

## **Search and Rescue**

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Involved with the mounted (horses) search and rescue.

### **How to avoid being lost**

1. Use the buddy system (with scouts it usually because one boy gets separated from the group, i.e. meet me here, or go ahead and I will catch up. The buddy system is a must!
2. All scouts must have a map of the area, have a compass and know how to use them.
3. Stay on the trail!
4. Occasionally turn around and look behind you. Study the landmarks going both directions.

### **Just in case you get lost:**

- Know how to start a fire in all conditions
  - Pine pitch works well
- Have some bright clothing to wear.
- Carry a day pack with:
  - some food items
  - water. (Purification tablets or a filter would be a good idea). (Scouts should know about finding potentially clean water
  - extra clothing
  - waterproof matches (with a stricker) (recommend storm-proof matches from REI)
  - Tinder (vasoline and cotton balls)
  - Heavy garbage bags for shelter
  - First aid kit
  - Veterinary (Vet) wrap
  - Paper and pencil
  - Duct tape (misc. and for blisters)
- Things to carry on your body:

- a whistle
- identification
- knife

### **Things to do if you are lost**

1. Sit down and collect your thoughts (do not follow your instinct to run)
2. Make camp and wait for others to come and find you.
  - A signal fire can be helpful (smoke by day or flame by night) (It also gives you something to do and keeps you in one location).
3. Make a shelter
4. Find a water source

What a Scout Leader should do if someone gets lost:

- Call 911 – the longer you wait the lower the chance is that the boy will be found. (It is easy to have rescuers turn around).
- Keep the other boys together so no one else gets separated.
- Rescuers will need:
  - Description of clothing and back he is wearing
  - What kind of shoe is he wearing (tracks)
  - Does he have food, water and shelter, etc.
  - Does he have any medical problems (how about emotional issues, including whether the other boys had been picking on him)
  - Where was the last place he was seen and what was he doing.
  - What was the plan for the day? Was the group going somewhere? Did the lost person indicate he wanted to do something else?
  - Keep clothing items of the lost person isolated in case dogs are needed to track the person by scent.

The sheriff in each county is responsible for search and rescue.

### **Words of Wisdom**

- Each scout should carry sufficient gear to create a shelter and spend the night. (matches, space blanket, emergency food, ...)

- Each scout should carry a compass and a map of the area.
  - At REI, maps of Washington State are available on CD. An unlimited number of maps can then be printed.