



**HEATHER S. BENJAMIN**

Information & Communication  
Manager/PIO

Direct Phone: (970) 244-3929  
Cell Phone: (970) 986-0950  
Heather.Benjamin@mesacounty.us

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## GRAND MESA SEARCH & RESCUE SUCCESSFUL Lost teen thirsty, found safe

Mesa County, Colorado—Around midnight last night deputies responded to a campsite in the Leon Drainage area, near Vega Reservoir, on the Grand Mesa. Grand Junction resident, Dana Brost, reported her 14-year-old son had left the campsite around 8 p.m. yesterday to hike in the area.

A dozen Search & Rescue members (Ground, ATV, Dog and Communication Teams) responded to the area by 1 a.m. and joined deputies in the search for the boy. By 4 a.m. the boy was found along a ridge line about 1.5 miles from the campsite. Due to heavy timber and brush it took Search & Rescue members more than an hour to get the boy back to the campsite, but he was in good condition only saying, he was thirsty.

The boy, Brandon Taulbee, told deputies he initially panicked when he realized he was lost last night, but quickly decided to stay in one spot. He said he could hear his family calling for him and could hear emergency responders too, but due to high wind conditions he was unable to determine the direction of the voices.

Deputies recommend hiking with a whistle, water and food, as well as appropriate clothing for all weather conditions. Always tell someone where you are hiking and when you plan to return, and if the party is overdue, don't hesitate to call emergency personnel immediately. Hikers should never rely on cell service, as it is unreliable in remote areas of Western Colorado. If cell service doesn't work (as in the case of the campers overnight), have someone get to a phone or cell service range immediately to call as soon as your party is overdue. And if you think you are lost, stop immediately and stay put so rescue personnel can find you. For more information about the Mesa County Search & Rescue Control, Inc. visit the Sheriff's Office website at [www.mesacounty.us](http://www.mesacounty.us).

To date in 2009, there have been 36 Search and Rescue missions in Mesa County. Annually there were 49 missions in 2008; 40 missions in 2007; 54 missions in 2006; And 44 missions in 2005. Water rescues have been slightly higher than normal this year contributing to the increased number of mission in 2009. Safety on the rivers continue to be a serious concern for the Sheriff's Office, and deputies recommend people stay off the water until the levels decrease. If people are on the water use proper life vests and boats, and always recreate sober.

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