



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL

Scouts Help Find Missing Teen

Recognition never crossed the minds of David Hoyt and the hundreds of volunteers who helped search for missing Indiana autistic teen, Hunter Valant on Tuesday, October 30, but praise for a job well done is deserved.

Hoyt, a Scoutmaster for Troop 276, came across Valant's story while scrolling through Facebook, "I knew I had seen him before," states Hoyt, "I soon realized he was the older brother of a boy in my troop and had participated in some Boy Scout events in the past."

Growing up in a family of five boys, Scouting was not only a tradition for Hoyt; it was a way of life. He and all of his brothers earned rank as Eagle Scout and continued on the path towards impacting the lives of other Scouts. "Scouting continues to still be a huge part of my life," said Hoyt whose oldest son followed his family legacy by earning his rank as Eagle Scout, and whose youngest son recently began in Scouting. "I love the opportunity I have gotten to see my sons build great friendships with other boys."

Asking around to make sure he was correct in what he was seeing on Facebook, Hoyt was reaffirmed that the missing teen was indeed who he suspected. "I began making calls to see what I could do to help," states Hoyt. Discovering the formal search was called off, Hoyt knew he and other volunteers were necessary. He knew the effort needed people to handle logistics, and he knew who to turn to. "I began calling my fellow Scoutmasters and Scout parents," said Hoyt. "Anyone involved with Scouting has such a caring heart and desire to help."

Holding true to the Boy Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily!" Hoyt challenged volunteers by reminding them of the true purpose of the slogan. "Everyone I called turned out to help and filled a particular role in doing so. It blew my mind the amount of people that genuinely wanted to help."

Hoyt and other ready volunteers began setting up computers and started searching for Valant Tuesday evening. Valant was missing for nearly 28 hours when he was found at a house almost two miles away from his home. Residents noticed some items out of place in their backyard, leading them to ultimately find Valant in their small storage shed. He was wrapped in blankets but unharmed. He was returned to his family who are grateful for all the volunteers.

Hoyt and the other Scouting volunteers exemplify what it truly means to be a Boy Scout. By embodying the Boy Scout Oath, "To help other people at all times," as well as the Boy Scout Slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily!" These volunteers were able to prove themselves true Scouts by doing their part to help make the world and their community a better place.

For more on this story, visit the [WTHR News page](#).

*By Hannah Schumacher
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