in many ways. The community now has access to critical incident stress management as well as peer support established in the area.

Peer support involves CISM trained emergency services workers helping other emergency services workers through stressful periods.

The CISM process is designed to facilitate "A normal recovery process in normal persons suffering normal effects after an encounter with an abnormal situation."

#### ***Mountain Bike Unit***

The Mountain Bike Unit uses bikes to quickly search an area as well as to accompany other units such as the Mounted and Canine Units. Through extensive training, members on bikes move quickly and effectively through crowds when needed or over rough terrain.

#### ***Water Rescue Unit***

The Water Search and Rescue Team is made up of GPSAR team members committed to personal development and training in order to safely and swiftly rescue and/or recover victims of water-related disasters. Water-related disasters may include but are not limited to boating accidents, floods, swimming accidents, etc.

#### ***Rope Assist Unit***

The Rope Rescue Unit provides safe and effective use of technical rope rescue equipment during emergency operations to assist GPSAR personnel and other personnel who may be involved in a situation requiring a rope rescue operation.