



# Challenge: Prevention Before Rescue

## Content

Anyone can get lost and it's easy to do. It's even easier for vulnerable groups such as the very young or those with Alzheimer's or dementia. Kent Search and Rescue has developed two programmes to give children, parents and carers advice on what to do if someone goes missing.

## Activities

### Scouts and Guides

- In small groups learn about Safe and Sound or Hug-A-Tree. Share what you know with the rest of the group in any way you like.
- Design a poster about either of these programmes.
- Discuss how the information on the Life History Questionnaires help the Police and search team find someone who has gone missing. Is there anything you would add?
- Explain Hug-A-Tree to the leaders of your Beaver, Rainbow, Cub or Brownie Sections and let us know if they would like a visit from the Hug-A-Tree Team.

### Senior Section, Explorers and Network

- In small groups learn about Safe and Sound or Hug-A-Tree. Share what you know with the rest of the group in any way you like.
- Discuss how the information on the Life History Questionnaires help the Police and search team find someone who has gone missing. Is there anything you would add?
- Let us know if you meet individuals or organisations who might be interested in receiving information or a presentation on Safe and Sound.

## Background

### The History of Hug-A-Tree and Survive

In February 1981, 9 year old Jimmy Beveridge became lost during a family camping trip in Palomar State Park, California, USA. The search for Jimmy was the largest in the history of San Diego County. After four days, Jimmy's body was found approximately two miles from the campsite. He had died from hypothermia.

Many people were affected by this tragedy and had a desire to prevent it from occurring again. This was the beginning of the Hug-A-Tree and Survive program in the USA. The Hug-A-Tree and Survive program

was designed to tell a simple story that would teach children how to avoid getting lost, how to stay comfortable if they get lost, and how to be spotted and found. In order to understand the full history and background to this program we urge you to follow this link to an article by the West Valley Search and Rescue, San Bernardino County, California, USA.

<http://www.westvalleysar.org/hugatreehistory.html>

### **KSAR's Hug-A-Tree and Stay Safe**

KSAR is proud to sponsor this wonderful program in Kent as Hug-A-Tree and Stay Safe. This is a children's Search and Rescue (SAR) prevention program for children between 5 and 11 years and is aimed at keeping them safe in rural and urban environments. The following link will take you to the KSAR website and the information related to Hug-A-Tree and Stay Safe.

[http://www.ksar.co.uk/hug\\_a\\_tree.html](http://www.ksar.co.uk/hug_a_tree.html)

A similar program is also run in other countries and the links below are to related sites in Canada

<http://www.grc-rcmp.gc.ca/hugtree-presarbre/index-eng.htm>

<http://www.calsara.com/interactive.html>

If you find other sites we'd be interested in hearing about them.

### **KSAR's Safe and Sound Campaign**

Kent Search and Rescue's '*Safe and Sound*' campaign is aimed primarily at those that care for vulnerable people of all ages. In particular carers who care for friends and family at home, parents, foster parents, and those who work with vulnerable people in various residential settings. The '*Safe and Sound*' campaign is intended to bring together a number of initiatives that are designed to help carers develop workable solutions to prevent the person they care for from going missing but also get them home quickly if they do.

These proactive initiatives are each intended to alleviate as much of the stress associated with this type of event as possible. The link below will take you to the KSAR website page for "Safe and Sound" where the "Life History Questionnaires", pamphlets and newsletter are available to view and download.

[http://www.ksar.co.uk/safe\\_and\\_sound.html](http://www.ksar.co.uk/safe_and_sound.html)

**If you know of any groups or societies that you feel would benefit from a presentation or talk about either "Hug-A-Tree and Stay Safe" or "Safe and Sound", please contact us:**

**Hug –A-Tree:**            [hugatree@ksar.co.uk](mailto:hugatree@ksar.co.uk) or 07710 212106

**Safe and Sound:**        [info@ksar.co.uk](mailto:info@ksar.co.uk)