

AD 20 Missing Person Procedure

AD 20.1 WRITTEN SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS
LOST, MISSING OR RUNAWAY

After the missing camper is identified, the staff will congregate at a base of operations inside the camp boundaries to receive additional information on the situation.

Groups will be formed and sent in varied directions. The two camp vehicles will take the Balman road, one uphill, and one downhill. Each is equipped with two-way radios. Four staff groups, each with portable two-way, will take the following directions:

Group 1: The trail to and past Three Crosses.

Group 2: The trail past the horse corral.

Group 3: The ballfield to the north of camp

Group 4: Across and around the vicinity of Lake Creek.

Village leaders will remain with other campers. Support staff persons will be assigned to main camp areas and frequent entrance/exit points. A staff person will also be designated to monitor the base communication unit in camp.

If the missing person is not located during these initial search procedures, additional help will be requested. Initial contact will be with the Custer County Sheriff's Office in Westcliffe. Contact will be made by telephone at 1-719-783-2270. At this time, Search and Rescue will be put on alert. When it is determined that we need their help, the parent of the lost camper will be notified by telephone by the acting director. At the time of his arrival, staff will assist in facilitation further search operations and aiding through their knowledge of the immediate area. Further search procedures will be directed by the Custer County Sheriff and local Search and Rescue personnel.

As a part of the hiking orientation for day hikes, all campers are told RTALC hiking procedures. These procedures outline that while hiking each member of the group should be able to see the person in front and behind them. This is one way to prevent a lost camper situation. During time at the campsite or when taking day trips, campers are instructed to stay put and blow their whistle three times if they find themselves separated from the group. Once the group has realized someone is missing they will go about an organized search of the area blowing whistles and shouting for the lost camper. The camper should listen for the group but STAY PUT until the group gets to them.

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