

Eligibility & Requirements

Montgomery Whitewater offers a world-class, controlled whitewater environment for qualified agencies and instructors to conduct their own swiftwater rescue training. As a host facility only, Montgomery Whitewater does not provide instruction or certification, your agency retains full control over curriculum, training delivery, and credentialing.

This overview is intended to give interested agencies a clear understanding of:

- **Who is eligible to train at Montgomery Whitewater**
- **What is required to apply and schedule training**
- **What documentation must be submitted**
- **Key safety, equipment, and operational expectations**

Please note, that this document is for informational purposes only and is not a contract. It is designed to help agencies understand requirements and expectations before submitting a training request.

This overview is informational only and does not constitute a contract. All approved training is governed by the executed Swiftwater Rescue Facility Use & Rules Agreement and the daily Swiftwater Training Execution Plan (STEP).

Agency-Led Training Host Facility

Montgomery Whitewater ("MW") serves solely as a host facility for approved, agency-led swiftwater rescue training.

MW provides:

- A controlled, engineered whitewater environment
- Operational logistics, water releases, and channel access
- Daily coordination through the Swiftwater Training Execution Plan (STEP)

MW does not:

- Provide instructors or instructional staff
- Design, control, or approve curriculum
- Evaluate students or training outcomes
- Issue certifications or credentials

All responsibility for instruction, supervision, curriculum, evaluation, and certification rests entirely with the training organization and its instructors.



Eligible Organizations

Training access is limited to bona fide public safety, government, military, or formally recognized emergency response organizations conducting lawful swiftwater rescue training.

Examples of eligible organizations include:

- Municipal, county, state, or federal fire departments
- Municipal, county, state, or federal law-enforcement agencies
- Military units and federal response teams
- EMS providers and emergency-management agencies
- Professional or volunteer search-and-rescue organizations
- Approved nonprofit emergency-response organizations
- Other government entities approved by MW

Not eligible currently:

- Recreational or commercial swiftwater instruction
- Independent instructors operating outside an eligible organization
- Private groups, clubs, or individuals seeking instruction

Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee approval. Facility access is subject to MW review, availability, and safety considerations.

Instructor Eligibility Requirements

All training must be led and supervised by organization-provided instructors approved in advance by MW.

MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Instructors must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Hold at least one current, nationally recognized swiftwater rescue instructor certification, such as:
 - Rescue 3 International
 - NFPA 1006 / 1670-compliant programs
 - State Fire College or equivalent accredited public-safety program
- Maintain current CPR and First Aid certification(s)
- Have prior instructional experience at the level being delivered



Employment / Retention Status

Instructors must be either:

- Direct employees of the organization, or
- Independent contractors formally retained by the organization in an official, documented capacity

All instructors are subject to credential verification, insurance review (if applicable), and final approval by MW.

Participant (Student) Requirements

Participants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be enrolled through an eligible organization
- Be listed on the final approved training roster
- Have a fully executed Montgomery Whitewater waiver on file
- Comply with all PPE requirements, facility rules, and MW staff directives

No prior swiftwater, CPR, or First Aid certifications are required unless mandated by the organization's curriculum.

Instructor-to-Participant Ratios

Organizations must maintain instructor-to-participant ratios of X to X. Ratios may be adjusted based on:

- Water conditions and flow
- Channel configuration
- Training complexity
- Environmental factors
- Overall operational risk

Failure to maintain required ratios may result in immediate suspension of training.

Insurance Requirements Summary

Organizations must be able to provide insurance that meets MW requirements, including:

- Commercial General Liability
- Workers' Compensation (as required by Alabama law)

Insurance must name both Montgomery Whitewater, LLC and the Montgomery County Community Cooperative District as Additional Insureds where applicable.

Full and controlling insurance requirements are detailed in Section 12 of the Swiftwater Rescue Facility Use & Rules Agreement.



Required Pre-Training Submissions

Before training can be approved, organizations must be prepared to submit the following by MW deadlines:

- Training Plan
- Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
- Instructor certifications and documentation
- Final participant and personnel roster
- Proof of legitimate agency status
- Certificate of Insurance (COI)
- Equipment list and any specialized-equipment requests
- Communication Plan

Incomplete or late submissions may result in denial, delay, or cancellation.

Equipment & PPE Expectations

Organizations are responsible for providing all PPE and training equipment for instructors and participants.

Minimum required PPE includes:

- Rescue-rated / Type V PFD
- Helmet
- Swiftwater footwear
- Gloves
- River knife
- Whistle
- Appropriate thermal protection

All equipment must be safe, serviceable, properly fitted, and appropriate for swiftwater rescue training. MW reserves the right to prohibit unsafe or non-compliant equipment.

Daily Operations Plan (STEP)

For each training day, MW will prepare a Swiftwater Training Execution Plan (STEP) based on approved submissions.

The STEP coordinates:

- Water releases and flow conditions
- Channel and zone assignments
- Approved rope systems and configurations
- Staging, access, and safety zones
- Setup, tear-down, and cleanup responsibilities

A pre-training coordination meeting is required. The executed STEP is the controlling operational document for that training day.



Final Eligibility Determination

Eligibility to train at Montgomery Whitewater is determined solely by MW based on:

- Organizational legitimacy
- Instructor qualifications
- Insurance compliance
- Operational feasibility
- Safety considerations

Meeting the requirements in this document allows an organization to request training but does not guarantee approval.

Next Steps

Organizations that believe they meet the above criteria may request the full Swiftwater Rescue Facility Use & Rules Agreement and begin the formal application process.

