



Membership Policy

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RMRG Policy

Membership Policy

A. GENERAL

1. Applications for Support, Rescue Support, Qualified, and Retired membership will be made on the form (Membership Application) approved by the Executive Board (Herein after referred to as the Board).
2. Individuals wishing to apply for a change in membership level must submit a completed form (A.1) to the presiding officer prior to the beginning of a Quarterly Business Meeting at which the application will be announced. The presiding officer will present the recently received membership applications at the beginning of each Quarterly Business Meeting to the general membership. Once the application has been presented at the Quarterly Business Meeting, they will be given to the president for board action at any Executive Board meeting convened in accordance with the Bylaws (Article VIII) and held prior to the following Quarterly Business Meeting. If the application is not rejected by the Board it will be presented for consideration at the following Quarterly Business Meeting. Prior to the Quarterly Business Meeting, at the request of the candidate, an application may be withdrawn but not postponed. Applications that are incomplete (no training card, no copy of a first aid card or certificate or lack of signature(s)) will be considered void immediately after the last Executive Board Meeting prior to the Quarterly Business Meeting at which the application was to be considered.
3. As stated in the Bylaws (Art. IX), rejection of an application by the Board may be made only for failure to meet a specific requirement of the Bylaws or Policy.
4. It is each individual's responsibility to ensure that his/her attendance is appropriately recorded. Also, if a member spends a substantial portion of a day setting up a practice he / she will receive one practice credit for the set up day per approval of the Assistant Group Leader. (Combined Fricke and Dave Lewis clause)
5. A membership application must be submitted to a Quarterly Business Meeting. A copy of a valid First Aid Card or certificate and training card(s) (if applicable) must be submitted with the membership application to the presiding officer at a Quarterly Business Meeting or to the presiding officer at any regularly scheduled Executive Board Meeting prior to the next Quarterly Business Meeting. The Board will not consider an application unless the above documents are appropriately submitted.
6. Applicants that are not elected at a Quarterly Business Meeting and are still interested in applying must re-submit an application to the next Executive Board Meeting that follows the Quarterly Business Meeting at which he or she was not elected. If the Board does not reject the application it will be considered at the next Quarterly Business Meeting as set forth in A.2.

B. B. SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

- 1
- 2 1. The Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 4) require that a Support member be able to participate in
- 3 mountain rescue operations in the field.
- 4
- 5 2. Furthermore, the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 4) require that a candidate for Support
- 6 membership at the time of his election must:
- 7
- 8 a. be at least 16 years of age.
- 9
- 10 b. hold a valid First Aid card (defined in Policy XI.G.).
- 11
- 12 3. In addition, the Board requires that a Support candidate must:
- 13
- 14 a. Submit to a regular Quarterly Business Meeting a completed membership application on
- 15 the form approved by the Board (A.2.). The application will be voted on at the following
- 16 Quarterly Business Meeting unless the Board at a regularly scheduled Executive Board
- 17 Meeting rejects it.
- 18
- 19 b. Have read the Corporation Bylaws and agree to abide by the Bylaws and Policies of the
- 20 Group, and to further the objectives of the Corporation.
- 21
- 22 c. Have attended at least six indoor training meetings and six outdoor practices in the six
- 23 months immediately prior to the regular Executive Board Meeting at which the
- 24 application is reviewed. The Board may reduce these requirements from six to no less
- 25 than four indoor training meetings and four outdoor practices for a candidate who, in the
- 26 preceding year, was an active member of an MRA team.
- 27
- 28 d. Have experience at mountain hiking and camping.
- 29
- 30 e. Have training in the mountain rescue techniques listed on the Training Card (outlined
- 31 below, Policy XI.B.4.).
- 32
- 33 f. Be known by several Group members who can confidently assess the candidate's attitude
- 34 and judgment.
- 35
- 36 4. Training Card: The items on the Training Card will be considered with an application for
- 37 Support membership. A minimum of 15 of 18 items on the Training Card must be initialed
- 38 prior to the Executive Board Meeting at which the application is reviewed. The Training
- 39 Card will contain the following items to be initialed by Qualified or Rescue Support
- 40 Members, as well ad Support and Active Retired Members approved by the Assistant Group
- 41 Leader:
- 42

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP – PROSPECTIVE TRAINING CARD

NAME

This card will be considered with an application for Support Membership. You must have different Qualified, Rescue Support, or other approved members initial various items. You should attempt these skills under the guidance of group members multiple times prior to being assessed and signed-off by an approved member. Completion of this card does not guarantee membership.

SKILL SET	SPECIFIC SKILLS	INITIALS	DATE
Knots	Appropriate tying, safety, and use of: Bowline, Double Sheet Bend, Prusik, Water Knot, Double Fisherman's, Alpine Butterfly, Figure-8, Clove Hitch		
*Litter System	Litter and bean bag; Assembly, use, and repacking		
Brakes / Rope Handling	Brake operations and rope handling for scree and vertical evacs		
Rappel	Hoist, Duffenitz, Munter hitch, friction device		
Ascend Fixed Lines	Prusik and mechanical device on vertical and slab terrain		
Scree Evac	Scree litter beaver and rope rigging for evac		
Trail Carry	Trail carry (with beaver rotation), wheel operation (attachment and use), walking belay		
*Field Kits	Evac Kit and Anchor Kit: Identify contents and repacking		
*Rope Packaging	Coil rope, repack rope bag, rope inspection		

SKILL SET	SPECIFIC SKILLS	INITIALS	DATE
*Gear Haul	Carry personal equipment and a 200-ft rope at least 4 miles with elevation gain of at least 2000 ft		
Personal Anchors	Sling trees, rocks, or utilize existing anchors to secure self		
Map, Compass, GPS			
Search Techniques			
County Geography	Identify 75% of 20 locations as required		
Mission Response			
Trucks	Familiarity of equipment location and use; Guidelines for passengers, driving, and communication		
CO Procedure			
Radio Procedure			

- A copy of this card must be attached to the application for Support membership, which must be submitted at the Quarterly Business Meeting preceding the Quarterly Business Meeting at which the applicant will be voted upon.
- This card itself – with at least 15 items initialed – must then be submitted to the Group Leader before the Executive Board Meeting preceding the Quarterly Business Meeting at which the applicant will be voted upon.
- In addition to normal mountaineering equipment, applicant should have available: Headlamp, helmet, gloves, pack, and a few slings and carabiners.
- Keep your contact information current.
- Mission preparedness is your responsibility.



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C. RESCUE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

- The Bylaws require that a Rescue Support member be able to participate in mountain rescue operations in the field.
- Furthermore, the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 3) require that a candidate for Rescue Support membership at the time of his election must:
 - Hold a valid First Aid card (defined in Policy XI.G).
 - Have been a Support, Qualified, Retired-Qualified, or Retired-Rescue Support member since at least the previous QBM, or be a Qualified member who did not meet renewal requirements during the previous year.
- In addition, the Board requires that a Rescue Support candidate must:
 - Submit a completed membership application to a Quarterly Business Meeting (A.2.), which if not rejected by the Board will be acted upon at the next Quarterly Business Meeting.
 - Hold a valid First Aid card that is the level of First Responder or higher as set forth by the First Aid Committee Chair and approved by the Executive Board.
- The Board requires any official testing of the applicant must occur after the application is submitted to a Quarterly Business Meeting.
- Furthermore, the Board considers in general that Rescue Support members are expected to understand the purpose, function and operation of all Group equipment and techniques, and should be able to competently take part in any aspect of any mountain rescue mission (other than mission leading).
- Thus, the Board sets as guidelines for consideration by Qualified and Rescue Support members in election of a Rescue Support member that the candidate has:

- 1
2 a. Judgment and discretion commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of Rescue
3 Support membership, including a self- knowledge of what the candidate is and is not
4 competent to do.
5
6 b. Mountaineering skills:
7
8 i. Rock climbing: including following fifth class and carrying loads on third and fourth
9 class rock, belaying, rappeling, anchors and anchor placement, rope handling (knots,
10 care, and management), and prusiking (for ascending rope and self-belay on fixed
11 lines).
12 ii. Snow climbing: including snow anchors, use of an ice axe in snow belaying,
13 glissading, and self-arresting.
14 iii. General mountaineering, including hiking, camping, and survival skills necessary for
15 conditions normally encountered in the Colorado mountains (including winter),
16 navigation ability (map and compass use), and knowledge of mountain weather (all
17 seasons).
18
19 c. Rescue skills:
20
21 i. Non-technical, including search procedure and team leadership (scratch and line, day
22 and night), Group radio procedure, CQ procedure, and familiarity with all rescue
23 equipment (vehicle(s), litters, bash kits, wheel, oxygen pack, etc.).
24 ii. ii. Technical rock and scree evacuation, with knowledge and use of all necessary
25 techniques and equipment including anchors and anchor placement, brakes and
26 braking (including rope change), and litter handling (vertical and scree), Tyrolean
27 technique, direction change and hauling systems, with rope and cable.
28 iii. iii. Technical snow rescue, with knowledge and use of all necessary techniques and
29 equipment including anchors and anchor placement in snow, brakes and braking,
30 litter handling on snow, and avalanche search procedures including probe lines and
31 the use of beacons.
32
33 d. Ownership of basic equipment, including boots, clothing, headlamp, hardhat, pack, ice
34 axe, rappel system, prusik system, water bottle, and other equipment including clothing
35 necessary for activity and survival in any conditions normally encountered in the
36 Colorado mountains (including winter).
37
38 e. Familiarity with Group procedures, Policies, and Bylaws.
39

40 **D. QUALIFIED REQUIREMENTS**

- 41
42 1. The Bylaws require that a Qualified member be able to participate in and assume leadership
43 of mountain rescue operations.
44
45 2. Furthermore, the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 2) require that a candidate for Qualified membership
46 at the time of his election must:

- 1
- 2 a. Hold a valid First Aid card (defined in Policy XI.G).
- 3
- 4 b. Have been a Rescue Support or Retired-Qualified member since the previous QBM.
- 5
- 6 3. In addition, the Board requires that a Qualified candidate must:
- 7
- 8 c. Submit a completed membership application to a Quarterly Business Meeting (A.2.),
- 9 which if not rejected by the Board will be acted upon at the next Quarterly Business
- 10 Meeting.
- 11
- 12 d. Hold a valid First Aid card that is the level of First Responder or higher as set forth by
- 13 the First Aid Committee Chair and approve by the Executive Board.
- 14
- 15 4. Furthermore, since Qualified members assume the leadership of rescue operations, the Board
- 16 sets the following as guidelines for consideration by Qualified members in the election of a
- 17 Qualified member. The candidate should:
- 18
- 19 a. Understand thoroughly all equipment and techniques employed by the Group.
- 20
- 21 b. Be familiar with Policies and procedures followed by the Group during missions with
- 22 respect to:
- 23
- 24 i. Internal operations,
- 25 ii. Interactions with other organizations and agencies.
- 26
- 27 5. The Bylaws (Art. XII, Sec. 2) also require that all Qualified members assist in Group training
- 28 activities and administrative functions.
- 29

30 **E. RENEWAL**

- 31
- 32 1. As stated in the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 5), the term of membership for Qualified, Rescue
- 33 Support, and Support members ends on 31 December of each year. This membership shall be
- 34 renewed for the next calendar year if the member has held a Valid First Aid Card (as defined
- 35 in Policy XI.G.) at any time during the year and has met the participation and attendance
- 36 requirements set by the Board for that year. The Board shall decide upon the participation
- 37 and attendance requirements for each calendar year at its required meeting preceding the
- 38 February Quarterly Business Meeting that year.
- 39
- 40 2. The annual membership requirements will be available to members at the February Quarterly
- 41 Business Meeting and will be mailed out with the meeting notification for the May Quarterly
- 42 Business Meeting. The requirements will be recorded in Executive Board Minutes and will
- 43 be posted on the RMRG web site.
- 44

- 1 3. Individuals who have been elected to support membership within the last calendar year are
2 not required to meet membership requirements for the first year although a high level of
3 participation in RMRG events is encouraged.
4
- 5 4. When a member does not meet these participation and attendance requirements (but does
6 satisfy the Valid First Aid Card requirement (as defined in Policy XI.G.)), the Board may
7 grant renewal on an individual basis during the year following expiration, providing that the
8 individual applies for reinstatement on a properly completed Membership Application (A.1.).
9 Such ruling by the Board shall not be made for any member for two years in succession.
10 (Bylaws Art. IX, Sec. 5.)
11
- 12 5. The Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 5) require that each Qualified, Rescue Support, and Support
13 member have held a Valid First Aid Card at any time during the year.
14
- 15 6. The Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 5) also allow Qualified members whose membership is not
16 renewed to apply directly for Rescue Support membership within one year of expiration of
17 Qualified membership.
18
- 19 7. The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for maintaining records of members'
20 attendance at practices and missions. The Board shall rule on questions of accuracy.
21
- 22 8. The Board appoints Auxiliary Members for a term of membership expiring on 31 December
23 of the current year (Bylaws Art. IX, Sec. 9). Appointments normally will be made at the
24 required Board meeting in January and may be made at any Executive Board Meeting. The
25 Membership Chairman shall maintain a list of current Auxiliary members. The Board, at its
26 January meeting, shall review the list for possible renewal of appointments.
27

28 **F. RETIRED MEMBERSHIP**

- 29
- 30 1. The Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 7) state that Retired membership is granted to honor long and
31 exceptional service to the Group. The Bylaws also require that a candidate for Retired
32 membership have been a Qualified member for at least three (3) years or a Rescue Support
33 member for at least five (5) years or a Support member for at least ten (10) years, and the
34 Bylaws state that the Executive Board may set additional requirements for Retired
35 membership.
36
- 37 2. Thus, in addition, the Board requires that a candidate must submit a completed membership
38 application to a Executive Board Meeting (A.1.), which if not rejected by the Board will be
39 acted upon at the next Quarterly Business Meeting,
40
- 41 3. As stated in the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 7), the Board may reject an application for failure to
42 meet a specific requirement of Bylaws or Board Policy.
43
- 44 4. Furthermore, the Board sets as guidelines for consideration by the Group membership in
45 election of Retired members that:
46

- 1 a. Retired-Qualified candidate must have actively participated in an exemplary manner in a
2 wide variety of field operations, including mission leading and training, for at least three
3 (3) years,
4
- 5 b. Retired-Rescue Support candidate must have actively participated with exceptional
6 competence in a wide variety of field operations, including team leadership and training,
7 for at least five (5) years,
8
- 9 c. Retired-Support candidate must have shown exceptional dedication and contribution to
10 the Group in both operations and administrative activities for at least ten (10) years and
11 have been a Corporate Director for at least five (5) years.
12

13 **G. VALID FIRST AID CARD DEFINITIONS**

- 14
- 15 1. The following criteria will be used to determine if a course meets requirement for a Valid
16 First Aid Card. The course shall contain all of the following:
17
 - 18 a. Recognizing emergencies
 - 19 b. Rescuer protection
 - 20 c. Medical emergencies assessment and treatment
 - 21 d. Injury assessment and treatment, to include dressings and splinting
 - 22 e. Environmental emergencies assessment and treatment
 - 23 f. A practical exam
 - 24 g. A written exam
- 25
- 26 2. Each of the following certificates, is considered a Valid First Aid Card for membership as
27 demonstrated by meeting the criteria in section G.1.
28
 - 29 a. American Red Cross Community First Aid and Safety
 - 30 b. American Red Cross Emergency Response
 - 31 c. A certificate awarded for satisfactory completion of a Wilderness Emergency Care course
32 recognized by the National Ski Patrol.
 - 33 d. A certificate awarded for satisfactory completion of a First Responder course recognized
34 by the Colorado Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services Division
 - 35 e. A certificate awarded by the Colorado Department of Health, Emergency Medical
36 Services Division, for satisfactory completion of an Emergency Medical Technician
37 (EMT) course.
 - 38 f. Certificate awarded by the National Safety Council
- 39
- 40 3. Each of the following licenses is a Valid First Aid Card for membership.
41
 - 42 a. Doctor of Medicine license to practice in the State of Colorado
 - 43 b. Doctor of Osteopathy license to practice in the State of Colorado
 - 44 c. Doctor of Dental Surgery license to practice in the State of Colorado
 - 45 d. Doctor of Dental Medicine license to practice in the State of Colorado
 - 46 e. Practical Nurse license to practice in the State of Colorado

- 1 f. Registered Nurse license to practice in the State of Colorado
- 2 g. Physician Assistant license to practice in the State of Colorado