



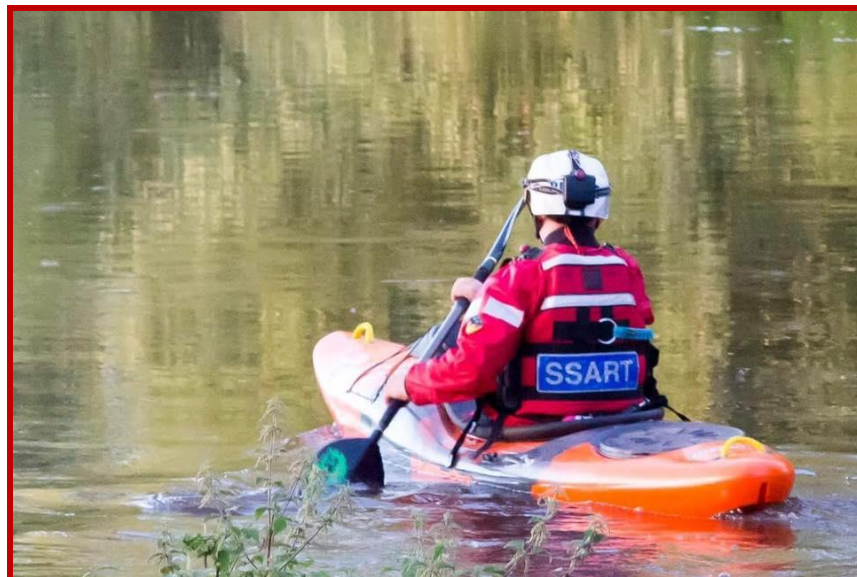
STAFFORDSHIRE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PACK

Please take the time to read carefully **ALL** of the following information; you should also give consideration as to whether or not you are able to give the commitment required.

To become a member of Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team (SSART) requires a significant commitment of your time and effort. Any application to the team should not be taken without due thought and respect for your family / spouse / partner / employer etc.

The team holds an introduction night once a year in November and operates a waiting list. Induction courses begin in January. Prospective new recruits will be invited to the introduction night where you will learn all about the team and how we operate.



INTRODUCTION:

SSART is a voluntary organisation which works with the Police and other Category 1 Emergency Services. SSART is dedicated to the search, location and recovery of any person in need of help.

SSART is a registered charity, and a member of [Lowland Rescue](#), the governing body for all lowland search and rescue teams. Primarily we operate throughout Staffordshire, but we offer and provide support to other SAR teams across the country.



SSART Head Quarters are located just outside Stafford, where members meet on a weekly basis when not training in locations around the county. Weekly training sessions are held on Wednesday nights from 19:00 and generally finish around 22:00.

SSART operates an annual intake for new members; These are typically held in January each year and you will be advised of the next date after you have indicated that you can comply with the commitment required.

REQUIREMENTS:

We welcome volunteers from all walks of life, regardless of skills as full training will be given. However, you must be able to meet the following requirements:

Must be willing to abide by the SSART Constitution, rules, regulations, policies and procedures

Be in good health. You must be able to walk 5 miles in under 2 hours over mixed terrain carrying your personal kit (assessed annually)

Be at least 18 years old

Be able to swim 25m

Be willing to attend an interview with the Membership Secretary and another member of the SSART Executive. SSART reserve the right to refuse membership

Have an email address and unrestricted access to it (for team communications)

Be able to attend 75% of weekly training events – held on Wednesday evenings plus ‘ad hoc’ weekend days

Be able to attend fundraising and team promotional events held throughout the year, largely at weekends

Have your own driving licence and unhindered access to a motor vehicle

Have a mobile telephone which has reception at places you frequently visit (home, work etc.) remains charged, switched on and accessible at all times, and that you are able to answer whenever possible

AIMS OF SSART:

Our principle aims are to:

- provide a 24 hour a day, 365 days per year cover for an emergency call out team to assist:
 - Staffordshire Police with searching for missing persons in rural and urban areas
 - Category 1 Emergency Services in whichever way we can
- provide cross country transport and medical assistance to casualties in areas where normal land based ambulances cannot reach
- provide backup to the emergency services conducting evacuations due to inclement weather, terrorist attacks or for any other events they request
- use team 4x4 vehicles to provide cross country and on road transport for members of the emergency services and voluntary sector personnel including their equipment.



SSART ORGANISATION:

SSART is managed by an Executive Committee. Executive posts are elected annually by members and elections are overseen by a Board of Trustees.

Operationally the team is 'on call' 24/7 to provide qualified personnel to search, locate and rescue or recover, if needed, missing persons, and to provide transportation by 4x4 vehicles. Members can participate in all aspects providing training has been completed.

Fund raising and recruitment are also vital activities and all members are expected to play their part by attending collection days, shows, fun days etc. throughout the year

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY:

SSART also offers to help other community voluntary organisations and groups, especially those working with the disadvantaged, with talks and displays/demonstrations. Members are also expected to support these events whenever possible.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

All new memberships are probationary for 12 months; **please note your subscription is not refundable.**

Full membership:

Is currently £40 per annum, pro-rata quarterly. Full membership is the minimum requirement to enable you to attend training and to allow application to attend a Lowland Rescue recognised Search Technician (ST) course.

You will need to gain a Search Technician qualification to enable you to attend 'live' searches



Support membership:

Is currently £15 per annum

Support membership is split into two, support members who are operational and provide support during live searches and non-operational support members who assist with fundraising etc.

Depending on the type of support member you wish to be, you can take part in some training sessions, help with fundraising events and support the team during 'Live call outs. Assistance at live call outs would involve helping with the preparation of equipment around the muster area/making sure there are refreshments etc. available.



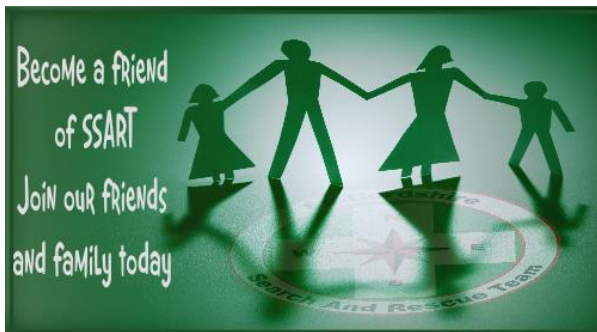
SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP: YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN ACTUAL LIVE SEARCHES

4x4 Team:

You will need to be a fully qualified Search Technician before being able to join the 4x4 transport and rescue team.

Your vehicle will be required to have up to date paperwork i.e. comprehensive insurance (which allows for the carriage of passengers in a voluntary capacity), road tax, and MOT if applicable. Your vehicle must **not** be fitted with any form of flashing beacons unless they are of a permanent fixture for the business for which the vehicle is registered e.g. a works vehicle, and **they must not be activated whilst on any SSART activity.**

FRIENDS OF SSART:



As a friend of SSART you will have made a donation to the team.

Individual Annual Membership - £15 per annum as a minimum donation.

Family Annual Membership - £25 per annum.

As well as our friendship, Friends of SSART will receive an enamelled badge – 2 maximum for family donations.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

For the safety of yourself, other team members and our insurers, it is a requirement that the Clinical Lead is made aware of **ANY** medical condition(s) which may affect your ability to fulfil your role. Similarly, you **MUST** declare any serious life-threatening illness or condition past or present.

NEW RECRUIT TRAINING:

We run an annual induction course for new members which typically starts in January each year following an induction day. The course then runs for approximately 15 weeks every Wednesday evening.

New recruits will be expected to attend 75% of Wednesday evening training sessions and must attend core module training in order to become qualified.

As far as possible they are conducted locally but it may be necessary to travel out of the immediate area. A mandatory weekend residential Search Technicians Course follows the 15-week sessions,

normally held in April and is paid for by you at a cost shown in the table above. Any additional training is normally paid for by the team subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

The Search Technician course fee includes the weekend course, accommodation and food. Upon successful completion of the full course presentation of a badged team jacket will be given to each New Recruit. The cost of this jacket is met by the team and the New Recruit as shown above. Currently the team use a [Keela Cumulus Pro Jacket](#) worth £175.

Costings for new recruits (Costs for 2018 – please ask for up to date costs)		
Detail:	Cost:	Due in:
Initial membership processing ID card, DBS check etc.) includes 1 st Qtr membership fee:	£30	January
Search Technician Course fee:	£65	April
Casualty Care training	£25	April
Annual membership fee	£40	April
Payment towards Search Jacket (Keela jacket) worth £175	£45	April
Total:	£205.00.	

Please Note: Not all training courses are not available to Support Members.

Supplementary to the weekly training, we also arrange regular training exercises. As well as refreshing skills, these events enable members to get to know each other socially. These exercises are normally held within Staffordshire. Support members are welcome to attend and assist and see the team at work.

QUALIFICATIONS and SKILLS:

We welcome volunteers from all walks of life, regardless of skills as full training will be given. If you decide to join then it is very useful for you to include any skills /experience/ qualifications that you may have when completing your application e.g. involvement with outdoor pursuits, First Aid organisations, Emergency Services, Police, Military, other Rescue Services, Radio Operations, Training Skills, and Team Leadership etc.

Just as important are the skills of Marketing, Public Relations and dealing with the media, Fundraising and Sponsorship, Graphic design, IT etc.

The more we know, the better the use of your skills can be made.

DISCLOSURE BARRING SERVICE CHECK:

All members **must** submit to a DBS check on joining the Team. Any disclosures returned will be treated confidentially and will be considered in accordance with the membership policy.



MEETINGS:

Bi-monthly team meetings are held to discuss events and future developments. All members are expected to attend these. This is also a good time to get to know other team members and understand the direction of the team. You will also have the opportunity to get involved yourself with events and to participate in all the background work. We encourage proactive involvement by our members.

GIFT AID:

As a registered charity, we can reclaim an additional 28% of any subscription (£5 approx.) back from HM Revenue and Customs provided you have paid the equivalent amount in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax over the current tax year.

If you decide to join SSART and are a tax payer you will be asked to complete a Gift Aid Form and return it with your application form. Every little bit helps towards raising funds.

DONATIONS:

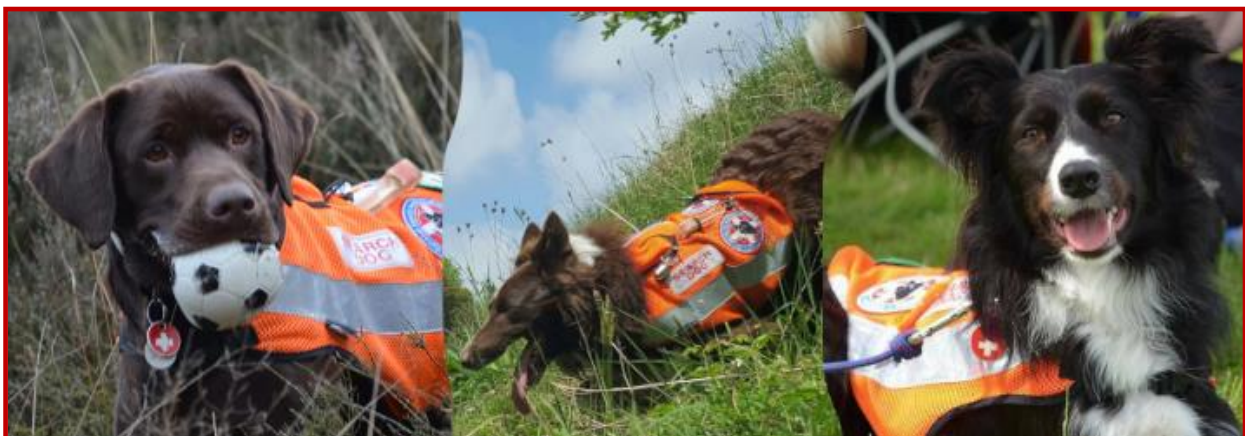
If after reading this you decide not to join us, we would be grateful for any donation large or small. These can be made via our website at www.ssart.org.

INSURANCE:

We hold a 'Public Liability Policy' which covers us against claims from the general public. It also covers other SSART activities for any claims by volunteers due to our negligence. However, you are responsible for insuring your own person, personal equipment and personal vehicles and contents.

ID CARDS:

On joining as a full or support member you will be issued with an ID card. This remains the property of SSART and must be returned when you leave the Team. A digital photograph will be taken for our records and ID card.



CONTACT US:

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

SSART Personnel Officer
e mail: membership@ssart.org

