

## Preparing to visit the Wilderness

### **Leave word where you are going and when you will be back:**

- ✓ Give complete route details of where you are going to close relatives/friends.
- ✓ Tell them about anyone's special medical conditions e.g. diabetes, asthma.
- ✓ Tell them when you plan to return and have them call authorities if overdue.
- ✓ Leave a note 'inside' your car or truck outlining your hiking plans. For security reasons, it is not necessary to place the note so it can be read through the windshield. If you're missing and we find your car, we will get inside to read your note.

### **Take the correct map and a compass. Know how to use them.**

### **Take appropriate clothing and footwear.**

- ✓ In the Wisconsin Northwoods it is especially important to avoid hypothermia. Weather changes rapidly in all seasons.
- ✓ Always take a waterproof wind breaker, and clothing that can keep you warm when wet, e.g. wool.
- ✓ Avoid cotton which absorbs perspiration and rain and becomes cold when wet.
- ✓ Avoid cotton jeans.
- ✓ Even in warm weather in the woods, be prepared for rains and night cold if stranded. Large plastic trash bags can substitute for rain gear in an emergency.
- ✓ Take drinking water, take drinking water, take drinking water! Water is much more important to your survival than food.
- ✓ Take high calorie/high protein snacks to

maintain energy.

- ✓ Don't overestimate your abilities.
- ✓ Always allow time for the unexpected, e.g. thick scrub, rock lines, streams, swamps.
- ✓ Don't go faster than the slowest member of your group.
- ✓ At regular intervals do a head count of your group.
- ✓ Don't split up your group during a hike. There is safety in numbers.
- ✓ Don't leave an injured person alone. A group of three or more will allow one to look after the injured while the other goes for help. If there are only two of you, do not leave the injured person alone unless you know exactly the route to get help. Stay on trails, roads, etc.!

### **Stay put when lost.**

- ✓ Find a campsite (with nearby water, if practical) and that will be visible from a helicopter.
- ✓ Wave vigorously (a bright or white shirt, jacket, etc.) at any helicopters - they are probably looking for you!
- ✓ Don't forget if you are overdue to phone home from the first phone you come to. Make sure, if you are overdue, that you notify local authorities that you are safe.

### **Is Someone Missing?**

DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL FOR HELP

DO NOT THINK YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF

THERE ARE TRAINED SEARCHERS  
AVAILABLE, PREPARED, WITH THE TOOLS  
AND SKILLS TO FIND THE PERSON MUCH  
QUICKER THAN YOU CAN...



Nicolet Search Team, Inc.  
P.O. Box 85  
Mountain, Wi 54149

[www.nicoletsearchteam.org](http://www.nicoletsearchteam.org)

## Who Are We?

The Nicolet Search Team, Inc. is a group of volunteers from many walks of life who have dedicated themselves to helping others in time of need. It is the goal of our Team to provide skilled and trained ground searchers to assist official agencies in looking for individuals who are missing.

Might this sound interesting?

The Nicolet Search Team is an outgrowth of several years of work by many dedicated volunteers to provide trained searchers in Northeast Wisconsin. The group began as a result of several lengthy searches conducted in Oconto County and the lack of trained people to conduct those searches. So the Nicolet Search Team, Inc. was formed in March of 2002. We have participated in searches all over Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Minnesota. Our members are of all ages and gender, come from many different walks of life and live all over Northeast Wisconsin, but they all have one thing in common, the need to help others.

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Being a member of a search team is not a glorious or ego building occupation, but rather a somewhat thankless, dirty, sweaty job of searching for those who are unprepared to visit our wonderful area. Searches have entailed pouring rain in the middle of the night, wading through swamps in 80 degree temperatures, swatting at the bugs the whole time, looking for lost hunters ill prepared to spend the night in the woods. And maybe, just maybe, someone will come up to you after it is all done, say "Thank You", and you will be ready to go again.

## Membership Categories of Our Team

Active Members. An active member shall have one vote in the election of Directors and in the admission of new members. Additional members may be admitted to the Team by vote of the active members at any regular meeting with a quorum in attendance.

An active member shall be required to attend a minimum of fifty percent of Team workouts and fifty percent of Team meetings during the calendar year unless he/she shows acceptable reason for absenteeism and the attendance requirement is waived by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members.

Active members shall in addition, have met the requirements for the class of active membership for which they apply, as listed below:

Operational Members are qualified searchers. They have completed the Team's initial 18 hour training outline and/or NASAR's FUNSAR; show ability to assemble and care for personal gear; know basic radio procedure; possess map and compass knowledge; have basic first aid knowledge and CPR; know the ICS command structure; be physically fit; and attend a minimum of fifty percent of all searches of which they receive notification.

Base Camp and Support Members. Base Camp and Support personnel are those who participate in search and rescue operations in some capacity other than as a ground searcher. Base camp personnel meet all requirements for Operational members, but are not required to do field work.

Junior Members. Junior members are non-voting members under 18 years of age who provide support and service to the association in a non-search capacity. A parent or legal guardian must also be an active member of the Team.

## Find out more about the Team

We would like to thank you for considering becoming a part of our dedicated and professional team of skilled searchers. We know that you still have many questions that have gone unanswered, so we would ask that you visit with our many members and find out more about what we do. We hold our monthly meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00am and various other days for field training. We tend to meet at the Mountain Ambulance Station, but the bowels of the Nicolet National Forest sometimes provides the meeting room also. You are more than welcome to attend and find out more about the Team.

To find out more and complete an online application, feel free to contact the Team at:

[www.nicoletsearchteam.org](http://www.nicoletsearchteam.org)  
[elmera@hughes.net](mailto:elmera@hughes.net)

Non-Emergency contact may be made through E-Mail using the links provided or (715) 850-0843.

EMERGENCY contact can be made through the Oconto County Dispatch Center (920) 834-6900 or 911 in Oconto County.

The consensus of the membership will determine our response to your scene and to what degree based on distance and logistic requirements.

**Always Ready, So That Others May Live...**