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# RMRG Policy

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## **Membership Policy**

(Approved by Board: April 13, 2009)  
Revisions: April 13, 2009  
October 11, 2007  
November 14, 2005  
September 12, 2005  
September 13, 2004  
February 9, 2002

1

## 2 **Membership Policy**

3

### 4 **A. GENERAL**

5

61. Applications for Support, Rescue Support, Qualified, and Retired membership will be made  
7 on the form (Membership Application) approved by the Executive Board (Herein after  
8 referred to as the Board).

9

102. Individuals wishing to apply for a change in membership level must submit a completed  
11 form (A.1) to the presiding officer prior to the beginning of a Quarterly Business Meeting at  
12 which the application will be announced. The presiding officer will present the recently  
13 received membership applications at the beginning of each Quarterly Business Meeting to the  
14 general membership. Once the application has been presented at the Quarterly Business  
15 Meeting, they will be given to the president for board action at any Executive Board meeting  
16 convened in accordance with the Bylaws (Article VIII) and held prior to the following  
17 Quarterly Business Meeting. If the application is not rejected by the Board it will be  
18 presented for consideration at the following Quarterly Business Meeting. Prior to the  
19 Quarterly Business Meeting, at the request of the candidate, an application may be  
20 withdrawn but not postponed. Applications that are incomplete (no training card, no copy of  
21 a first aid card or certificate or lack of signature(s)) will be considered void immediately after  
22 the last Executive Board Meeting prior to the Quarterly Business Meeting at which the  
23 application was to be considered.

24

253. As stated in the Bylaws (Art. IX), rejection of an application by the Board may be made only  
26 for failure to meet a specific requirement of the Bylaws or Policy.

27

284. It is each individual's responsibility to ensure that his/her attendance is appropriately  
29 recorded. Also, if a member spends a substantial portion of a day setting up a practice he /  
30 she will receive one practice credit for the set up day per approval of the Assistant Group  
31 Leader. (Combined Fricke and Dave Lewis clause)

32

335. A membership application must be submitted to a Quarterly Business Meeting. A copy of a  
34 valid First Aid Card or certificate and training card(s) (if applicable) must be submitted with  
35 the membership application to the presiding officer at a Quarterly Business Meeting or to the  
36 presiding officer at any regularly scheduled Executive Board Meeting prior to the next  
37 Quarterly Business Meeting. The Board will not consider an application unless the above  
38 documents are appropriately submitted.

39

406. Applicants that are not elected at a Quarterly Business Meeting and are still interested in  
41 applying must re-submit an application to the next Executive Board Meeting that follows the  
42 Quarterly Business Meeting at which he or she was not elected. If the Board does not reject  
43 the application it will be considered at the next Quarterly Business Meeting as set forth in  
44 A.2.

45

### 46 **B. SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS**

- 1  
21. The Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 4) require that a Support member be able to participate in  
3 mountain rescue operations in the field.  
4
52. 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
123. 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
364. 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 as Support and Active Retired Members approved by the Assistant Group  
41 Leader:  
42

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP – PROSPECTIVE TRAINING CARD

NAME

These items will be considered with an application for Support Membership.  
The candidate must have different Qualified, Rescue Support, or approved Support members initial various items.

SKILL SET	SPECIFIC SKILLS	INITIALS	DATE
Knots	Appropriate tying, safety, and use of: Bowline, Double Sheet Bend, Prussic, Water Knot, Double Fishermans, Alpine Butterfly, Figure-8, Clove Hitch		
*Litter System	Litter and bean bag: Assembly, use, and repacking		
Brakes / Rope Handling	Demonstrate Brake operations and rope handling for scree and vertical evacs (vertical field demonstration optional)		
Rappel	Hasty, Dulfersitz, Munter hitch, friction device		
Ascend Fixed Lines	Prussik and mechanical device on vertical and slab terrain		
Scree Evac	Scree litter bearer and rope rigging for evac		
Trail Carry	Trail carry (with bearer rotation), wheel operation (attachment and use), walking belay		
*Field Kits	Bash Kit: Identify contents and repack		
*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		
Cage Readiness & Use	Cage layout, use, upkeep, readiness, introduction to cage radio.		
Radio Procedure			

- The application for Support membership must be submitted at the Quarterly Business Meeting preceding the Quarterly Business Meeting at which the applicant will be voted upon.
  - A copy of this card with at least half the items initialed must be attached to the application. The completed card must then be submitted to the Group Leader before the vote.
  - 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.
- \* Approved support members can assess and sign.



April 2009

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**4C. RESCUE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS**

61. The Bylaws require that a Rescue Support member be able to participate in mountain rescue operations in the field.
92. Furthermore, the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 3) require that a candidate for Rescue Support membership at the time of his election must:
  - a. Hold a valid First Aid card (defined in Policy XI.G).
  - b. 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.
183. In addition, the Board requires that a Rescue Support candidate must:
  - a. 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.
  - b. 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.
274. The Board requires any official testing of the applicant must occur after the application is submitted to a Quarterly Business Meeting.
305. 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).

16. Thus, the Board sets as guidelines for consideration by Qualified and Rescue Support  
2 members in election of a Rescue Support member that the candidate has:  
3
- 4 a. Judgment and discretion commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of Rescue  
5 Support membership, including a self- knowledge of what the candidate is and is not  
6 competent to do.  
7
  - 8 b. Mountaineering skills:  
9
    - 10 i. Rock climbing: including following fifth class and carrying loads on third and fourth  
11 class rock, belaying, rappeling, anchors and anchor placement, rope handling (knots,  
12 care, and management), and prusiking (for ascending rope and self-belay on fixed  
13 lines).
    - 14 ii. Snow climbing: including snow anchors, use of an ice axe in snow belaying,  
15 glissading, and self-arresting.
    - 16 iii. General mountaineering, including hiking, camping, and survival skills necessary for  
17 conditions normally encountered in the Colorado mountains (including winter),  
18 navigation ability (map and compass use), and knowledge of mountain weather (all  
19 seasons).
  - 20  
21 c. Rescue skills:  
22
    - 23 i. Non-technical, including search procedure and team leadership (scratch and line, day  
24 and night), Group radio procedure, CQ procedure, and familiarity with all rescue  
25 equipment (vehicle(s), litters, bash kits, wheel, oxygen pack, etc.).
    - 26 ii. ii. Technical rock and scree evacuation, with knowledge and use of all necessary  
27 techniques and equipment including anchors and anchor placement, brakes and  
28 braking (including rope change), and litter handling (vertical and scree), Tyrolean  
29 technique, direction change and hauling systems, with rope and cable.
    - 30 iii. iii. Technical snow rescue, with knowledge and use of all necessary techniques and  
31 equipment including anchors and anchor placement in snow, brakes and braking, litter  
32 handling on snow, and avalanche search procedures including probe lines and the use  
33 of beacons.  
34
  - 35 d. Ownership of basic equipment, including boots, clothing, headlamp, hardhat, pack, ice  
36 axe, rappel system, prusik system, water bottle, and other equipment including clothing  
37 necessary for activity and survival in any conditions normally encountered in the  
38 Colorado mountains (including winter).  
39
  - 40 e. Familiarity with Group procedures, Policies, and Bylaws.  
41

## 42D. QUALIFIED REQUIREMENTS

43

441. The Bylaws require that a Qualified member be able to participate in and assume leadership  
45 of mountain rescue operations.  
46

12. Furthermore, the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 2) require that a candidate for Qualified membership  
2 at the time of his election must:  
3  
4 a. Hold a valid First Aid card (defined in Policy XI.G).  
5  
6 b. Have been a Rescue Support or Retired-Qualified member since the previous QBM.  
7  
83. In addition, the Board requires that a Qualified candidate must:  
9  
10 c. Submit a completed membership application to a Quarterly Business Meeting (A.2.),  
11 which if not rejected by the Board will be acted upon at the next Quarterly Business  
12 Meeting.  
13  
14 d. Have held, at some time, a valid First Aid card that is the level of First Responder or  
15 higher as set forth by the First Aid Committee Chair and approve by the Executive Board.  
16  
174. Furthermore, since Qualified members assume the leadership of rescue operations, the Board  
18 sets the following as guidelines for consideration by Qualified members in the election of a  
19 Qualified member. The candidate should:  
20  
21 a. Understand thoroughly all equipment and techniques employed by the Group.  
22  
23 b. Be familiar with Policies and procedures followed by the Group during missions with  
24 respect to:  
25  
26 i. Internal operations,  
27 ii. Interactions with other organizations and agencies.  
28  
295. The Bylaws (Art. XII, Sec. 2) also require that all Qualified members assist in Group training  
30 activities and administrative functions.  
31

### 32E. RENEWAL

- 33  
341. As stated in the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 5), the term of membership for Qualified, Rescue  
35 Support, and Support members ends on 31 December of each year. This membership shall be  
36 renewed for the next calendar year if the member has held a Valid First Aid Card (as defined  
37 in Policy XI.G.) at any time during the year and has met the participation and attendance  
38 requirements set by the Board for that year. The Board shall decide upon the participation  
39 and attendance requirements for each calendar year at its required meeting preceding the  
40 February Quarterly Business Meeting that year.  
41  
422. The annual membership requirements will be available to members at the February Quarterly  
43 Business Meeting and will be mailed out with the meeting notification for the May Quarterly  
44 Business Meeting. The requirements will be recorded in Executive Board Minutes and will  
45 be posted on the RMRG web site.  
46

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

#### **28F. RETIRED MEMBERSHIP**

301. The Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 7) state that Retired membership is granted to honor long and exceptional service to the Group. The Bylaws also require that a candidate for Retired membership have been a Qualified member for at least three (3) years or a Rescue Support member for at least five (5) years or a Support member for at least ten (10) years, and the Bylaws state that the Executive Board may set additional requirements for Retired membership.
372. Thus, in addition, the Board requires that a candidate must submit a completed membership application to a Executive Board Meeting (A.1.), which if not rejected by the Board will be acted upon at the next Quarterly Business Meeting,
413. As stated in the Bylaws (Art. IX, Sec. 7), the Board may reject an application for failure to meet a specific requirement of Bylaws or Board Policy.
444. Furthermore, the Board sets as guidelines for consideration by the Group membership in election of Retired members that:

- 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

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

- 14
151. 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
262. 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
403. 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