

BYLAWS (Revised 2011)
DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1:

The name of this nonprofit corporation shall be the DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 1:

The general purpose and plan of this Association shall be to provide search and rescue aid and assistance in the saving of human life and the recovery and preservation of property in Lincoln County, Montana, and elsewhere. To provide the services of the Association to all persons in situations dangerous to life, limb, or property without regard for their ability to pay for this service. To train and equip search and rescue teams, and to assist the Sheriff of Lincoln County, Montana whenever emergencies arise.

Section 2:

In addition, it is the purpose of the Association to own, purchase, lease, in whole or in part, acquire, mortgage, pledge, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of personal or real property. To execute and issue promissory notes and other negotiable instruments and to do any and all things necessary, convenient or proper for the purpose of carrying out the primary purpose of this Association.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

All individuals wishing to be members must be 18 (eighteen) years of age, be a citizen or legal resident of the United States, have a minimum of six months residency in Montana, submit an application to the Board of Directors, complete a voluntary health questionnaire, and agree to submit to a criminal history and background check. Accepted members are to view the current Association Bylaws and Member's Handbook on line at dtsar.org. The prospective member shall be interviewed at one of the special Board of Directors Meetings held twice annually. Upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the Board of Directors, qualified applicants will be notified of their acceptance as a six month probationary member within thirty (30) days of their interview. After six months, they may be approved for full membership by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the Board of Directors. If they do not receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote for full membership, the Board of Directors may vote again to leave them as a probationary member for another six months, or they may vote to drop them from the membership rolls.

Section 2:

Members will hold a current First Aid card and a current CPR card. New members must obtain a First Aid card, CPR card, County Radio Class certification, and SAR TECH III certification within the probationary period. All members will demonstrate a commitment to the Association by completing a minimum of forty (40) hours of participation time per year. Each member is responsible for completing the minimum training requirements set forth by the individual unit leaders, which may be in addition to the Association requirements. Commitment is demonstrated through participation in the monthly meetings, special practice sessions sponsored by the different units, First Aid requirements, special schools in the areas of search and rescue techniques, official call-outs, community public relations activities and work details.

BYLAWS (Revised 2011)
DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 3:

The Board of Directors will meet annually to evaluate all Association members' commitments and participation as outlined in Section 2, prior to the Annual Meeting of the membership.

Section 4:

Members that do not continue to meet the requirements of the Association Bylaws will be dropped to a probationary status for six months and notified by letter of this change. If they have not reinstated themselves as an active member within six (6) months, they will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 5:

Only full members will be eligible and entitled to a vote in the Association. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on any matter at all meetings of the Association.

Section 6:

Honorary members may be appointed at the discretion of the Board of Directors to meet specific needs outside of the general membership requirements. Honorary members are not required to meet Association requirements and therefore are not eligible to be voting members.

Section 7:

Inactive membership status may be requested by a full member and approved or denied by the Board of Directors. Inactive members are required to hold current First Aid cards and CPR cards. Inactive membership is only granted for a one (1) year period. Inactive membership may be extended by request and approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 8:

The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend and/or terminate any member for any criminal actions pending investigation, or who violates the intent of the Bylaws of the Association

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

The annual meeting of the Membership of the Association shall be in January of each year at the regular meeting.

Section 2:

Nine board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Meeting of the Membership.

Section 3:

The secretary shall give notice to the members of the monthly meeting or any training through the monthly newsletter.

Section 4:

Meetings of the general membership may be called at any time by either the President or by any four Directors. **Section 5:**

The third Tuesday of each month is considered the regular meeting date of the Association. The time and location will be determined by the Board of Directors.

BYLAWS (Revised 2011)
DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE V UNITS

Section 1:

There are separate but inter-related Activity Units within the Association. Each Unit shall annually elect at or before the Annual Meeting of the Association a Unit Leader for the following year. Each Unit Leader, or his representative, must attend the Board of Directors' meetings. It shall be the duties of the Unit Leader to organize their individual units into a viable operating unit of the Association. The unit leader shall develop Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) for their individual units. Each Unit Leader is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 2:

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to activate or deactivate units as needs and circumstance demand.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1:

The Officers of the David Thompson Search and Rescue Association, Inc. shall be as follows:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chief Coordinator (Sheriff)
- Assistant Coordinator (Deputy Sheriff appointed by the Sheriff)

No one person shall be permitted to occupy more than one of these offices at the same time.

Section 2:

The Office of Chief Coordinator shall be held and occupied by the duly selected Sheriff of Lincoln County, Montana, or by his representative.

Section 3:

The Board of Directors of the David Thompson Search and Rescue Association, Inc. shall be as follows:

Association Officers and/or Directors

Unit Leaders

The Board of Directors shall have the general power to conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the Association. The Board of Directors shall determine how the funds shall be expended, to purchase all equipment and supplies, except emergency supplies as hereinafter set forth and to see that each Unit is equipped and trained. The Board of Directors shall set standards for membership and to make rules and regulations consistent with the laws of the State of Montana or the Bylaws of this Association

BYLAWS (Revised 2011)
DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 4:

Nine board members or their representative shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 5:

Regular open meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly with the time and place to be designated by the President. Only Board Members will vote on Association business in a Board of Directors' Meeting. Special Board of Directors' meetings may be called by either the President or any two Directors.

Section 6:

All Board Members shall be notified of meetings of the Board of Directors by written notice or by telephone prior to the meeting.

Section 7:

Prior to the Annual Meeting of the Membership, the Board of Directors shall meet as a nominating committee and nominate a slate of officers for the ensuing year. Said slate shall then be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Other nominations may come from the floor during the Annual Meeting. To be eligible to hold office in the Association other than Chief Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator, a person must be a full member and active in the Association for twelve (12) months. Election of officers other than Chief Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator shall be held at each Annual Meeting of the Membership. A majority vote of the eligible voting members present is required for the election of each office.

The term of office for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be for one full year.

Section 8:

When a member who is presently a Unit Leader is elected to an office of the Association, they shall immediately vacate the Unit Leader position. That Unit shall then elect a new Unit Leader.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1:

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors, to exercise general executive control over the affairs of the Association, to call special meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and to perform all other duties pertaining to the President's Office. The President shall have the tie breaking vote. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall have the power to execute on behalf of the Association, such contracts, notes, mortgages, bonds or other documents. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and units and may appoint other committees as needed.

Section 2:

The Vice President shall assist the President when needed, and in the President's absence shall be the acting President and shall be vested with all powers and duties of the President. The Vice President shall be in charge of all new applications and setting up interviews for such.

Section 3:

BYLAWS (Revised 2011)
DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and shall have the custody of all books, papers and records and other property except money. The Secretary shall send notices and perform such other duties as pertain to the Secretary's office. **Section 4:**

It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep an accurate account of all debits and credits of the Association in books belonging to the Association. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies in a bank as designated by the Board of Directors. All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer, or if the Treasurer is not available, by any two of the following Officers: President, Vice President, or Secretary.

The Treasurer shall render to the Board of Directors, or the President, when required, a true and correct accounting of any transactions. In addition, the treasurer shall render a monthly financial report which demonstrates that all monthly transactions have been reconciled to the bank statement transactions for the upcoming year. The Treasurer shall file a Form 990 or 990 EZ as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

Section 5:

The Office of Chief Coordinator, being held by the Sheriff of Lincoln County, Montana, or his representative, is to coordinate the activities of the Association during actual operations. Since the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is normally the first to be notified of an emergency, it is the duty of the Chief Coordinator to immediately notify the proper Officers and Units of the Association in situations which require their assistance and direct them to the proper area. It is the further duty of the Chief Coordinator, or designee, to supervise all emergency search and rescue missions. The Chief Coordinator, as well as all Officers and Directors, shall have the authority to purchase, on behalf of the Association, whatever emergency equipment and supplies that may be required during actual missions.

Section 6:

The position of Assistant Coordinator, being held by a representative appointed by the Chief Coordinator, shall be an assistant to the Chief Coordinator. In the absence of the Chief Coordinator, the Assistant Coordinator shall assume all duties of the Chief Coordinator. The Assistant Coordinator shall be a member of the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 3:

The use of personal property is at the risk of the individual, where all wear and tear and damage will be covered by the individual. The Association will not be held financially liable for personal property used during training or missions. Individuals are discouraged from pushing themselves or their equipment beyond safe parameters.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1:

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance. Any amendment, or amendments, to be voted upon should be submitted to the Association at the prior regular meeting of the Association and the submission of amendments shall be voted upon at the next subsequent regular meeting.

ARTICLE X ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1:

The order of business at the General Meetings of the Members shall be as follows:

1. Reading of the Minutes

BYLAWS (Revised 2011)
DAVID THOMPSON SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

2. Report of the Board
3. Other
4. Program
5. Adjournment

Section 2:

The order of business at the Board of Directors Meetings shall be as follows:

1. Previous Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Report
3. Units Report
- 4.
5. Old business, new business, correspondence
6. Adjournment

ARTICLE XI GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1:

For liability and safety reasons, members shall refrain from the use of alcohol or drugs while involved in any official function of the Association. Members will not respond to any situation if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If it has been determined that a member has violated this section, the Board of Directors may vote to terminate that member's membership in the Association. The funds of the Association shall not be used for the purchase of alcohol.

Section 2:

Emblems, decals, keys, etc., are the property of the Association and shall be returned when a member drops out of the Association, changes positions within the Association to one that does not have the same level of responsibility, as from Unit Leader to unit member, or is terminated from the Association for any reason.

ARTICLE XII GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

Section 1:

Prospective members shall be governed by the Bylaws adopted this date.

Section 2:

These Bylaws adopted by the membership, subject to the approval of the Lincoln County Attorney for purposes of Incorporation, dated this 20th day of April 1999.

Section 3:

- Original Bylaws were printed in September 1972
- Second printing revised: August 1985
- Third printing revised: November 1986
- Fourth printing revised: November 1992
- Fifth printing revised: April 1999