



# Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Jon E. Lopey

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## News Release

For Immediate Release:

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE REORGANIZING SHERIFF'S POSSE**

**May 16, 2018**

The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) reported that they are reorganizing and reconstituting the Sheriff's Posse. Unauthorized reports on social media sites indicating the Sheriff's Posse is disbanded are not true. Reports of the forfeiture of the Posse non-profit status was reported to the Department and one or members may have left the current Posse. The Sheriff's Posse is a long-standing volunteer organization that has served Siskiyou County in various capacities since it was first founded in 1939. The Sheriff's Posse was primarily organized as the original search and rescue (SAR) capability of SCSO but due to state-mandated SAR training and certification requirements imposed in recent years, a number of important missions were devised and implemented by the current Sheriff's Posse, most of which do not involved search and rescue. A "Sheriff's Vision Letter" provided to Posse members in February 2018, indicate the primary mission of the Posse planned for 2018 and beyond include animal recovery (emergency response to safely evacuate livestock or endangered animals), animal evacuations (livestock and domestic animals during major emergencies), security assistance to SCSO during various events (e.g., Siskiyou Golden Fair, Armed Forces Day, Tulelake/Butte County Fair, parades, other celebrations, etc.); rural neighborhood watch, support to the SCSO's Siskiyou Interagency Marijuana Investigation Team (SIMIT), child searches, vocational training for inmates, and command post, logistical, road search, ATV, and equestrian support, when needed, for the SCSO's SAR team.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, "It has become necessary to reorganize and reconstitute the Sheriff's Posse within the Department, under departmental management and control. This includes conducting volunteer operations within departmental policy, procedures, guidance, and complying with other requirements, including standards of conduct. We are seeking volunteers to serve as Posse members. Old Posse members are welcome to apply for a volunteer position on the reorganized Posse. The Sheriff's Posse has done some great work for this Department and others and they have performed many important missions in support of the citizens we serve. There are times when such organizations have to be reorganized and reconstituted to serve the best interests of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, other county departments, and the citizens we serve. We invite all interested Sheriff's Posse volunteers to attend a special recruitment meeting planned for Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the College of the Siskiyou's Criminal Justice Training Center located at 2001 Campus Drive, Yreka. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (530) 842-8310."