

Kris Lesperance, Field Support

Kris Lesperance, Ph.D. has been active in SAR since 1990. She started as a mantracker with Contra Costa County SAR and mission ready handler with California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA), working as a hasty team member in the (then) abduction capitol of the US. After responding to numerous searches throughout California, a move to Eastern Washington supplied Kris with working knowledge of searching in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. There she responded on over a hundred searches, from high country wilderness to human remains detection on many notable cases.

She became active with NASAR, taught Fundamentals of SAR, evaluated SARTech II certifications, and ran NASAR canine certifications in multiple locations domestically and internationally. She and her husband established their Spokane home as what many called a "SAR Camp," running integrated multiple SAR discipline trainings and evaluations on their own property and the surrounding public lands. After cofounding two successful search and rescue teams and training hundreds, a move to Hawai'i afforded Kris the opportunity to become the master trainer for the new State Civil Defense (now HEMA) canine urban search and rescue team, where she helped multiple team members reach SARTech II and NASAR Disaster certifications and with deployment on the Kaloko Dam Disaster.

Kris has earned multiple certifications from a lifetime in SAR, from Ice Rescue in a "Gumby suit" to Rescue Systems III, wielding an o'o. Having certified five of her own dogs in different SAR disciplines across her SAR career, Kris has now returned to Washington state, and is grateful and honored to be a part of CSD. Although she does not yet have another working dog, she finds joy in assisting the team in achieving its goals, while helping CSD handlers achieve theirs.