

# **The Journey Starts Now...Don't Forget Your Map!**

## **Study Guide**

1. What could Mark and Steve's parents have done differently to keep the boys from getting lost? Would it have made a difference?

***"Mark or Steve could have been one of you...could have been one of your friends."***

2. Could something like this have happened to you? Why do you think you or your friends are so different from Mark or Steve?

***"I like to think of myself as being a fairly intelligent individual, but I quickly learned that even the best of us can make some pretty outrageous mistakes." (Mark Walser)***

3. Share a mistake that you have made. What did you learn from it?

***"The whole time we were up there together, Mark never got mad at me for leading us off the trail and getting into this mess. Granted, Mark also agreed with my idea, so it wasn't entirely my fault..." (Steven Walser)***

4. Share a time when you went along with a bad suggestion from a friend. How do you deal with peer pressure? Do you take responsibility for your actions or do you blame others?

***"It sometimes helps to find that somebody who can give you support during a crisis, esp. if it is something severe like a death or divorce."***


5. Share a time of crisis in your life. Who did you ask for help?

***"After reflecting on this unforgettable hike, I realized it had taught me some notable lessons regarding the outdoors and more importantly life in general. It is essential to think before I act, trust myself and keep my head when things go wrong. Also, I must always be prepared, follow the rules, and accomplish tasks the right way instead of taking foolish short cuts." (Steven Walser)***

6. What other lessons might you have learned from an ordeal like the one Steve and Mark went through?

## **The Journey Starts Now...Don't Forget Your Map!**

*"After reflecting on this unforgettable hike, I realized it had taught me some notable lessons regarding the outdoors and more importantly life in general. It is essential to think before I act, trust myself and keep my head when things go wrong. Also, I must always be prepared, follow the rules, and accomplish tasks the right way instead of taking foolish short cuts."* Steven Walser

	<b>National Park Service</b> <b>U.S. Department of the Interior</b>	Yosemite National Park Media Relations Office	P.O. Box 577 Yosemite, CA 95389 <a href="http://www.nps.gov/yose/news">www.nps.gov/yose/news</a>  209 372-0529 phone 209 372-0371 fax
---	--	--	--

---

### **Yosemite National Park News Release**

April 2, 2003  
For Immediate Release

### **Yosemite National Park Finds Two Brothers Missing Overnight in Backcountry**

Yosemite National Park Search and Rescue personnel found two brothers on the top of Vernal Fall after they reported missing by their family yesterday afternoon.

Mark Walser, 18, and Steven Walser, 15, of Downers Grove, Illinois were visiting the park with their family. The brothers embarked on a hike with their family, and were last seen at the top of Nevada Fall. Search and Rescue received a call late in the afternoon and initiated a hasty search.

A late winter storm complicated the search efforts. The snow level dropped to 4000 feet last night, with temperatures dropping to freezing. The brothers were in cotton clothing and were not prepared for overnight camping. They did have a rain parka that they shared for warmth.

Searchers found the brothers this morning just before 8:00 am. They spent a cold and wet night but were otherwise healthy. The Walser family enjoyed the reunion after a long and sleepless night.

Approximately 60 people participated in the search effort. Dog teams and a contract helicopter were ordered for the search but cancelled when the young men were found.

-NPS-

---

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA  
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## **YOSAR (Yosemite Search and Rescue)**

Yosemite National Park experiences the single highest call-volume of technical rescues incidents of any National Park Service area. Due to the high call-volume and varied types of rescue incidents as well as the unique problems associated with big wall rescues, Yosemite National Park has formed a specialist rescue team informally known as YOSAR (Yosemite Search and Rescue). YOSAR team is available for search and rescue operations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The organization is a community-based team with National Park Service rangers at the foundation. YOSAR website is (<http://www.nps.gov/yose/sar/>)

As a public agency, the National Park Service provides these SAR services at no charge to accident victims, lost hikers or stranded climbers. A large percentage of Yosemite's search and rescue training, equipment, uniforms, and special projects are supported through special donation accounts. This funding helps YOSAR maintain its position as a world-class rescue organization. In addition, the donated funds also support safety programs in the Park.

**The Mountain Safety Fund** was created to support the SAR and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs of Yosemite National Park. The Yosemite Association, a non-profit organization, administers the Fund. In the past, the Mountain Safety Fund has enabled the SAR office to purchase necessary equipment such as specialized equipment and to present public education programs. The funds have also been used to enable SAR team members to attend swiftwater, rigging and, search training that would otherwise not be possible.

Contributions are tax-deductible as defined by law. If you would like to contribute to The Mountain Safety Fund, please send your check to:  
The Mountain Safety Fund, c/o Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389

In Yosemite's wilderness there are 800+ miles of designated trails. It is not surprising then, that the majority of the YOSAR missions are spent assisting an injured hiker or searching for a lost person in the backcountry. Please read the following information taken from John Dill's "Hiker Safety" presentation notes, to learn more about the potential dangers and how to maximize your safety while on the trail.

### **What to take**

Basic items per person (even for a short hike); don't let someone else carry your stuff. Let the smaller children carry their own light, whistle, etc (teach skills, responsibility, just like teaching them how to dial 911, how not to talk to strangers, etc):

- Flashlight (plus spare batteries and bulbs)
- Rain/wind/cold weather wear (can be very lightweight)
- Plenty of water (at least 3 liters of water per day per person)
- Food
- Watch
- Pen/paper
- Whistle
- First-Aid items (Band-Aids, elastic bandages, etc)
- Your medicine
- Decent footwear
- Compass (make sure you know how to use it!)
- Fire starter (matches, fire ribbon)
- Knife
- Emergency shelter
- Map