



# **MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE, INC.**

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHEET**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, Inc. (MCSP). Since 1964, the MCSP has assisted the Sheriff, residents and visitors of Montrose County with Search & Rescue, Wildland Firefighting and Security missions. Made up of a dedicated team of volunteers, the MCSP conducts mandatory monthly meetings and training sessions to develop and enhance skills in First Aid, CPR, GPS navigation, Firefighting, Ice Rescue, Helicopter Landing Zone and Passenger Rules, Emergency Vehicle Driving & Use, Weapons, Chain Saw Safety, Traffic Control and any other identified training exercise to improve skills or the safety of the members.

Members are also required to further their education of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) Competencies through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and any other required training by Federal, State, County and Local agencies as identified by the MCSP Board of Directors.

The Posse is a group of trained individuals who often need to count on the skills, training, and effectiveness of their fellow members to successfully complete missions that can be actual life-or-death situations. It is only through group training and exercises that we understand each other's strengths and learn to work together as a cohesive group.

### **Qualifications.**

Qualifications for membership in the MCSP are that an applicant shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age; a citizen of the United States; shall not have been convicted of a felony; and, if having served in the armed forces of the United States, shall have received an honorable discharge. The applicant shall have lived within Montrose County for a period of at least one year immediately preceding application, unless having been on military active duty during that year, having resided within the county for at least six months immediately prior to that service.

### **Application Process.**

The application process for an individual to become a member of the MCSP shall include that:

- A. An Active Member or Honorary Life Member shall sponsor an applicant for membership in the MCSP;
- B. The applicant shall submit a completed application (with badge deposit attached) to the sponsoring member who shall then present the application for membership to the Division President for consideration. Upon receipt, the Division President shall refer the application to the Investigation Committee for action;
- C. The Chairman of the Investigation Committee shall oversee the investigation of the applicant to verify the truth and veracity of the application and ascertain the integrity of the individual. The application shall be given to the Sheriff's Office for a complete background check and approval by the Sheriff. Upon completion of the background check and approval by Sheriff, preferably within 10 days of referral but not in excess of 30 days thereof, the Committee Chairman shall forward the application to the Board of Directors with the committee's recommendation for further action;

- D. The Board of Directors, after reviewing the application, committee recommendation and Sheriff's Office background check and approval, shall either accept or reject the application and may do so with or without comment as to cause;
- E. Upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the application shall be presented to the division membership for their vote. The vote shall be by secret written ballot during a monthly division general meeting; and, if approved by majority vote of the active members of the division, the applicant shall be sworn in as a Probationary Member;
- F. A certificate of membership shall be issued to each member. The certificate shall indicate his/her name and the date of their becoming a member. No certificate of membership shall be transferable; and no assignee or transferee thereof, whether by operation of law or otherwise, shall be entitled to membership in the MCSP or any property rights or interests therein.

## Membership Designations.

The Board of Directors shall designate the membership as they deem appropriate. Members may be identified by one or more designation. A granted excuse from callouts and training meetings shall be given only by a Director or Division Officer. The membership of the MCSP shall be identified by the following designations:

- A. **Probationary Member.** A Probationary Member in the MCSP shall be:
  1. A member who has been sworn in but has not completed six months of membership with the MCSP;
  2. A member under disciplinary action from the Board of Directors.

Upon the six month anniversary of membership or anytime under disciplinary action, the Board of Directors shall review the performance of the probationary member; and, if justified, advance them to Active Member.

- B. **Active Member.** An Active Member in the MCSP shall:
  1. Not miss attending more than 4 general meetings in the last twelve month period without a granted excuse;
  2. Not miss participating in more than 3 callouts in the last twelve month period without a granted excuse;
  3. Not miss participating in more than 3 training meetings in the last twelve month period without a granted excuse;
  4. Carry and respond to calls on their pager or cell phone at all times;
  5. Arrive at callouts properly prepared for assignment;
  6. Have accrued a minimum of forty hours of activity in the last twelve month period;
  7. Actively participate in at least one Standing Committee.

If a member does not meet the requirements stated above, the member shall be designated as a Probationary Member. The Board of Directors shall notify in writing any member who has not met the requirements.

- C. **Honorary life members.** The Board of Directors may bestow life membership upon worthy members who have achieved a minimum of 20 years of active and credible service to the MCSP and upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors. This honor should be bestowed only for long and exemplary service. The honorary life member shall:
  1. Be exempt from the requirements of an Active Member designation, unless he is a current director or officer;
  2. Meet the requirements of the Active Member designation to be considered for nomination as a director or officer.

## **Additional Membership Policies & Procedures.**

The following policies and procedures are necessary for the applicant to be considered for membership. These policies and procedures are necessary for the member to be properly prepared to respond and participate in any mission, and for your safety and the safety of all Posse members.

- A. Applicant must have and maintain a permanent telephone at their residence or cell phone on their person at all times;
- B. Applicant must have a valid Colorado driver's license;
- C. Applicant must be willing and able to participate in all Posse callouts and functions;
- D. Applicant must be able to spend up to \$150.00 for the purchase of equipment that all Posse members are required to have at all times.
- E. Firearms may not be carried at any time a Posse member is in dress uniform unless under the express permission of the Sheriff. Such permission is valid for that one incident only. Posse members on Posse duty who are not in dress uniform may be permitted to carry a firearm in certain circumstances, but only after successfully completing annual range qualifications certified by the Sheriff's Office. This policy applies to exposed firearms carried by any Posse member and to concealed weapons carried by those with a concealed carry permit.
- F. The MCSP is a drug free organization. If you use drugs for any reason other than medical, do not apply. Future use will be grounds for immediate expulsion.
- G. The MCSP is strictly a volunteer organization. There is no monetary compensation for time spent on any MCSP activity. You will be expected to follow the instructions of the Incident Commander and sub commanders at any callout.

The Applicant must submit a \$85.00 badge deposit with this application for it to be considered. If you are not accepted into the MCSP, all funds will be returned. If, after becoming a member you retire or are released from the MCSP, all money paid for badge deposits and other amounts paid for MCSP insignia items and MCSP identified special equipment will be refunded to you when they are turned in. The badge is the property of the MCSP and must be returned.

If you do not meet, agree with, or are not willing to comply with any of the above qualifications, policies and procedures, you need not apply. The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse has the right to accept or reject any application for membership without explanation or cause.

If you wish to apply for membership in the MCSP, please complete the attached Membership Application Form and submit it to your sponsor with the application fee.

This Membership Information Sheet is for your records.