



CARS

CHARLOTTESVILLE ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD

FAQs for Prospective Applicants

Updated 12/18/24

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: *For active-medical members*, we require one 12 hour shift a week and for all weekday night crews and Sunday crews (both day and night), we require one Saturday 24 hour shift every 6 weeks (Sunday 24 for Sunday night crew). We also require a two year commitment as the two years allows members to progress through training, clinical release, driver release, and preceptorship before they may leave for other commitments such as medical or PA school.

For associate support members, the time commitment will vary depending on the type of events or activities you may engage in with our rescue squad.

For driver-only members, we require 72 hours a month before becoming a released driver (in which the timeline varies based on progress), and 36 hours a month after release.

For other membership categories, please visit our website: rescue1.org/volunteer/

Q: What about school breaks (e.g., winter, summer, spring break)?

A: We are not affiliated with the University of Virginia, thus, we do not follow the UVa academic calendar. We operate as a 24/7 rescue squad/911 emergency medical service for the City of Charlottesville so we remain staffed throughout student holidays and breaks. Accordingly, members are required to find covers, at or above their level of release, for shifts they anticipate they will need to miss.

Q: What does your “waitlist” look like? Why does it take so long to be accepted into CARS?

A: We do not formally have a “waitlist” as every applicant’s availability looks different, which plays a big role in whether or not we may have a spot for an applicant in any given month. Although we are fortunate to receive many applications from many qualified applicants every month, ultimately, the number of spots we have available for prospective members across all of our crews depend on the training resources (e.g., preceptors) we would have available to adequately support a member to success.



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Q: Do you have a strength requirement?

A: Yes. Per VAOEMS standards, you must be able to lift at least 135 lbs. The strength requirement is set in place for the safety of our providers and patients.

Q: What does "collecting" mean?

A: At our agency, "collecting" as a BLS or ALS provider means running calls on your own under the supervision of a senior member/preceptor. The collecting period for BLS providers typically lasts four months as all BLS collectors are required to apply for release by the end of their fourth month. ALS collecting durations vary heavily, often based on the availability of our ALS preceptors.

Q: What if I am planning on studying abroad for a full semester?

A: We typically advise applicants that are planning on studying abroad for a full semester, especially within the first year after joining CARS, that CARS may not be the best fit. We discourage extended time away from the rescue squad, particularly during the initial training period that a member typically goes through as they work towards release, as it's a critical time for learning and growth where consistency plays an important role in retaining and practicing all of the necessary skills and protocols.

Q: Do members get paid?

A: We are proud to be a 100% volunteer rescue squad organization since 1960 so we do not offer formal monetary compensation for our members.