



"We serve so that other might live"

**Dear Prospective Member of Vail Mountain Rescue:**

We are excited that you have shown interest in joining our team of dedicated volunteers. We have put together this informational packet to help explain the process of becoming a New Member of Vail Mountain Rescue Group. Please take the time to read through this material and if any questions arise please feel free to contact our Membership Director at any time. [Membership@vailmountainrescue.org](mailto:Membership@vailmountainrescue.org)

**Who are we?**

Vail Mountain Rescue Group is a non-profit team of volunteer men and women who are trained and prepared to respond to any type of backcountry emergency. Our geographic area of responsibility covers Eagle County, although we will respond anywhere in the State of Colorado if circumstances dictate, and our services are needed.

Vail Mountain Rescue Group operates under the authority of the Eagle County Sheriff's Office, and maintains national certification under the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA), and is an active member of the Colorado Search and Rescue Board (CSRB). Our members are experienced in a wide variety of backcountry disciplines including: vertical rock, ice and snow rescue and evacuation, swift water rescue, cave rescue, lost person incidents, downed aircraft, and helicopter rescue, just to name a few.

There is no "glory" in mountain rescue, although there may be great personal satisfaction. Participation in search and rescue involves long periods of very hard work and sometimes long periods of waiting. There is no member of VMRG that is above performing the most trivial of tasks such as monitoring a vehicle at a trail head or arranging food and drink for members who have been in the field for an extended period of time. VMRG is a team, not a group of separate individuals. A successful mission depends on the work of the whole team working in harmony with one another. Applicants to Vail Mountain Rescue should have a clear understanding of their duties, responsibilities, and philosophy of VMRG. Some of that philosophy is expressed here and some can only be learned through association and experience in the field with our team.

Advancement in VMRG is based solely on demonstration of competence. Here are some basic requirements for all members.

**Requirements for all Team Members of Vail Mountain Rescue Group:**

- + Be a full time resident of Eagle County
- + Demonstrate the ability to be a leader and a follower

- + Have a current Colorado Driver's License
- + Be physically fit
- + Have the ability to travel in our terrain in its worst conditions
- + Ability to hike for several hours over rough terrain
- + Ability to carry enough equipment to sustain yourself for 48 hours
- + Wilderness First Aid and CPR
- + 18 years of age or older
- + Have good communication skills
- + Have a good sense of adventure!

**First Steps to becoming a New Member of VMRG:**

- Attend a regularly scheduled team meeting
- Fill out the new member application
- Fill out the background check form
- Submit a copy of Driver's License
- Interview with members of our team

Once these steps have been completed and approved, you will be welcomed as a New Member of our team and paired with a VMRG team member who will assist you in completing a New Member Task Book that will guide you through a team orientation and prepare you to participate in team operations. During this initial orientation period we encourage you to attend our monthly team meetings (first and third Sundays of each month), as well as team trainings. Consistent attendance and participation is the only way to advance within the team. Once you have completed the task book (usually within 3 to 6 weeks), you will become a Field Member and permitted and encouraged to participate in appropriate missions based on your skills and experience.

Please remember that membership status guarantees nothing more than you will be permitted to help with a lot of hard work. During your time as a New Member team members will evaluate your attitude, your willingness to help and learn, as well as your skills. The nature of our work makes it imperative that all members are able to work closely together in the most physically and mentally challenging of circumstances.

We are a volunteer group but more importantly we are dedicated to saving lives through search and rescue and mountain safety education.

Sincerely,

Your friends at Vail Mountain Rescue Group