

It isn't possible in a short assembly and handout to present all of the information which could be helpful. We will be happy to answer questions or discuss points of interest. HUG-A-TREE and SURVIVE is a non-profit organization supported solely by donations.

THANK YOU.

Board of Directors  
Ab Taylor  
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Charlene Meenan  
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Bill MacIntosh

If you are associated with an organized Search and Rescue Unit and would like information on how to start a Hug-A-Tree program for children in your area, please send a self-addressed stamped legal size envelope to:

Jacqueline Heet  
National Office HUG-A-TREE  
6465 Lance Way  
San Diego, CA 92120  
619-286-7536

THE LOCAL PRESENTATION OF THE HUG-A-TREE PROGRAM  
HAS BEEN MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE RED ROSE K-9 S.A.R  
TEAM, AN ALL VOLUNTEER CREW RESPONDING TO SEARCH AND  
RESCUE EMERGENCIES.

431 WEAVER ROAD  
STRASBURG, PA 17579  
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We Appreciate Your Contributions And They Are Tax Deductible.

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## HANDOUT TO ACCOMPANY

# “HUG-A-TREE AND SURVIVE”

## ASSEMBLY



The HUG-A-TREE and SURVIVE Program was started in San Diego, California after a group of us searched for a nine year old boy who died in local mountains. We put together an assembly program for children on how not to get lost, how to stay comfortable if they do get lost, and how to be spotted and found. We hope your children never need this knowledge, but if you discuss this handout and the assembly with children, it may help them to remember one or more facts that will make the search short and successful.

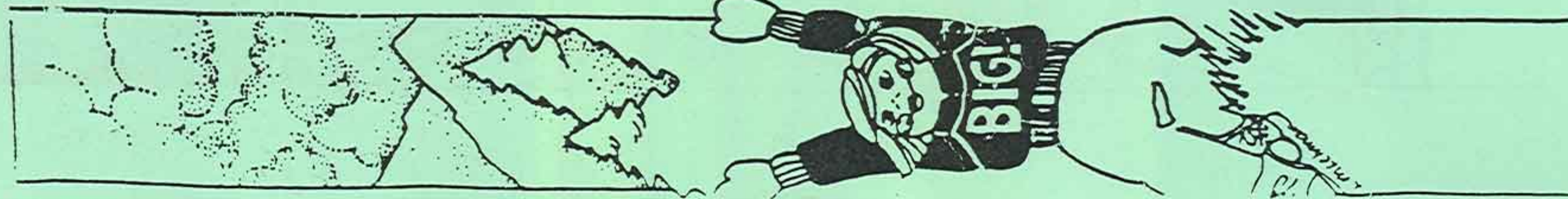
### A recap of the assembly:

1 **ALWAYS CARRY A TRASH BAG AND WHISTLE** on a picnic, hike, or camping trip. *By making a hole in the bag for the face,* and putting it on over the head, it will keep the child dry and warm. The whistle will carry further than the child's voice, and takes less energy to use.

2 **HUG A TREE** once you know you are lost. One of the greatest fears a person of any age can have is of being alone. Hugging a tree and even talking to it calms the child down, and prevents panic. By staying in one place, the child is found far more quickly, and can't be injured in a fall.

*Without this hole, there is a danger of suffocation.*





**3 MY PARENTS WON'T BE ANGRY AT ME.** Time and again, children have avoided searchers because they were ashamed of getting lost, and afraid of punishment. Anyone can get lost, adult or child. If they know a happy reunion filled with love is awaiting, they will be less frightened, less prone to panic, and work hard to be found.

**4 MAKE YOURSELF BIG.** From helicopters, people are hard to see when they are standing up, when they are in a group of trees, or wearing dark and drab clothing. Find your tree to hug near a small clearing if possible. Wear a red or orange jacket when you go near the woods or desert. Lie down when the helicopter flies over. If it is cool and you are rested, make crosses or "SOS" in broken shrubbery, rocks, or by dragging your foot in the dirt.

**5 THERE ARE NO ANIMALS OUT THERE THAT CAN HURT YOU IN THIS COUNTY.** If you hear a noise at night, yell at it. If it is an animal it will run away. If it is a searcher you are found. Fears of the dark and of "lions and tigers and bears" are a big factor in panicking children into running. They need strong reassurance to stay put and be safe.

**6 YOU HAVE 200 FRIENDS LOOKING FOR YOU.** We have had children in the area of a search tell us, "My parents would never spend the money to search for me with all these people." Of course, search personnel are professionals and volunteers who charge nothing and do it because they care. Many children who are lost don't realize that if they sit down and stay put, one of a few hundred people will find them. Some are afraid of strangers or men in uniform, and don't respond to yells, and have actually hidden from searchers they knew were looking for them.

**7 FOOTPRINTING YOUR CHILD** is a five minute exercise that cuts down the time of a search by several hours. Have the child step on a piece of aluminum foil, on a soft surface such as carpeting or a folded towel. Mark the foil with the child's name. With this print, trackers (available from the Border Patrol) can separate your child's track from the hundreds of others in the area, and quickly determine the direction of travel.

## Additional information that might be helpful:

**1 TRY TO KEEP THEM FROM GETTING LOST** in the first place, which is probably impossible. Children are easily distracted off the trail, so teach them to stay on the trail. Never let your child walk trails alone. Pick out a high landmark such as a prominent hill, or note the direction of the sun; this prevents disorientation.

**2 ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF WHEN YOU BECOME LOST.** It can and does happen to anyone, yet is a source of shame when it happens. When you become lost, admit it, accept it, and take actions to be comfortable and in the area when the searchers arrive. Use your head since it is your best survival tool; you can't lose it.

**3 CALL THE SHERIFF QUICKLY**, if your child is lost. The search area expands so quickly due to the victim's possible movements that rapid response is critically important. A call to the Sheriff which is cancelled gives the searchers practice and helps keep them alert. A slow response is dangerous, especially if bad weather wipes out the track, and exposure is a consideration.

**4 BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWING.** Clues which lead to finding the child in good shape usually come from family and friends who remain on the scene and talk openly and accurately with the search leader or his representative. Any personal information will be kept confidential.

**THIS PROGRAM IS DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
JIMMY BEVERIDGE**

