
Chapter 1

NASAR Description

General Information

NASAR Mission

As the National Association for Search and Rescue, our mission is to develop and provide professional credentialing products and services for the search and rescue community. We work to accomplish this mission through strategic partnerships between volunteers and staff.

As a volunteer training and certification organization, we are keenly people-focused in all that we do. We invite members of the community to contribute their time, talent and resources to help us achieve this mission. We endeavor to be responsive to our customers, volunteers, staff and the public at large.

NASAR Impact Goal

The strategic impact goal of the National Association for Search and Rescue is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of searcher efforts internationally by becoming the gold standard for search and rescue professional training, education, **accreditation** and certification. To do this we will:

1. Improve the quality and acceptance of NASAR training, educational and certification products.
2. Strive to increase the availability of NASAR training, education and certification programs.
3. Enhance preventative SAR programs.
4. Generate the resources needed to accomplish our goal: instructors, evaluators, lead evaluators, responders, revenue, partnerships, training and course materials, and programs.

The National Association for Search and Rescue is composed of 132 instructors, 247 evaluators, 84 lead evaluators, and 10,533 members,. As an international organization, it is imperative that all of our volunteers and staff uphold the highest ethical standards, speak in unity, and embody the values and beliefs of the Association. Our business decisions and actions must reflect our shared core values.

NASAR Core Values

1. **Commitment to Integrity:** NASAR strives to achieve and maintain the highest ethical standards; to deal honestly with our customers, volunteers and staff; to be worthy of the trust placed in us by our members, customers, volunteers, staff, law enforcement, and the lost and missing members of our communities who depend on the responders we train and certify; to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us in order that we may achieve our goals; and to hold ourselves morally and financially accountable.

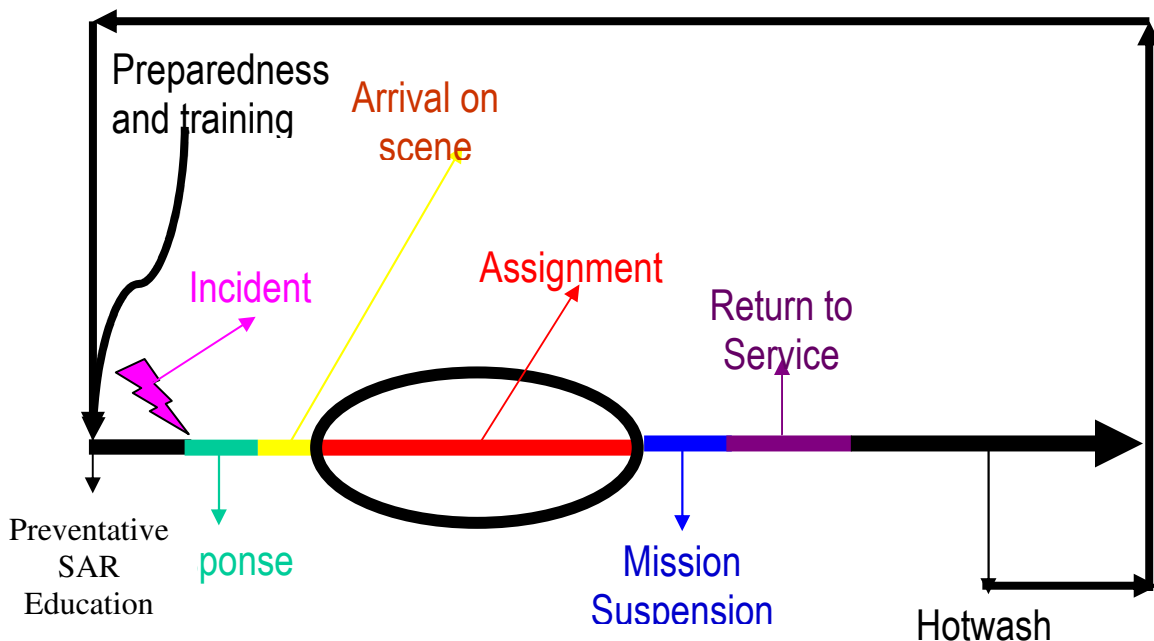
2. Commitment to excellence; NASAR utilizes premier experts and leaders in all that we do; is committed to leadership in the field of search and rescue; and requires the highest level of professionalism in our products and people.
3. Commitment to the future: NASAR is proactive, innovative, involved in cutting edge research and policy making at all levels of search and rescue. NASAR is willing to take prudent risks in order to achieve our goals.
4. Commitment to being broadly reflective of the communities we serve, inclusive of all who share our vision.
5. Commitment to the accomplishment of our goal, to prepare local responders to quickly and efficiently locate the lost and/or missing and return them to their families and communities. This is NASAR’s passion, *...we do this that others may live.* Therefore we approach our task with conviction, perseverance, motivation and a common calling.
6. Commitment to being responsive to all, treating others with dignity, respect, appreciation and kindness.

Strategic Direction

NASAR has established 4 strategic goals that serve as the guiding directives for the achievement of our mission.

1. To develop a sustainable pool of SAR professionals
2. To make our certification products and services more available to our customers
3. To garner wider endorsement of our certification products and services
4. To increase the professionalism of our organization, products and services

NASAR Components of a Search

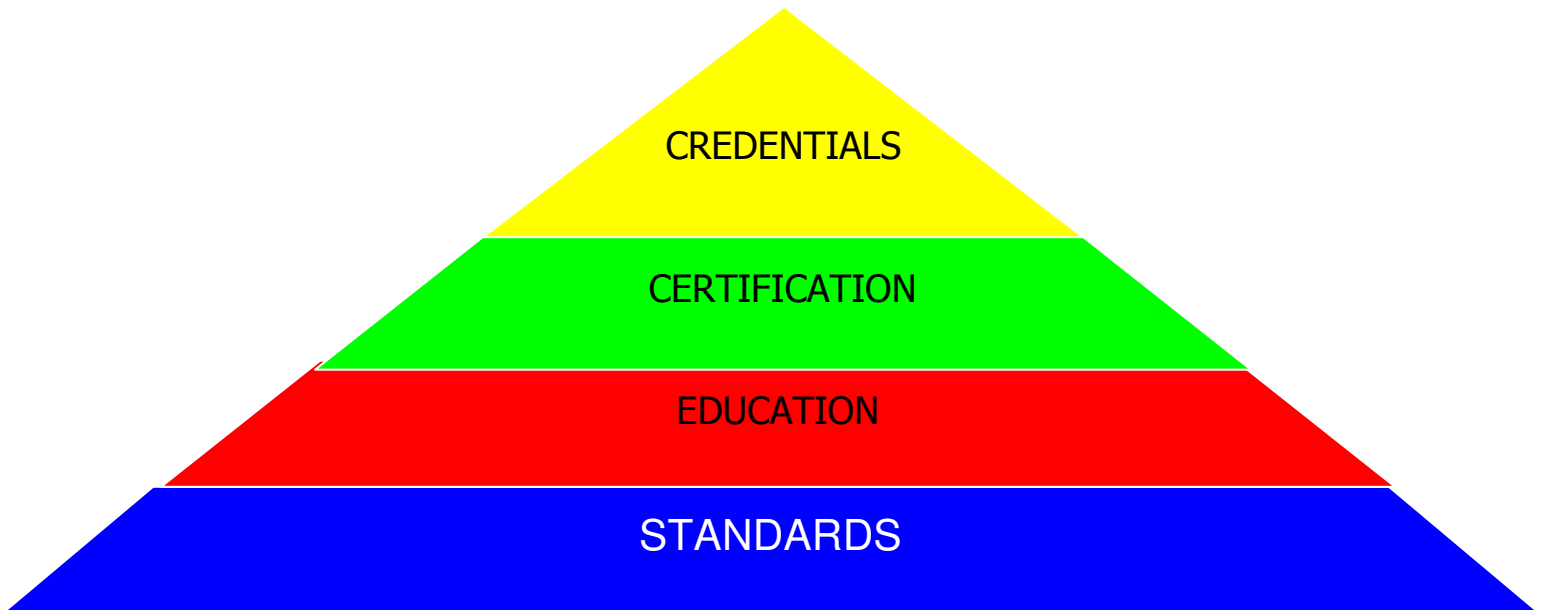


The activities and functions that are carried out prior to, when it is recognized a person is missing or lost, during the search itself and following the conclusion of a search will impact the

efficiency and efficacy of the search. These activities and functions form a linear chain of events that do not overlap in time, but progress one to the other. Within each activity or function there are specific skills, knowledge requirements and abilities that must be acquired and practiced in order to complete the tasks assigned in each function or activity. It is here that NASAR has the ability and desire to effect change. By providing the necessary training, education, **accreditation** and certification, NASAR can improve the out come of the search by improving the knowledge, skills and abilities of the searchers on the search.

The necessary training, education, **accreditation** and certification include educating the public on taking steps to prevent getting lost or stranded in the first place, as well as what to do if one does get lost or stranded that will assist searchers in locating them. Each function or activity requires the training, certification or **accreditation** of response personnel, including law enforcement, emergency managers, searchers, technical rescue and response personnel. This training, **accreditation** and/certification is delivered through the NASAR training system.

The NASAR Training System.



The NASAR Training System establishes the skills, knowledge and abilities needed for specific search and rescue activities or functions through standards building. NASAR partners with ASTM to develop and publish credible and valid standards for search activities and functions. Standards are then used as the foundation for the development and implementation of education and certification processes that are delivered to the participant via NASAR instructors, evaluators and lead evaluators. Once trained and/or certified, searchers can be credentialed as specifically typed resources as defined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).