



WINTER RANGER SCHOOLS



Students must have required safety equipment; Orange hat, Orange hard hat, Orange safety vest, leather gloves and eye protection. For Winter Conditions you must also have winter coat, insulated gloves, knit cap, insulated long underwear, and insulated boots. **Students & Staff that do not have proper Winter Clothing and Insulated Boots will not be accepted to attend!**

CAPF31 must be completed for each member that attends. These need to be emailed to rangerstaff@yahoo.com

Courses are available for both Cadets and Seniors Members:

- **The Introduction to Winter Operations** – 1st time Winter training experience. Introduction to cold weather operations, clothing, equipment, safety, first aid, basic survival, search techniques, and woodsmanship. **This is not a prerequisite course.** This is designed for students that have had no experience in cold weather operations.
- **Basic Winter Course** - emphasizing search & rescue in cold weather operations, casualty evacuation, woodsmanship, navigation and winter campsite.
- **Advanced Winter Course** - continuing experience in search & rescue operations in the cold weather environment. Prerequisite is completion of a Basic Winter Course in a PAWG Winter Ranger School.
- **Special Advanced** – for seniors and cadets who have attended both a basic and advanced winter school. Course work will include: field mobility, advanced search, winter survival, natural shelters, and team leader skills.
- **Staff** - Provide staff with continuing education and experiences in search and rescue operations, ICS, table top and practical exercises for general staff upgrades for all 101 and Ranger certifications.

Each member is responsible for their own testing sheets (Ranger Grade and SQRT Worksheets) you will need to print the SQRT Worksheets you are working on, kept them with you at all times you, have your instructor sign the task you complete with them.

101 SQRT sheets can be found on the <https://www.capnhq.gov/CAP.eServices.Web/Default.aspx> website on the left hand side click [My Operations Qualifications/National Reports](#) then click emergency services at the top.

Ranger Testing Sheet http://www.pawg.cap.gov/hawk_mountain

THERE ARE NO BUILDINGS TO HOUSE STUDENTS. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE SPENDING THE DURATION OF THE SCHOOL OUTDOORS, REGARDLESS OF WEATHER CONDITIONS. Also there is no running water so you will need to bring filled canteens.

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Minimum Equipment Required for Winter SAR Operations

Items to be added to the standard weekend Packing List: <http://www.pawg.cap.gov/sites/default/files/HMRSWkdPklist.pdf>

Clothing The base layer against the skin should be a wicking material like polypropylene that keeps the skin dry. Clothing made from cotton is not a good choice for winter operations; it accumulates moisture then gets cold. **It is more important to be warm than to be in proper uniform. Safety first!**

- BDU - modified for comfort in cold weather - don't forget your wallet and CAP ID card
- Wool or synthetic material long underwear - NOT cotton
- Winter Coat: Parkas can be used, but four or five layers with the outer being windproof is a better solution than one big layer in the form of a heavy parka. Have the ability to dress up and down in layers according to the activity level. It is more important to be warm than to have an outer layer that "looks military." Expect to stand around inactive, losing heat and getting cold. Expect to hike in the woods carrying heavy loads, getting rather heated.
- Heavy knit hat, adjust your hard hat to fit comfortably over it
- Insulated gloves or mittens with water resistant shell and leather palm. These are in addition to leather gloves.
- Thermal Socks - Ideally a wool, wool blend, or alpaca outer sock with polypropylene liner to wick away perspiration.
- **Boots -WATERPROOF, INSULATED COLD WEATHER BOOTS ARE REQUIRED!!
Standard Combat Boots ARE NOT sufficient.**
- Optional Clothing Items
 - Sweaters, vests, polypropylene shirts, windbreaker
 - Gaiters are effective for snow (cover boots and lower portion of legs for protection)
 - Snow shoes
 - Ice cleats

Web Gear/Rugged Day Pack (For search and rescue activities, without the backpack)

- 2 quarts of water **Students and Staff must bring water. There is no running water at either school location.**
- Lots of snacks and food that does not require cooking
- Rain gear / Poncho
- Spare socks
- Flashlight and extra batteries - headlamp is good
- Trash bags - One large heavy duty bag can be used for an expedient shelter in emergency situations.
- Leather gloves - In extreme cold, use inner liner gloves with outer shell mittens that are waterproof.
- Hand/foot warmers - optional
- Matches - Storm proof or strike anywhere matches are preferred. Vaseline impregnated cotton balls are an excellent fire starter and double for anti -chaffing ointment or chapstick.
- Pocket knife
- Compass
- Orange hard hat
- Orange vest
- Eye protection
- Small personal 1st Aid Kit & three days of personal medications or special needs.
- Toilet paper in a waterproof bag.

Backpack (Be prepared to hike with full gear)

- Closed cell foam sleeping pad
- Sleeping bag - extreme cold weather, down or synthetic filled but NOT cotton
- Ground "cloth " - plastic tarp or poncho
- Small lightweight tent
- Roll of toilet paper in plastic bag
- Spare socks
- Spare BDU trousers
- Food for 4 or 5 meals (hot) - consider snacks in day pack
- Eating Utensils
- Small Stove - Optional Not Necessary
- Soap, small towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc
- Another quart of water

Be able to carry Day Pack and Backpack together for a few miles in the woods, & the layers of clothing that aren't being worn. - Pack up and walk with all of your equipment before the school, sleep in the cold with it!

Bring extra money - limited uniform and minor equipment items may be for sale at the school.

Ranger Staff Training Candidate Interviews will be conducted before and after both Winter Schools. This is more for the candidate to ask questions about the program. Contact rangerstaff@yahoo.com to schedule your interview.

*An interview is **not** a requirement to attend Ranger Staff Training.*