

Dear prospective member of Vail Mountain Rescue:

We have put together this informational packet to help explain the process of becoming a volunteer member of Vail Mountain Rescue. Please take the time to read through this packet before taking the time to fill out the new member application.

We are excited that you have interest in joining our team. This is a document to explain the process of becoming a member of our volunteer team and to help you progress through the levels of training that make our team run efficiently. If any questions arise please feel free to contact the new member coordinator at any time.

Who we are?

Vail Mountain Rescue is a non-profit group of volunteer men and woman that are trained and prepared to respond to any type of backcountry emergency. Our area of responsibility is Eagle County, although we will respond anywhere in Colorado, or if circumstances indicate we will respond anywhere our services are needed.

Vail Mountain Rescue operates under the authority of the Eagle County Sheriffs Office, maintains national certification under Mountain Rescue Association and is an active member of the Colorado Search and Rescue Board. Our members are experienced in a wide variety of backcountry specialties including: vertical rock rescue, ice and snow 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 the most trivial tasks such as monitoring a vehicle on a back road 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 members. A successful mission depends on the work of the team and is not dependant on the contribution of a single individual. Applicants to Vail Mountain Rescue should have a clear understanding of their duties, responsibilities, and philosophy of VMRG. Some of the philosophy is expressed here and some of them can only be learned through association with the membership. Advancement in VMRG is solely based on demonstration of competence. Here are some basic requirements for all members.

Requirements to become a member of Vail Mountain Rescue:

- Be a full time resident of Eagle County
- Have a current Colorado Drivers License
- Physically fit
- Ability to hike for several hours over rough terrain
- Ability to carry enough equipment to sustain yourself for 48 hours
- Good communications skills
- The ability to be a leader and a follower
- The ability to travel in our terrain in its worst conditions
- Wilderness first aid and CPR.
- 18 years and older
- A good sense of adventure!

First steps to becoming a member of VMRG

- Fill out new member application
- Submit copy of Drivers license
- Attend Business meetings and new member trainings
- Complete new member requirements

All new members should complete the new member training hosted once per year. This will provide a basic foundation and understanding of VMRG operations. Upon completion of the new member training, members will be eligible to attend all team trainings and selective missions. Consistent attendance to team trainings is the only way to advance within the team. Trainings are held on a regular basis and the type of training changes seasonally.

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 performance. The nature of our work makes it imperative that all members be able to work closely together in the most physically and mentally challenging circumstances.

There are four levels of members within VMRG. They are new members, support members, rescue members, and command staff. The philosophy is to move up within the team as you continue your training and experience.

Becoming a support member will allow you to be further involved with VMRG. There are several aspects to becoming a support member, please refer to the member guidelines for all specifics of the different levels of membership. Here are a few of the highlights to becoming a support member.

- Regular attendance of team trainings
- Completion of ICS 100
- Completion of ICS 200
- Completion of ICS 700
- Completion of Sarteck III
- Working Knowledge of Team Operations

Team Operations

- Mission Response
- Chain of Command
- VMRG Vehicles
- Cache (VMRG Building)
- Communications(Radios)
- Backcountry travel
- Basic navigation
- Basic Search Skills
- Basic Rope Skills (Knots)
- Winter Travel
- Whitewater Safety
- First Aid / CPR
- Basic Patient Packaging
- Major Trailheads
- Use of litter/wheel

Upon successful coursework completion and a basic working knowledge of team operations, new member coordinator will petition the board to move you up to a support member. This process typically takes 6-12 months. As a support member you will be eligible for a team jacket and to receive team sponsorship for approved external training.

With continued training, education and mission involvement you will be eligible to participate in a rescue member practical evaluation where you will have the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills in all areas of team operations. This typically takes 3-5 years of participation.

We hope that this information will assist you in becoming a member of VMRG. Please take the time to fill out the new member application and bring the completed information to the next business meeting. Our business meeting schedule can be found at <http://vailmountainrescue.com/>.

Vail Mountain Rescue welcomes you. Please feel free to ask any member anytime for help, clarification, or information. We are a volunteer group but more importantly we are dedicated to savings lives through rescue and mountain safety education.



Vail Mountain Rescue
New Member Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Carrier: _____

Length of residency in Eagle County: _____

Emergency contact; Name, phone and address: _____

Physical condition: () Excellent () Good () Fair

Medical Certifications: _____ Expires: _____

Personal skills: Please rate your skill in the following categories 1=no skill 5= expert skills.

Mountaineering: _____	ATV: _____
Fire/ rescue: _____	Snowmobile: _____
Hiking in Eagle county: _____	Mountain biking: _____
Horse: _____	Rafting: _____
Tracking: _____	Kayaking: _____
Back country skiing: _____	Map and compass: _____
Ics management training: _____	Cave: _____

Please list all applicable certifications: _____

Do you have any physical or medical limitations? Please List: _____

Please describe in one paragraph why you are interested in Joining VMRG.

Signature: _____

Date: _____