

On Call

Interested in **Joining?**



Step Three

Once trained you are now on call. Usually call outs and brief details of a live search will be notified to you by Sussex Police by both text and E-mail, or landline phone if you have neither.

How often you are called out can vary a great deal. You may not be called out for some months, and then two call outs may come in quick succession. **It is appreciated that you may not be able to attend every call and exercise.**

Searches can take place any day of the week, but usually our exercises are scheduled on or near a weekend. You will not be exposed to confrontation or danger.

For more information please visit our website

www.nsst.org.uk

To join the North Sussex Search Team you need to submit an application form to Sergeant Rachel Mundy, which can be downloaded directly from the website, or if required sent out to you.

When searching you will be in a group of friendly like-minded people. You will be getting healthy exercise and probably have a bit of fun, but more importantly, you could be helping to save somebody's life or find vital evidence to solve a crime.

*North Sussex Search Team is the everyday name for Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Search Team – North.

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In partnership with
Neighbourhood Watch and Sussex Police.



Supported by:

Safer Crawley Partnership

Search **Volunteers**

Are you:

- ▶ Age 18 or over?
- ▶ Fit enough for countryside walks, maybe in adverse weather conditions, and at times over difficult terrain?
- ▶ Willing and able to give up some of your spare time, for the young, old and vulnerable, sometimes at very short notice?

North Sussex Search Team

Your **Training**

Get your **'Go Bag'**

Who are we?

We are a group of friendly and enthusiastic volunteers based in North Sussex who help the police, when requested, to search for missing vulnerable persons and property which may be crucial to a police enquiry. Many of our members also belong to Neighbourhood Watch, but this is not essential. In operation since 2006, we have over 120 members but we need more.

We work alongside similar teams based elsewhere in Sussex, a total of over 300 volunteers.

Why search?

Each year as many as 5,000 people are reported missing in Sussex. Happily most are soon found safe and well. However, in some cases a person may be vulnerable, and a large number of trained people are needed quickly to help support the police in a systematic search.

In the past there have been high profile missing children such as Sarah Payne, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. Untrained volunteers came forward to offer assistance, but unless there is proper organisation and control their efforts can often be a hindrance.

Our volunteers are trained to work together systematically in close harmony with the police, to find missing persons, give First Aid, find and preserve evidence.

Step One

Send in your Application Form. We will contact you to arrange a meeting to give you further information about the Search Team, answer any queries you may have and to complete a brief questionnaire. You will then be provided with dates for a basic training course, usually held over two weekend mornings. Sussex Police will conduct your training in a very friendly environment, and you will learn with others how to become a fully fledged volunteer searcher.

Day one is usually classroom based, and explains why and how we search, in what circumstances, the different forms of search used, an overview of search assets available to the police, and importantly, our interaction with Sussex Police.

Day two provides practical experience to try out some of your newly learnt skills.

This interesting course is packed full of practical advice, and perhaps some stories which will grab your attention!

Further training is available for anyone wishing to become a Team Leader, First Aider or Controller. You will have the option to learn to use radios, GPS, map reading and compasses.

Search exercises are held regularly to polish our skills and try out new ideas. All we ask is that you attend one search or major exercise every year.

Step Two

A 'GO BAG' is the kit we suggest that you keep ready in case you are able to attend a call out at short notice.

It is essential that you have:

- ▶ The high visibility tabard and ID card which we will supply
- ▶ A medium size lightweight rucksack
- ▶ Good comfortable walking boots
- ▶ Gaiters, for protection against mud, brambles and gorse
- ▶ Waterproof and thorn resistant clothing
- ▶ A bottle of water or filled hot drink flask

We recommend that you have:

- ▶ A stick, gardening gloves, hat, whistle, pair of goggles, small notepad with pen or pencil, mobile phone, a wind up torch, sun cream, and any personal medical items which you may need
- ▶ A snack

It is a good idea to have a spare set of clothes and shoes in a bag in your car - these can be left in police vehicles during a search.

