



# 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.

It is your responsibility to check the weather prior to the weekend and pack accordingly. The zipcode is 19529 for Base Camp to check the weather. You will be camping, hiking and participating in classes all outside.

**Students & Staff that do not have proper paperwork completed and/or Winter Clothing and Insulated Boots will not be accepted to attend!**

**CAPF60-81 (Old CAPF 30), 160 and 161 must be completed for each member that attends. These need to be emailed to [hawkmountain@cap.gov](mailto:hawkmountain@cap.gov)**

Courses are available for both Cadets and Seniors Members:

Basic Course - First year course emphasizing on navigation, winter search and rescue techniques, cold weather survival, camp site selection, and preparing for cold weather operations, along with mission scenarios, patient evacuation.

Introduction to Winter OPS – Basic introduction to cold weather operations, clothing, equipment, safety, first aid, basic survival, search techniques, and woodsman ship. This is not a prerequisite course. This is designed for students that have had no experience in cold weather operations.

Advanced Course - A second year course continuing the education, skills and experiences of search & rescue operations in a cold weather environment. Prerequisite is completion of a Winter Ranger School.

Special Advanced Course - Designed for cadets and seniors who have attended the advanced winter school. The course will include field mobility, advanced search, winter survival, Natural Shelters, and team leader skills.

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](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:  
[https://0b305c8b-6ed5-42a5-bc82-c822b2d80e2c.filesusr.com/ugd/056b63\\_9a00fbccc6ba45d8aa2396727b34ec69.pdf](https://0b305c8b-6ed5-42a5-bc82-c822b2d80e2c.filesusr.com/ugd/056b63_9a00fbccc6ba45d8aa2396727b34ec69.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
  - Snow or Ski Goggles
  - Windproof Pants/Bibs

### Base layers

- Synthetic T-Shirt
- Liner Gloves
- Pants/Tights
- Liner Socks

### Insulation layer

- Warm Hat or Balaclava
- Light Jacket or Sweater
- Gloves or Mittens
- Warm Pants
- Wool Socks

### Shell layer

- Snow or Ski Goggles
- Rain Jacket or Shell
- Outer Mittens
- Windproof Pants/Bibs
- Nylon Gaiters
- Waterproof Boots

## 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-chafing ointment or chapstick.

- Pocket knife
- Compass
- Orange hard hat
- Orange vest
- Eye protection
- Small personal 1<sup>st</sup> 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\* (optional)
- 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 2 quarts of water

**Tents** – Due to safety and accountability concerns, cadet students will share tents with other cadets; all students should expect to be assigned tent mates. Packing a tent is encouraged, but not mandatory. Cadets, who choose not to bring a tent, must bring an extra 10' x 12' tarp as part of a shelter. Recommended size for tents is 2 to 4-man, but a 5 to 6-man is acceptable. Tents will be set up according to need and all tents may not be used. During the school, tents are used for sleeping only. All equipment is kept in a squadron equipment tent. If you do not own a tent do not purchase one just for the weekend.

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 Question and Answer session will conducted at Winter School. This is more for the candidate to ask questions about the program. Contact [hawkmountain@cap.gov](mailto:hawkmountain@cap.gov) with any additional questions.