



# ★ CROOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ★

308 N.E. 2ND STREET  
PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754

**RODD CLARK, SHERIFF**

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## Updated Media Release

December 13, 2007—4:20 pm

The Crook County Sheriff's Search and Rescue and Mounted Posse assisted faculty of Mt. Bachelor Academy by transporting 3 staff members and 10 students from the Whistler Springs area of the Mill Creek Wilderness to their campus after staying an extra night on their planned three day bivouac.

According to Commander Brandon Smith "the kids and staff members were in good shape but were very glad to see us. Deep snow and downed timber added an extra evening onto their wilderness excursion. The group was prepared for the cold weather, told other staff of their planned route, and made staff aware of what time to expect them to return. These three things are essential for any outdoor activity in Central Oregon."

## MEDIA RELEASE

December 13, 2007 – 9:30 am

On December 12, 2007, at approximately 9 pm the Crook County Sheriff's Office was notified by Mount Bachelor Academy staff that they had 10 students and 3 staff members that are overdue from a 3-day hike/camp through the Mill Creek Wilderness in the Ochoco National Forest. The purpose of the hike was to focus on wilderness training.

The group was dropped off on Monday, December 10, 2007, at approximately 1 pm at the Wildcat Campground. The plan was for the group to hike through the Mill Creek Wilderness and then return to the Mount Bachelor Academy facilities on December 12, 2007, at approximately 5:00 pm. The group participating in this hike was very well equipped and the three staff members that are with the students have over 30 years of wilderness survival training and experience including wilderness first responder training (i.e. first aid, survival, etc.).

The resources available to us that were being deployed for the search of this group included three civil air patrol planes. In addition we had 15-20 Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue and Posse members in the area assist in the search for the group.

At approximately 9:20 am on December 13, 2007, Mount Bachelor Academy was contacted by cell phone by one of the staff members on the hike reporting that they were fine, in no distress or danger and their progress was slowed greatly by the amount of snow that they traversed through in the Mill Creek Wilderness. The group is hiking out



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to a near point where they can be picked up and taken back to the Mount Bachelor Academy facilities.

Once we have further information, we will update with further media releases. If you have any further questions, please contact Undersheriff Jim Hensley from the Crook County Sheriff's Office.