

APPENDIX: THE ASRC UNIFORM

INTRODUCTION From the beginning of the ASRC, members wore the ASRC patch on their shirts or parkas. In the mid-1970's, the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group adopted a uniform shirt, consisting of a blue workshirt with an ASRC patch on the left sleeve, an EMT or similar patch on the right sleeve, and a blue plastic nametag over the right breast pocket. A few years later, the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group adopted a similar uniform, and at the 1983 ASRC General Membership Meeting, this was established as the official ASRC uniform.

Before there was an ASRC uniform, only Certified Members could wear the ASRC patch. It served not only as an organizational patch, but also as the mark of an ASRC Certified Member. BRMRG and SMRG Trainees and Associates wore only a blue shirt with an EMT or first aid patch and a blue nameplate. When an ASRC-wide uniform was established (at the 1983 meeting), the ASRC patch became an integral part of the uniform for all uniformed members, not just Certified Members. Since the ASRC patch no longer identified Certified Members, a small Mountain Rescue Association patch over the left breast pocket became the new ASRC certification mark. The ASRC joined the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) in about 1980, and from that time all ASRC Certified (Basic and Rescue) Members become MRA "Rescue" Members as well, and therefore have the right to wear the MRA patch. Trainees and Associates are classed as MRA "Support" Members, and there is a MRA patch with SUPPORT under the logo for these members, but this patch has not been adopted as part of the ASRC uniform. When the privilege of wearing the ASRC patch was extended to Trainees and Associates, the standards for Trainee Membership were upgraded, and Associates who wish to wear the uniform are required to meet the Trainee standards.

At the 1985 ASRC Annual Meeting, the Membership passed a motion allowing an optional patch, to be worn centered over the left breast pocket, specific patches to be approved by the ASRC Board of Directors. At a subsequent Board meeting, the Virginia Search and Rescue Council patch was approved for this use. In 1985, individual group names on the uniform nameplate were replaced by that of the ASRC.

WHO WEARS THE UNIFORM? The ASRC uniform may be worn by Certified Members, Trainee Members, and those Associate Members who have met all requirements for Trainee Membership; however, Associates who will serve only in Base Camp need not acquire any technical ropework equipment required of Trainees.

UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS The uniform is a Sears or similar blue chambray work shirt, with:

- a. on the left shoulder, a standard ASRC patch;
- b. on the right shoulder, a Virginia, National Registry, or other approved EMT or First Responder patch, or an American National Red Cross Standard or Advanced First Aid patch, with any appropriate rockers (patches consistent with the member's current certification must be worn);
- c. over the right breast pocket, a 3/4" x 3" blue plastic nametag, with white lettering denoting the member's name, and underneath, the words "APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE); and
- d. over the left breast pocket, for all Certified Members and Certified Members only, a small (2-1/4") Mountain Rescue Association patch.
- e. centered on the left breast pocket, an optional Virginia Search and Rescue Council patch may be worn.

No other patches or emblems are to be worn on the uniform shirt.

Members with the right to wear the ASRC uniform shirt may affix patches and a nametag to personal parkas or other outer garments, provided that they are in the same positions as are specified for the uniform shirt and no other patches or emblems are worn on the garment.