

MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 18

On October 26, 2024, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon, I, Jeremy Jones was accidentally separated from my cub scout hike group in the Northern Range. This incident occurred on the third day of our annual wilderness camp. The following report gives a detailed account of what took place before, during and after this incident.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., our cub scout group started the daily hike on a marked trail near Maracas. The weather was clear. While walking at the back of the group of scouts, I saw a squirrel on a low lying tree branch that slowly moved towards another nearby tree. Captivated by how slowly the squirrel moved, I followed its movement, causing me to step off the trail a short distance to follow it.

After a few minutes of observing the squirrel, I attempted to return to the trail. The path I had been on was no longer visible. I walked in one direction for approximately fifteen minutes but saw no familiar landmarks that I could use to figure out my location. I then changed direction and walked for another twenty minutes. I saw a stream and followed it downstream for about an hour. The vegetation was dense and no other cub scouts were visible. I stopped and listened for sounds of the group, but I could only hear the noises of nearby birds and the water of the flowing stream.

Upon closer inspection of my surroundings, I noticed a faint marking on a tree branch, which resembled a trail marker from our Cub Scout Manual. I went ahead in the direction shown by the mark and continued to follow similar markings on other trees. After about an hour of walking, I heard distant voices and moved towards the sound. Approximately fifteen minutes later, I spotted the main trail again. I then saw my Cub Scout Captain, Mr. Allan, in the distance and walked directly towards him.

Although he looked a bit worried about my disappearance, he commended me for my ability to use the skills that I had learnt over the years as a scout to find my way and reunite with the group unharmed. My separation from the group lasted approximately three hours. Upon rejoining the group, the planned hike was stopped and the entire group returned to our camp site.

