

NASAR L.A.S.T. Conference
Hosted by Gabriel's Gifts and the Southeast Texas SAR Alliance
Lone Star Conference and Exhibition Center, Conroe, Texas
October 15-17, 2004

Introduction. We are actively seeking Exhibitors for a National Association for Search and Rescue ("NASAR") L.A.S.T. Conference, to be held at the Lone Star Convention and Expo Center in Conroe, Texas, October 15-17, 2004. For more information on the location visit the Center's website at www.thelonestar.org.

Since 1978, NASAR has been the premiere national organization for search and rescue training. NASAR Conferences have been the place for search resources to gain the most up-to-date, comprehensive training. The Southeast Texas SAR Alliance and Gabriel's Gifts is bringing the same dedication and quality to the search and rescue community of the south central states, by hosting the 2004 L.A.S.T. Conference.

Target Audience. A majority of the conference participants are full or part-time members of organizations that conduct search and rescue operations. There are also members of law enforcement agencies who have some responsibility in the investigation of lost persons and management of disaster operations. Participants of all skill levels attend the conference; some to learn basic skills, others to improve their existing skills, and yet others to master advanced skills. They all have one thing in common – they come to stay on top of the latest and greatest developments in the field of search and rescue. We expect 200-300 participants.

Conference Schedule. Exhibitor set up Friday, October 15th from 0600 to 0800. Workshops will be scheduled on Friday, October 15th from 1000 – 1200 and 1330-1730, Saturday, October 16th from 0900-1200 and 1330 – 1730, and on Sunday, October 17th from 0900-1300. Additional classes may be scheduled during evening hours. Schedule is subject to change.

Accommodations. Lodging is available at the LaQuinta Inn, 28673 I-45 North, The Woodlands, TX 77381, (281) 367-7722. The Renaissance Festival will be in full swing during the conference so no discounts are available at The Woodlands location and you will need to make your reservations early. If you do not mind 20 minute drive lodging is available at a discounted rate at the LaQuinta Inn, 17111 North Freeway, Houston, Texas 77090, (281) 444-7500, ask for the "billboard" rate. Camping is available in Sam Houston National Forest.

About Our Organizations. **The National Association for Search and Rescue, Inc.,** (NASAR) is a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to advancing professional, literary, and scientific knowledge in fields related to search and rescue. NASAR is comprised of thousands of paid and non-paid professionals interested in all aspects of search and rescue - the humanitarian cause of saving lives - throughout the United States and around the world. "...that others may live."

Response to persons in distress has long been an honorable, charitable tradition. The professionals in search and rescue have carried on this tradition of helping others by dedicating time, information, skills, equipment and funding to the relief of suffering. We are actively working toward the development of improved coordination and communications among federal, state, local, and volunteer groups. The primary goal is to aid in the implementation of a total integrated emergency response, rescue and recovery system. www.nasar.org.

Southeast Texas SAR Alliance endeavors to serve as a central resource for training, support, interaction and unity amongst multiple Search and Rescue specialties and to provide awareness and education pertaining to Search and Rescue related activities for law enforcement and the community at large. www.saralliance.org.

Gabriel's Gifts is a charitable 501(C)(3) non-profit, missing children's organization formed in 2000 to provide services and support along the spectrum of missing child issues. Services range from providing child ID kits and parent education programs to assisting in speedy, coordinated search efforts with law enforcement agencies and other search groups. Additional supportive services are provided for follow-up and aftercare for the families of those who remain missing or are located but traumatized to those who are murdered. www.gabrielsgifts.org.