

Thanks to the President, Becky Shropshire, for providing all the information about her team.



"I do this because I love it. We know if we respond they will keep calling us. And if you have success in their county, they will call you more."
Becky Shropshire

Team Spotlight



Southern Pride Search Dogs

Formed in 1998 by Orville Banks as a non-profit organization

President: Becky Shropshire (Western POC)

Vice President: Nancy Culbertson (Eastern POC)

Team Members: 6 Handlers, 2 Ground Support, 8 K9's (1 Bloodhound, 2 German Sheppards, 1 Australian Sheppard, 1 Black Mouth Curr, 1 Rottweiler, 1 Great Swiss, and 1 mixed lab)

Experience Level: 12+ years per member with the founder, Orville Banks having 40 years of experience.

Searches this year: 29 including one live find in Jackson County

Search Area: All of North Carolina and surrounding states. Just a couple of weeks ago they were called to Tennessee for a search.

Capabilities: Cadaver/ Air Scent/Trailing K9 Search, ground search and Instructors/trainers

Team Training Standard: Everyone practices once or twice each week- a mixture of working the K9's, instructing others, and in house team training. Members receive training in land nav, wilderness survival, and land search. K9's are certified by NC Police Dog Association, though the team standard is more strict. For example, a beginning trailing dog must complete a 12 hour old track, in an unfamiliar training area, with an unknown subject, over varied terrain features, for a half mile, with at least one cross trail from another subject.

Advice to Others: You have to train a lot and know your abilities. When called to a search, be straight forward and let them know if you are capable of what they are asking you to do.

How to become a member: New members can join. You must contact Becky or Nancy, and attend some team training. If prospective members show dedication and commitment, they will receive an application, then they can be on a 6 month probationary period before becoming an official member.

Funding: This team accepts donations as a 501c non-profit organization. The team earns money through teaching Terrain Navigator Pro classes for Emergency Management and is able to fund the team's worker compensation and K9 certification. Otherwise team members pay for all equipment and other expenses associated with Search and Rescue.

Links: <http://www.sp-searchdogs.org/>