

PRESS RELEASE



City of Bristol Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City recognizes and honors Mountain Trail Riders with citation

The City of Bristol Tennessee recognized Mountain Trail Riders Association and those members who came out to support the search efforts of the Bristol Tennessee Police Department in their search for a teenager lost in the woods near Walmart in late December 2017. During the presentation Chief of Police, Blaine Wade stated, “The members of this group selflessly donated their time, equipment and expertise to bring a potential tragedy to a positive conclusion,”

On December 29, 2017 at about 5:20pm officers responded to Walmart on a report of a 15 year-old autistic boy who had ran into the woods at the ridge on the north side of the parking lot.

At the time the search began, the temperature was approximately 36 degrees. Canine searches by the Police Department and other agencies were unsuccessful in locating the missing teen, as were searches conducted using both Wellmont One and Med-Flight helicopters.

Shortly after search efforts began, members of the Mountain Trail Riders Association arrived to assist in the search. The members of the organization volunteered their time, equipment and knowledge of the area to assist not only in the actual search, but in planning search efforts as well.

After approximately six hours the teen still had not been located. Two teams from the Mountain Trail Riders Association volunteered to enter the search area from two different locations, working towards the teen’s last known location. The temperature had dropped to 29 degrees, with a wind-chill factor of 23 degrees. The teen was reportedly dressed only in a light shirt and jeans; the search party was worried about the possibility of exposure and hypothermia setting in.

After midnight, one of the two Trail Rider search teams located the child, huddled behind a tree more than a mile deep into the woods.

“Without the assistance of Mountain Trail Riders team the outcome could have been quite different”, said Chief Wade.

For more information on the recognition please contact Chief Blaine Wade at bwade@bristoltn.org or call 423-989-5600.