



Reflections

As we head into a new year, we take time to reflect on what has come before. In 2018 a group of K9 SAR volunteers came together to form a new organization – Cascadia Search Dogs. Our vision was to transcend the formal county boundaries of K9 SAR and create something new that focused entirely on the education and training of search and rescue dogs throughout Washington State and beyond.

Our values are deeply anchored in the belief that quality training results in more competent K9s and handlers and that the entire community benefits when the best dogs are deployed to search for the lost and the missing.

We are grateful to so many that have supported and encouraged us along the way. Our work wouldn't be possible without the donors and foundations that have contributed financial support that help us host trainings that are affordable and effective.

We would especially like to thank The Edmonds School District, the City of Arlington, WA. and the Sniffspot host at A Walk in Don's Woods in Arlington, WA. that provided access to unique training locations in 2022. Each of these locations provided special access to woods, fields, buildings, and vehicles that helped us take our training to a new level.

Because of all the support we received we were able to offer the following to our K9 Community:

- The 6th Annual Snow Training at Mt. Rainier
- Advanced Markers & Reward Systems Workshop with Jo Huxel
- Human Remains Detection and Airscent Workshop with Robin Greubel



- An online course on CalTopo for Field Responders taught by Eric Rosenberg of the WA State SAR Planning Unit
- A newly redesigned website with multiple resource pages for K9 teams
- Our hosted 8-week *K9Konversations* online group that brought together 20 individuals from across the country to share experiences and learnings about training a search dog
- More than 20 of our weekly training sessions opened up to other K9 community teams for shared training.
- Our very own K9 Keb was crowned as the National Search and Rescue Hero Dog by the American Humane Society and is the main character in *A Dog's Devotion*, a newly released book written by two of our members
- Several of our members continued to help certify new SAR K9 Teams as principal evaluators for national certifying organizations.
- We provided financial training scholarships to individuals to attend our workshops at reduced rates
- Our K9 Team members deployed on numerous searches through their individual county team affiliations.
- Our team members achieved first time certifications in Historical Human Remains Detection, Open Water & Shoreline Search, and Disaster Foundational Skills Assessment.

We are excited to head into 2023 with several offerings already being scheduled. In January we will hold our 7th Annual Snow Training and a Trailing Workshop will be held in September. Stay tuned for more to come!

Happy New Year to All!



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