



Station 36—Sidney/North Saanich is currently seeking volunteers here is a list of our most

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How long until I can be an active member on the water?
 - A. It takes about a month to be able to get on the water with RCMSAR. During this month you need to get your criminal record Check completed, complete some classroom boating safety complete the RCMSAR Fitness test (see question 9 for details on the fitness test), obtain your Pleasure Craft Operators Card and marine VHF radio license.
2. How long does the initial training take?
 - A. Initial training takes about a month could be less if and when time permits. Once you are ready to be on the water as a new crew member, you will likely be on the helm (driving the boat) while other more senior crew handle the electronics, leadership and navigation.
3. What do the on call shifts look like? How do I sign up?
 - A. Station 36 two 12-hour watches per day consisting of up to five people. Our watch schedule is 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Once you become an active member, we will give you access to our scheduling system where you can sign up for shifts. We expect members to get 2–3 watches per week. During your on-call shift, you are required to be within 15 minutes to our base, and to be mission ready. That being said, as long as you are ready to be called in, you are free to enjoy your day as usual and most on call days/nights will not feel any different that your regular plans.
4. How many on the water hours do I need to have each year?
 - A. RCMSAR requires you to keep a minimum of 20 hours of RCMSAR sea time per year to stay current.
5. What equipment do I need to provide?
 - A. Personal clothing and shoes/boots. More specialized equipment such as survival suits, helmet, personal flotation device, lights and radios are all provided.
6. What skills can I expect to learn?
 - A. Our crew members are trained in many facets including advanced marine first aid, night and restricted visibility navigation, search patterns, vessel maneuvering, towing, shore landings, and marine communications.
7. What types of calls will I go on?
 - A. Calls vary greatly. Here are some examples of callouts in the past 12 months:
 - a. Medical distress on a vessel
 - b. Sailboat caught in severe weather with rigging destroyed
 - c. Sailboat caught in gale and beached on Sidney Spit
 - d. Missing person in distress near the water
 - e. Kayakers caught in adverse weather conditions
 - f. Persons rowing dinghy at night not knowing where they are

- g. Smoke reported from a vessel in the harbour.
 - h. Persons in the water
 - i. Vessel going aground while attempting to free another grounded vessel in a gale.
 - j. Vessel running over a reef and sinking
8. Do I need to be a boater to join?
- A. No experience is required! Our team of Coxswains and crew will teach you everything you need to know to become a competent boat operator and effective member of the crew.
9. What physical shape do I need to be in to join?
- A. RCMSAR requires you to complete a fitness test before you can go on the water. The fitness test includes:
1. Throw a Kisby/life ring 20 feet, should include as many practices as needed, maximum of two attempts during the test;
 2. Raise anchor by hand—minimum of 5 lbs anchor, properly secured to the vessel, raised by hand, with feet secured, up a minimum of 20 feet.
 3. Lift a dewatering pump off the vessel deck using the legs and safeguarding the back, move it over the vessels tubes in a safe manner to a dock or another vessel. The member then walks the dewatering pump the equivalent length of the station vessel;
 4. Individual simulated man-over-board with a two-person recovery using lines; and
 5. PFD competency test—member enters the water, proceeds under the PFD competency testing structure, egresses under the mock tubes using the beckett lines as a guide and orientates him or herself to surface while facing the mock over turned vessel. The member does a self-rescue as per the preferred method based on the class of boat and equipment, for example over the tubes, swim grid, or a reboarding device;
10. What is the long-term commitment?
- We are looking for volunteers to stay with the unit a minimum of two years.
11. How old do I have to be?
- In order to go out on taskings you need to be a minimum of 18 years old. If you are under 18 and would like to join please contact us and we can discuss the junior program.
12. Where do I need to live?
- The vessel is located at the Canoe Cove Marina in Swartz Bay therefore you need to live a maximum of 15 minutes from the Canoe Cove Marina using your mode of transportation of choice.