

## **Sun Country Trail Blazers Join Marion County's Equine Search Squad Initiative**

Sun Country Trail Blazers Inc (SCTB) is Ocala/Marion County's nonprofit horseback riding organization whose mission includes trail safety for horse and rider. Recently its officers agreed to team up with Marion County's Search and Rescue (SAR) nonprofit organization in establishing its first Mounted Equine Search Squad, a First Responder unit to work alongside the K9 and tracker teams especially in wooded, rural, and wilderness areas. The opportunity to join forces with SAR is available to a maximum of 10 equestrian pairs who are current SCTB club members and who are approved volunteers following SAR's intense training. The initial training session for horse and rider is scheduled for Feb 10-11, 2024. The 10-hour course covers all aspects of Search from an equine, including basic information for arrival on scene and basic equipment needs. The course progresses from tabletop to horseback exercises and includes how to conduct a search process, ending with an active scenario and search. Additional training requirements include an online FEMA course and earning SAR's CPR/AED/Choking certificate. For event details, contact [suncountrytrailblazersocalafl@gmail.com](mailto:suncountrytrailblazersocalafl@gmail.com). For membership and calendar of events information, visit [suncountrytrailblazers.org](http://suncountrytrailblazers.org) .