

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities



**Vehicle Committee
Potomac Valley Rescue Group
University of Maryland, College Park**

About the Potomac Valley Rescue Group

PVRG is:

- an SGA-recognized student organization at the University of Maryland
- composed primarily of University of Maryland undergraduate students
- one of nine member teams of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
- a recognized resource of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency
- Explorer Search and Rescue Post 617

Search and Rescue

The main purpose of PVRG is to provide all-weather search and rescue services, in the mid-Atlantic region, as one of nine member teams of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference. The ASRC primarily searches for missing/lost persons and overdue/downed aircraft. PVRG is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to any search operation for which we are requested. Members range in qualification from Call Out Qualified, with one weekend of training, to Incident Commander, which takes years of experience and training.

Most of our searches occur in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. We search in all weather conditions, except for electrical storms, and in any terrain, from the suburban developments of Columbia, MD to the wilderness areas of Shenandoah National Park.

At a search, we provide leadership, communications, navigation, and medical support. Our team works with dog teams, law enforcement, firefighters, Civil Air Patrol members, and volunteers to help find missing persons, provide them with medical care, and transport them to professional first responders.

Disaster Response

These same skills also make our team a valuable asset in times of disaster. PVRG is called upon by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to assist in disaster situations. This past September, we were on alert and ready to respond to any problems that may have occurred due to Hurricane Isabel. In 1992, the ASRC was called upon to provide assistance in Florida following Hurricane Andrew. Recently, some of our team members have received FEMA training to better respond to disaster areas. We plan to start one of these training programs to help community groups better prepare for emergency situations.

Community Service and Other Activities

When we are not training for an participating in search and rescue operations, we help to provide first aid for community events, clean up local parks, and assist in community service activities.

PVRG Highlights

- This year we trained 23 members to respond to searches
- Total number of members: 41
- In 1997 PVRG received the Diamond Award for Community Service
- We will be celebrating our 15 year anniversary in fall of 2004
- We are the only college-based SAR team in MD
- As a volunteer, no PVRG member is paid for their services
- Members go on to take classes in subjects including mantracking, incident command, cave rescue, and technical rescue.
- Members build upon their foundations in PVRG and become firefighters, paramedics, SAR dog handlers, Coast Guard, law enforcement agents, and use the skills we teach to help communities around the country.

Some Recent PVRG Missions:

- On call for a missing kayaker in WV, November 2003
- Missing 8-year old child in Columbia, MD, December 2003
- Missing 5 year old in Halifax County, VA, January 2003
- Missing 10 year old girl in Petersburg, VA, February 2003
- Missing 44 year old female, Greene County, VA , March 2004
- Missing 14 year old female in Patrick County, VA, April 2004

Why PVRG Needs Funding:

Until this year, PVRG has relied upon a used Ford ambulance to transport team members and equipment to searches. However, this vehicle no longer works, and we were forced to put it up for auction, and begin looking for a replacement vehicle. Due to a University funding cap, the SGA is only able to contribute \$4800 to our new vehicle (including maintenance and fuel). By selling our previous vehicle, we have raised \$1288. We are seeking corporate donations to help us raise an additional \$9,000 for this program. Any donations not used for the initial purchase and modification will be used for annual vehicle expenses.

Vehicle Description

A single used vehicle could easily be modified to serve as PVRG's flagship. A standard SUV, pickup, or minivan could be professionally painted with our logo and those of our supporters, and outfitted with a rooftop container for additional storage and our radio antenna. Inside, our GPS/radio units and laptop could provide us with mobile communications and improve navigation. Essential search supplies, in labeled containers, would be easily accessed at the search site, and extra gear could be brought using our 4'x6' trailer.

This Will Allow Us To:

Respond Quickly

By having a single vehicle with the needed equipment, we can have our first team on the road quickly, without having to stop to sort through and pick up equipment. The early stages are often the most important, and having a group vehicle will allow us to get on the road quickly.

Access Isolated Areas

If possible, we'd like this vehicle to be 4 wheel drive to allow us to travel through backcountry trails, steep slopes, beach areas, and disaster sites. This would allow the vehicle to be used as a search tool, and not just a means to get to a search. It can also allow us to set up radio repeater stations on distant hill tops, to improve communications over long distances. Once the subject is found, the vehicle could be used to transport them to the nearest major road, where ambulances can take over.

Help With Search Management

Once at the site, this vehicle will allow us to assist in base operations. A search and rescue base can be set up anywhere, and is often in a crowded cabin or other tight quarters. In larger searches, base is spread over a large area, with various components in different locations. Using tarps and tents, the vehicle could be used as a location to conduct part of the search management functions, where incident command personnel could plan search tactics, debrief field teams, interview family members, or conduct communications with field teams.

Store Gear Safely

When not in service, a vehicle with tinted windows would provide a secure storage location, especially if parked at the College Park Police or Fire Station. This capacity could be enhanced by a security system, and ensure the safety of our valuable communications equipment.

Conduct Public Relations

A professional looking vehicle could greatly improve our image at public events, and allow us to attract new members, and become well known in the community. With this recognition, our ability to develop ties with other organizations will improve. Containing our equipment, the vehicle could make an excellent centerpiece for displays and demonstrations at local fairs, Maryland day, First Look Fair, school groups, scout troops, and other events.

Test New Technologies

As a research university, the University of Maryland is constantly looking at ways to improve things. This vehicle could be improved to serve as an example to the entire SAR community, about how a vehicle can be outfitted to perform better in SAR operations. There are sure to be some modifications over the life of the vehicle, to help it perform better, whether they be a simple deer whistle or solar panels for backcountry power.

Your Donation Helps:

Your tax-deductible donation does more than help us save lives. It sends a clear message of support for:

University Students

PVRG helps University students in developing leadership, teamwork, bravery, responsibility, and skills. Community service activities are often overshadowed by exams, sports, and parties. A good search and rescue vehicle will help us to get more people interested in helping others, and train students to become the leaders of tomorrow while developing an awareness for others and the outdoors.

The University of Maryland

Given recent funding cuts, and the limited funds of the SGA, the University is unable to provide us with the support we need. By supporting the College Park Foundation, this vehicle sends a clear message of support for the University Community. A well-funded team could add to the atmosphere and pride of the University and set us apart from other schools.

Residents of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic States

We help in searches throughout the Mid-Atlantic, and support other SAR teams and professional responders. Being trained in first aid and CPR, PVRG members also help to make their communities safer, and are ready to assist others wherever they go.

National and International SAR

Our members often travel or move to other areas, and carry their skills with them. Our team is growing, and developing information resources which it shares with teams across the country via the internet. As the closest volunteer SAR team to the District, accomplishments by our team could lead diplomats and representatives from around the nation and the world to have a greater understanding of the need for volunteer rescue teams.

Sponsor Benefits:

Tax deduction

Your donation can be routed through the College Park Foundation, a nonprofit organization which provides financial support for the University and its departments. The staff of the Foundation will be happy to write gift receipts, so that you may receive a tax deduction for your financial or material donation.

Advertising

Our team would be proud to support those who support us. We will happily provide advertising space on our website, which sees thousands of visitors per month, a rate which is increasing as our website improves and is linked by other websites. Your company's logo can be added to the main introduction page, and/or the supporters page, as well as to the top of our links section.

Vehicle Advertising

We can also provide space on our vehicle for advertising. As the focus of our public relations program, this vehicle will be present at major events like Maryland Day, the First Look Fair, and various other events, as well as at all searches and disaster response missions we participate in. This is a high visibility area, and will provide excellent advertising space for as long as we use the vehicle.

The amount of advertising space on the vehicle will be greater for those who contribute more, and equal among those who contribute equally. The exact amount of space is dependent on the vehicle selected.

How You Can Help:

We have currently raised \$6084.00 from the Student Government Association and the sale of our old ambulance. We would like matching funds among multiple companies to help us reach our goal of \$15,000. Donations of equipment relevant to this project would also be greatly appreciated.

Vehicle Budget, 2004-2005

Type	Amount Raised	Amount Desired	Amount Needed
Vehicle	3796.00	10,000.00	6204.00
Modifications	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
Maintenance	600.00	600.00	0.00
Gas and Oil	400.00	1400.00	1000.00
Undesignated	1288.00	2000.00	712.00
Total	6084.00	15,000.00	8916.00

Desired Vehicle Modifications:

- Vehicle Painting
- Roof Rack
- Rooftop Storage Case
- Trailer Hitch
- Snow Chains/Tires

Thank you for your time and interest in supporting us.

Potomac Valley Rescue Group
Box 10 Stamp Student Union
University of Maryland
College Park MD, 20742
Email: PVRG-staff@yahoogroups.com
Website: <http://www.studentorg.umd.edu/pvrg/>