



FRIENDS OF COMSU APPLICATION

\$20.00 Donation

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_
HOME PH: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PH: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Minimum age is 16)

Rights, Requirements, and Responsibilities of Friends of COMSU:

- 1. Friends may be: Former members of COMSU; Individuals who desire to be supportive of the unit; or Individuals who are fully committed to becoming an active member of COMSU and wish to be placed on the wait list for full membership.
2. Friends may attend business meetings, but may not vote.
3. Friends may participate in COMSU training exercises, COMSU-only simulations, and COMSU social rides.
4. Friends participating in COMSU training exercises or simulations agree to the following:
- No stallions or horses under 4 years of age are permitted.
- Helmets are required at all official mounted events.
- Additional costs for training are the responsibility of the individual should he/she wish to participate.
5. Friends may participate in searches only if the search is open to the general public, in which case the Friend will serve as a lay volunteer along with any other member of the public. Friends may not wear any part of the COMSU uniform.
6. Friends (18 and over) committed to becoming active members shall complete, via the internet, ICS 100 & 200 and NIMS 700 & 800 and present certificates of completion to COMSU officers. Friends (18 and over) will provide a BCI or FBI background check within two months of the date of this application to COMSU officers prior to consideration for active membership.

The undersigned stipulates that all personal information submitted herein is accurate and true and agrees to all the rights, requirements and responsibilities of Friends of COMSU.

I desire to be put on the Wait List for Membership. You must be 18 to apply for membership.

By signing this document, I agree to all the requirements set out for each activity.

Signature (Parent or Guardian if under 18) Date



## FRIENDS OF COMSU GUIDELINES

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I. While attending trainings or simulations, *FRIENDS* are encouraged to abide by the following code of conduct:

- Exhibit a professional, dignified demeanor
- Refrain from using foul, derogatory or discriminatory language
- Refrain from consumption of alcoholic beverages during trainings or simulations
- Refrain from “cowboying” or similar unsafe practices with horses

II. Teamwork and Safety are essential. Therefore, please:

- Make an effort to get to know each member including his or her strengths and weaknesses.
- Be accepting of those strengths and weaknesses without prejudicial judgment.
- Be willing to accept constructive criticism—we can always learn from each other.
- Be considerate of all members.
- Always clean up after yourself and/or your horse.
- Any problems encountered during a training or simulation will be discussed at a debriefing.
- Any problems specific to COMSU are never to be aired to the public, other units or agencies.

III. Some attributes of a volunteer are:

- Commitment—be committed to the cause and ideals involved.
- Cooperative—be a good team player. Looking out for and helping other members is vital.
- Organized—maintain your equipment in good working order.

IV. IF as a *FRIEND* you choose to participate in a search which is open to the public, please keep these points in mind:

- Search work is not glamorous; instead it is hard work.
- Hours are irregular and can occur at any time for as long as necessary.
- Personnel must be willing to accept directions from officials in charge. Your role is to assist at the direction of the Incident Commander.
- Teamwork is paramount.
- Be mindful that: a) hurry up and wait is the mantra of search and rescue work; and 2) egos are best left home.
- In the event of a missing person be keenly aware of the presence of a victim’s family and friends and sensitive to their feelings.
- Please refrain from speaking with the media. Instead, courteously refer them to someone in command.
- SPECIFICS OF A SEARCH AND DETAILS OF ANY VICTIMS OR EVIDENCE ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMSU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE MEMBERSHIP OF ANY FRIEND SHOULD SAID INDIVIDUAL CHOOSE NOT TO ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ABOVE.