

Merced County Search and Rescue Sheriffs Posse

Search and Rescue Qualifications Page

Members Must:

- Maintain current CPR and First Aid.
- Exhibit proficient horsemanship and trail manners.
- Exhibit the ability to handle a horse trailer or stock trailer.
- Own their mount and transportation for themselves and their mount.
- Meet all requirements of the Sheriff's Department.
- Take classes in search and rescue techniques, map and compass, etc., as designated by the Executive Board of the unit and (or) the SAR Coordinator.

Horses Must:

- Remain shod year round.
- Be a mare or gelding. NO stallions.
- Stand quietly while:
 - Mounted/dismounted from both sides.
 - Rider puts on a slicker, and (or) opens a map.
 - Rider holds three other horses.
 - Tied. Not meeting this requirement is grounds for automatic disqualification.
- Cross a bridge in the arena and (or) on the trail.
- Pony another horse and be ponied.
- Drag an object using a rope.
- Back readily.
- Negotiate a small brush jump or log.
- Accept motorbikes, backpackers, gunfire, helicopters, chain saws, etc.
- Be under the riders control while with a group of horses at all gaits.
- Allow the rider to open and close a gate while mounted.
- Lead well in difficult terrain and over obstacles.
- Leave a group of horses at a given gait and return at a walk.
- Allow other horses to move ahead at a more rapid rate of speed and remain under control of the rider.
- Move ahead of other horses at a more rapid rate of speed and remain under the control of the rider.
- Climb and descend a steep grade with the rider.
- Be tailed up a steep hill. (Optional)
- Ride double. (Optional)
- Side pass (Optional)
- Pass physical examination as deemed applicable by the Board of Directors.

A HORSE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY AND IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED IF IT DOES NOT TIE, RUNS AWAY, BUCKS, BITES, OR SHOWS ANY SIGN OF UNSOUNDNESS.

Vehicles must: Pass an inspection for proper lights, brakes, and safety.