



## Missing Persons - Backpacking

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California | 6601 Elvas Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819 | [www.girlscoutshcc.org](http://www.girlscoutshcc.org)

1. There should be a system for keeping track of all adults and girls on a backpacking trip. They must always travel with a buddy, and this is applicable to adults also. They must do everything with their buddy, inside and outside of the camp area.
  
2. If a person is thought to be missing —
  - A) Question those who last saw the person. Ask for time and location last seen. Record information.
  
  - B) Check tent and cook areas to see if the person left the site and with whom.
  
  - C) An adult who is a trip leader should check the area where the person was last seen. A systematic search of all areas will be organized by a designated adult. A search team comprised of adults will use the buddy system and search assigned areas. They will report back to the search coordinator.
  
  - D) If the person is not found, notify the trip leader who will activate the crisis plan and contact authorities, as soon as possible. Gather additional information about the missing person. Was the person angry, depressed, and particularly excited about something? Did they reveal any plans to go somewhere? Did they have a favorite place in the area where they might go? Did they have a favorite person with whom they liked to spend time?
  
3. Plan for missing persons —
  - A) How often will participants be counted to ensure that all are present? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - B) List areas you will search — be specific to your site: \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - C) Who will coordinate the search? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - D) Names of designated persons for site search: \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - E) Who will contact the parent/guardian? \_\_\_\_\_  
When will the contact be made? \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian or emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Assigned council staff person \_\_\_\_\_  
Law enforcement officials \_\_\_\_\_

