



TACOMA MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

Letter to Prospective Member

www.tacomamountainrescue.org <https://www.facebook.com/tmru1958> membership@tacomamountainrescue.org

Dear Prospective Member:

Thank you for contacting the Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit (TMR). TMR is a volunteer search and rescue (SAR) organization. Our missions can occur anywhere in Washington and range from low-tech searches for lost mushroom hunters to very technical and dangerous searches on glaciers or vertical rock.

Minimum Expectations

The TMR Board (Board) reviews all member applications prior to approval. Qualified applicants enter TMR as "Field Support (FS)" members. The Board expects FS members to enter TMR possessing the training and experience necessary to accompany our team on roped glaciers and technical rock. The training provided by TMR focuses on group rescue techniques and will not provide these entry-level skills.

Applicants typically acquire these entry-level skills through a formal mountaineering course, such as The Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course. The Mountaineers Basic Climbing course is an excellent training that provides the minimum skills needed for entry as a FS member.

Special Exceptions

Highly experienced mountaineers may substitute equivalent technical experience for a formal course, but this must be readily apparent on your application. The Board may also request further clarification prior to acceptance. Please note that hiking/backpacking does not provide the skills required on roped glaciers and wilderness technical rock.

Acceptance by the Board without entry-level technical skills is uncommon. If you are in the process of completing a course or feel that you are nearly qualified for entry, please email membership@tacomamountainrescue.org to explain your circumstances.

Next Steps

If you have completed a formal course, or believe you have the equivalent technical experience, please fill out the new member application.

Thank you again for your interest, we look forward to your participation!

Respectfully,

Gretchen S. Mallari
Membership Chair

Enclosed: - Membership Application Process and Requirements
- Expectations for Members to Remain in Active Status



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Membership Application Process and Requirements

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membership@tacomamountainrescue.org

1. The following are required in order to start the TMR membership application process:

- Successfully have finished a formal climbing course or have the equivalent training and experience
- Fill out and return the "New Member Application"
- Phone interview with the Membership Chair

2. Please be sure to provide the following required certifications (if you have these certifications already, please feel free to send copies with your "new member application"):

- Provide a copy of your valid CPR/First Aid Card, or other medical certifications
- *Complete three Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) Courses and provide copies of the three certifications. The three required courses are IS-100.B, IS-200.B, and IS-700.A.

*The three FEMA NIMS ICS courses are required by federal and Washington State rules and regulations. The courses provide an overview of search management and the governmental processes used in SAR. These courses are free in cost to take online and only need to be completed once. If you previously passed these courses, you can obtain copies of your certifications online. These courses may take a few hours to complete, so it is highly suggested to start the courses when you can.

Links to required [FEMA NIMS ICS Courses](http://training.fema.gov/) (<http://training.fema.gov/>):

[IS-100.B](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp): Introduction to Incident Command System (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp>)

[IS-200.B](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS200b.asp): ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS200b.asp>)

[IS-700.A](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp): NIMS, an Introduction (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp>)

3. Based on your application and phone interview, the Membership Chair will schedule a mountaineering skills test (applicant will receive additional information via email before test)

- Successfully pass a 50-question written, as well as a hands-on mountaineering skills test

4. After an applicant completes all of the above steps and submits required certifications, the Membership Chair presents this application to the TMR board for approval. If approved, applicants must:

- Pay membership dues (initial membership dues depends on the date of board approval)
- **Apply and obtain a valid Washington State Department of Emergency Management (DEM) number

**Per Washington Administrative Code 118-04-100 and Board decision, a valid DEM number is necessary for all members to participate in missions or field-trainings. A DEM number will provide coverage for each particular member during TMR events. All applicants must successfully pass a DEM background check and comply with State rules and regulations. TMR will provide applicants with the DEM application during the scheduled mountaineering skills test.



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Expectations for Members to Remain in Active Status

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Once the Board approves your application and you receive a valid DEM number, you will become an active member of TMR!

Member Classifications

You will most likely enter TMR as an operational Field Support (FS) member. TMR has three classifications within the operational category: Field Support, Rescue Support, and Strike Team Leader. Every member has the opportunity to advance in operational status after gaining experience through participation in TMR.

Member Development

TMR has general membership meetings every second Wednesday of the month from 7:00pm to ~9:30pm. At these meetings, TMR briefly discusses past and upcoming events, followed by a training lecture. Trainings include a variety of rescue topics (e.g., Rigging, Snowmobile, Helicopter Operations, etc.). On the following Saturday, TMR provides a follow-up field training. It is highly recommended that members attend as many training events as possible, as trainings are different each month.

Board Meetings

TMR holds Board meetings on the last Wednesday of the month from 7:00pm to ~9:30pm. At these meetings, the Board discusses plans and makes decisions for TMR. The Board also reviews membership applications at these meetings. Board meetings are highly encouraged for all members, especially new members, as it is a great way to learn the inner workings of the organization.

Locations and Expectations

General membership, lectures, and board meetings are held at the TMR Cache, located at:
7322 50th Ave E, Tacoma, WA 98443

Field training locations differ depending on the topic of the training.

FS Members must meet the following expectations in order to remain in active status:

- Maintain required personal rescue equipment (a list will be provided during the skills test, TMR sells some equipment at a discounted price)
- Participate in at least two Missions per year
- Participate in at least three TMR field-trainings per year (Saturday trainings)
- Complete an Intermediate Level Helicopter Course within the first year of membership (TMR generally schedules this in the fall, and the training is good for two years)
- Complete a Board approved avalanche course within the first year of membership (e.g., AIARE Level 1 Avalanche)

If you have any questions about expectations, please email membership@tacomamountainrescue.org.
