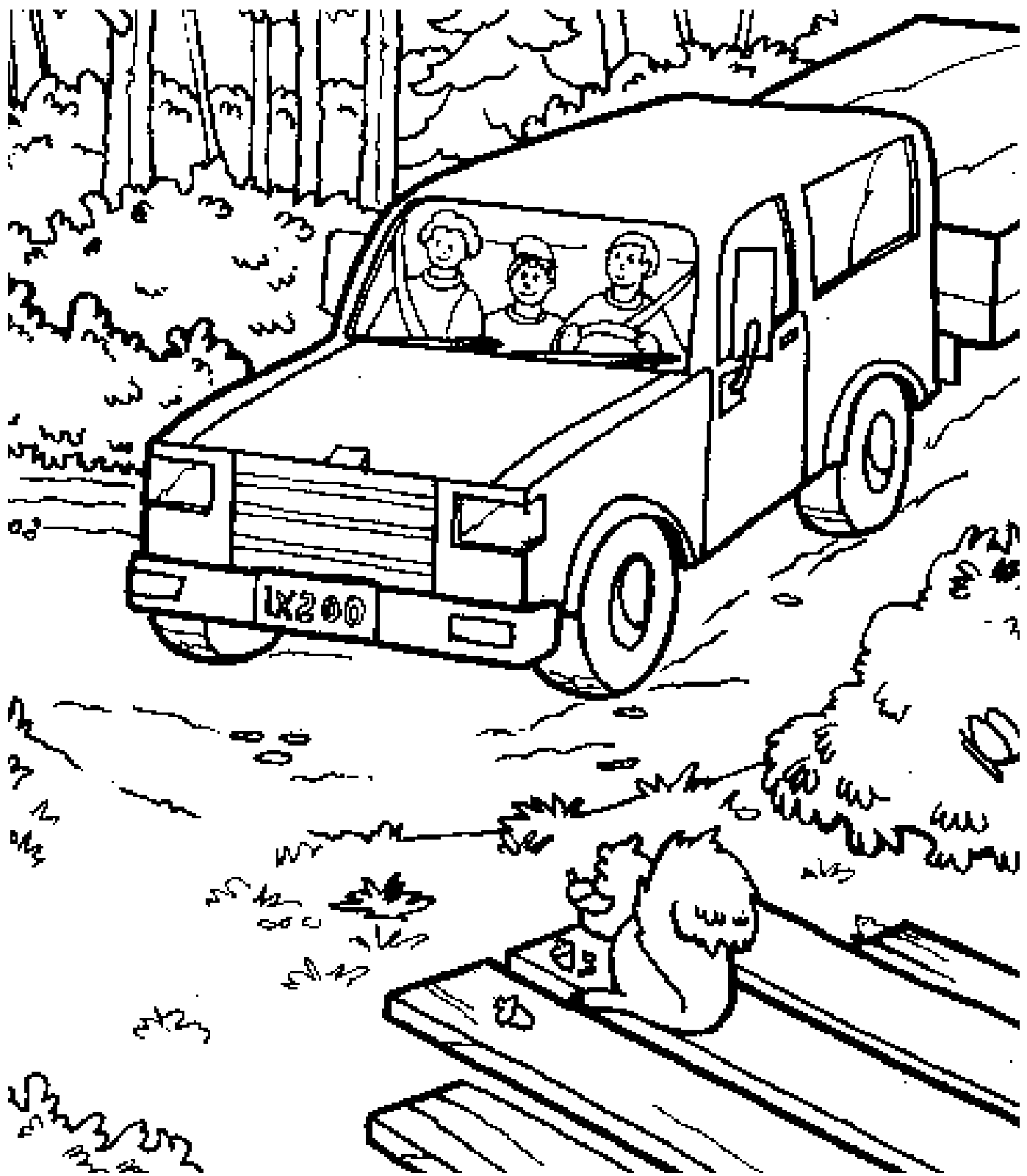


**Hug-A-Tree  
And  
Survive Program**

**A  
Coloring Book  
For Kids**

*This Program is Dedicated To the Memory of Jimmy Beveridge*



John and his family arrive at their favourite campsite in the woods.



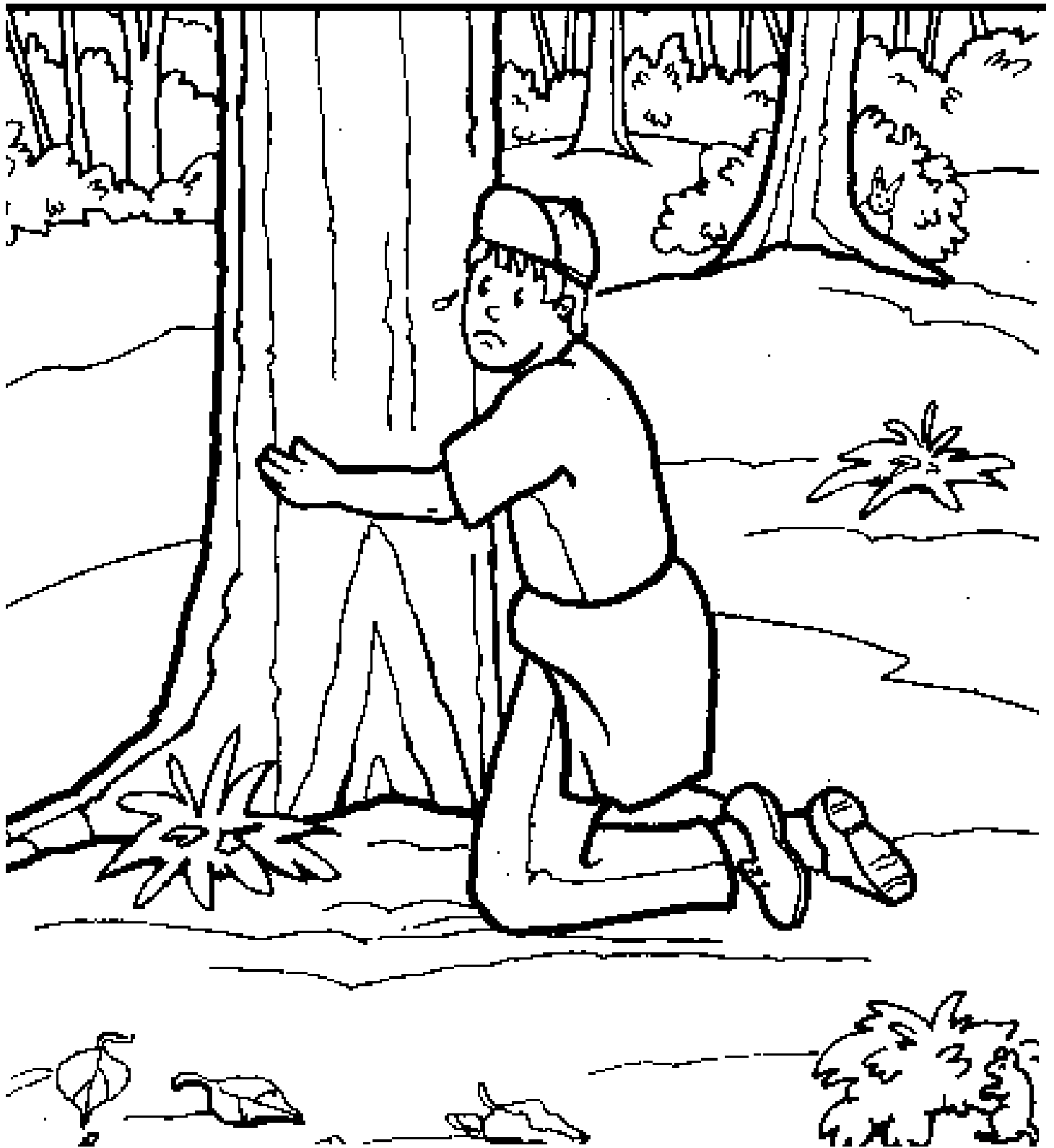
John's dad sets up the camper and  
his mom starts to fix lunch.  
They tell John not to go far.



John knows he should not go alone and should always tell someone where he is going, but he can't wait to start exploring.



Suddenly, John realizes that he is lost and nothing looks familiar. He begins to yell for mom and dad.



John is afraid but remembers that he should not panic. He should "hug a tree" and stay in one place. A tree is your friend.



John becomes cold. He keeps his jacket on and tucks in his clothes. John builds a nest of leaves and branches to sit on. He remembers the garbage bag.



John opens the bag, pokes a hole for his face and puts it over his head to stay warm and dry.





Animals make scary noises at night but even big animals don't want to hurt you. John blows his whistle and yells at the noises that scare him.



John knows his parents are doing everything they can to find him.



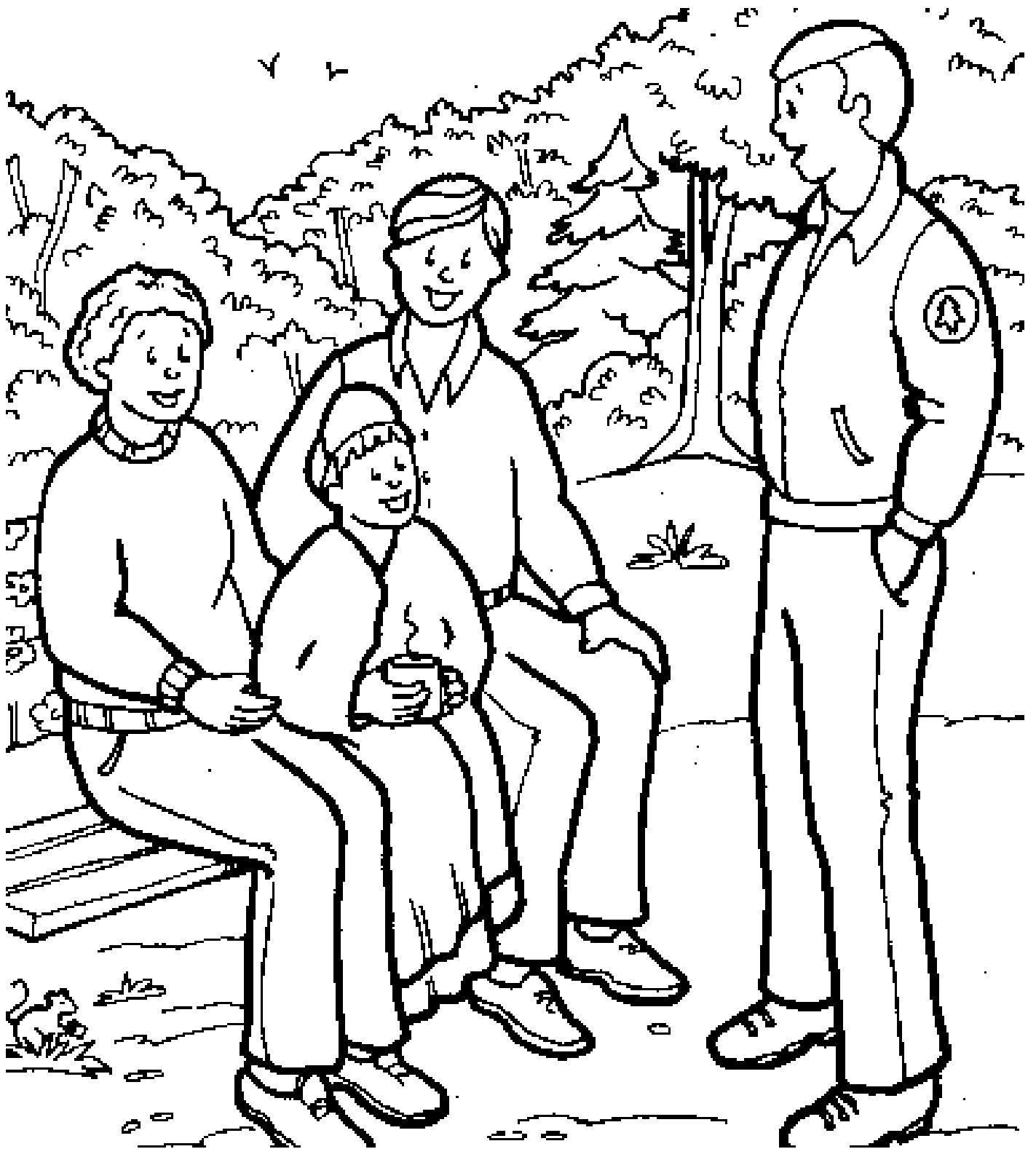
Search and rescue volunteers, helicopters, trackers and search dogs are looking for John. The searchers look day and night.



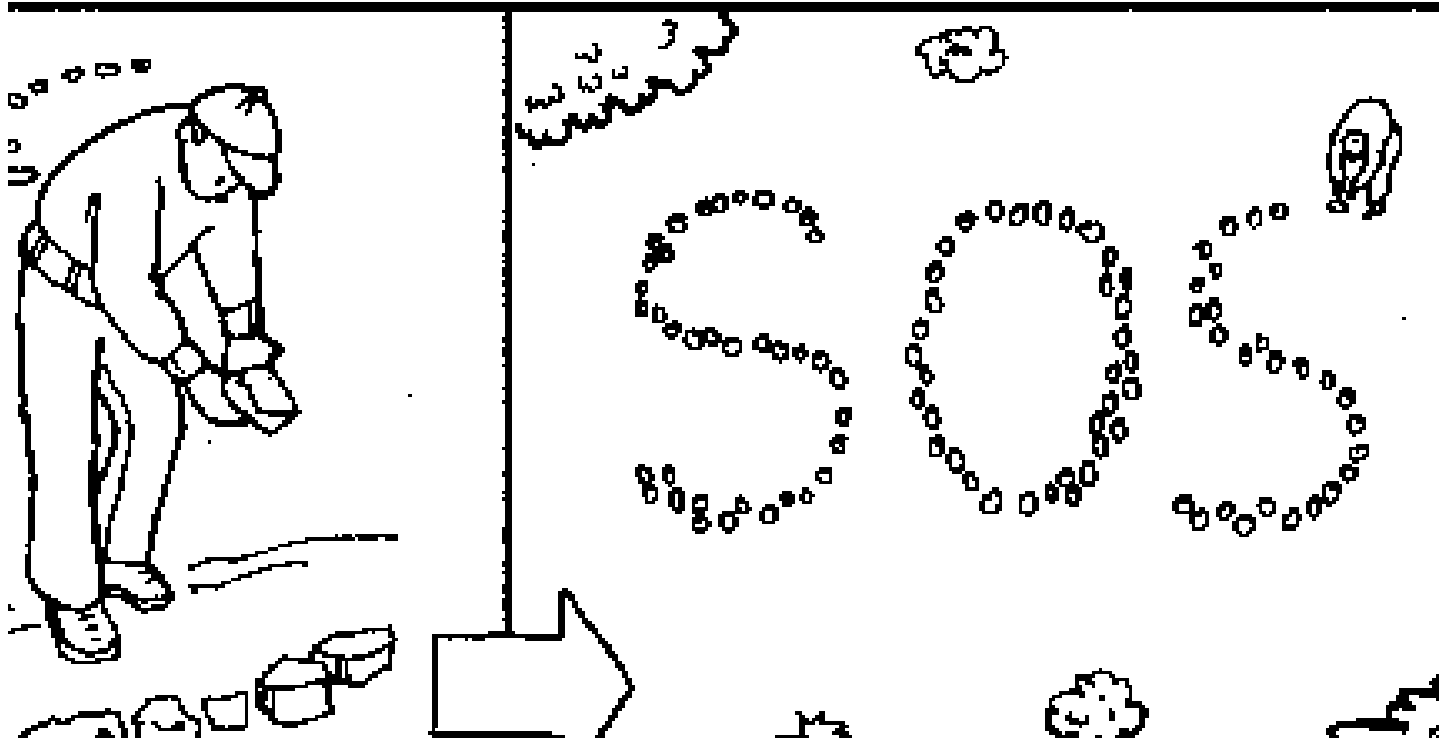
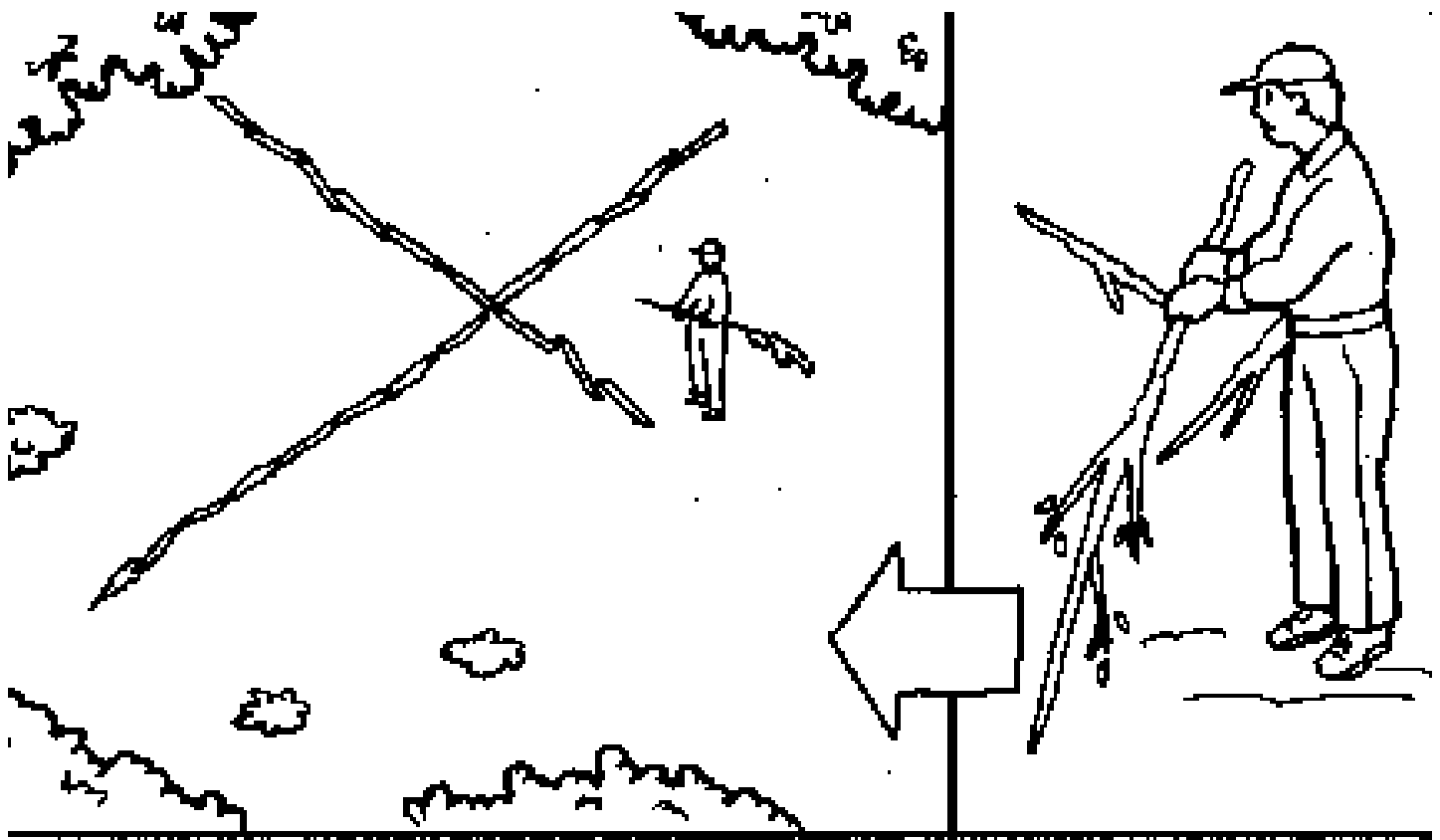
John hears the searchers and lets them know where he is by blowing three times on his whistle and by waving his bag.



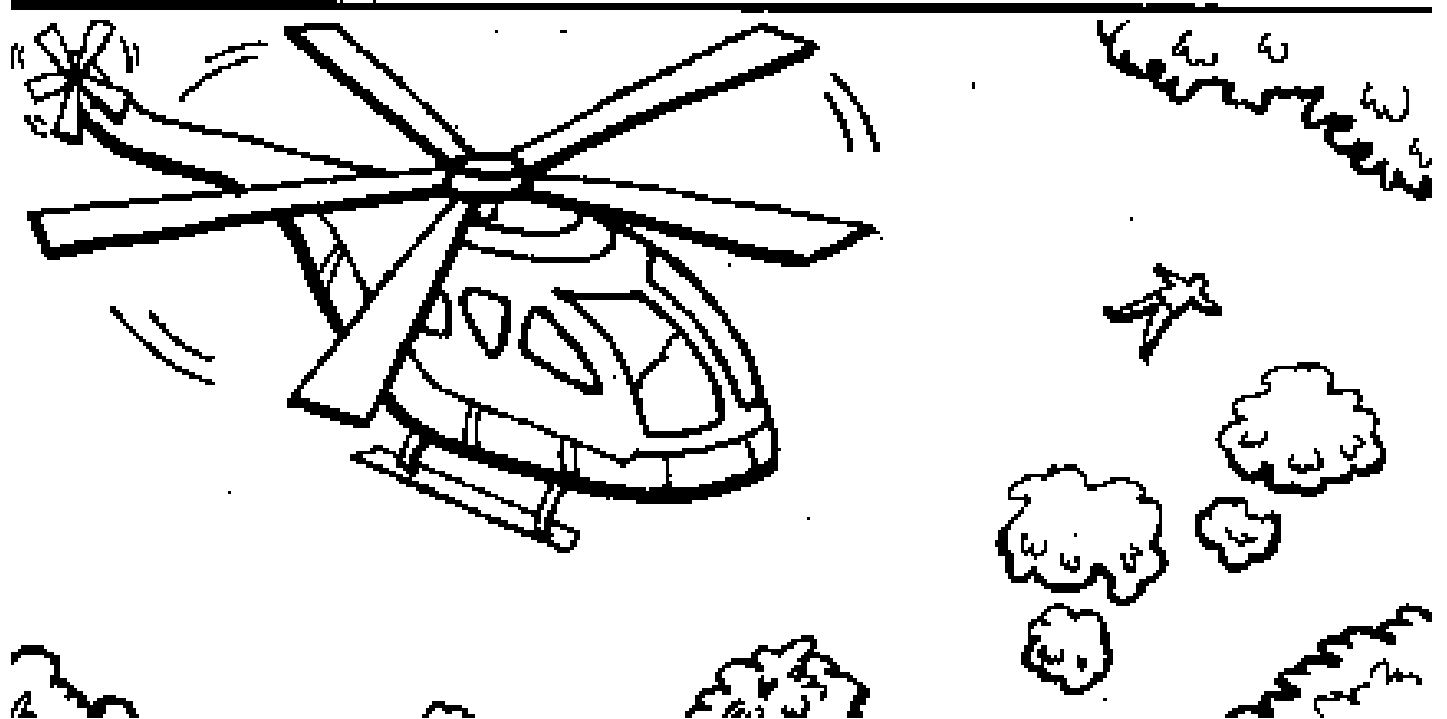
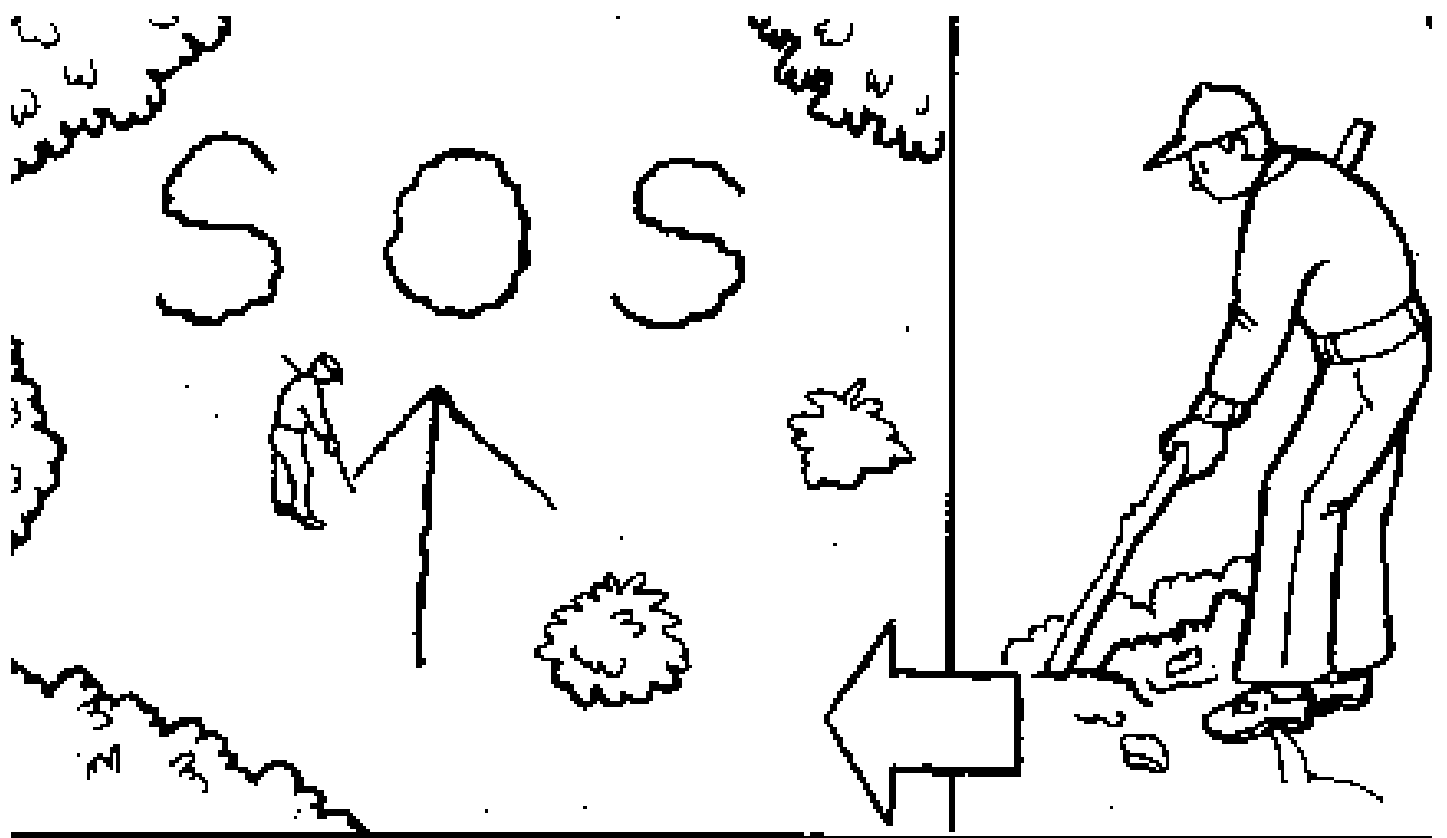
The searchers find John and check to see if he is all right and bring him back to his parents.



John's parents are very happy to see him.  
John is safe because he used his head.



To help the searchers find him, John could have also broken branches off shrubs to make a big "X" or he could have put rocks together to make a large "SOS".



Or he could have made an "SOS" or an arrow pointing to his tree with a stick. Or he could have lain down to make himself big when he heard the helicopter.



## **So when you think you are lost, here are some things to remember:**

- **Hug a tree once you know you are lost.** One of the greatest fears a person of any age can have is of being alone. Hugging a tree or other stationary object and even talking to it calms you down, and prevents panic. By staying in one place, you can be found more quickly, and can't be injured in a fall.
- **Always carry a trash bag and whistle on a picnic, hike, or camping trip.** By making a hole [\*] in the side of the bag for the face, and putting it on over the head, it will keep you dry and warm. The whistle is louder than if you yelled and takes less energy to use. Be sure to put a hole in the bag, because without the hole, you can die of suffocation.
- **My parents won't be angry at me.** Anyone can get lost, adult or child. If they know a happy reunion, filled with love is waiting, they will be less frightened, less prone to panic, and work hard to be found. Time and again children have avoided searchers because they were ashamed of getting lost, and afraid of punishment.
- **Make Yourself Big.** From helicopters, you are hard to see when you are standing up, when you are in a group of trees, or wearing dark and drab clothing. Find your tree to hug near a small clearing if possible. Wear bright colored clothes when you go near the woods or desert. Lie down when the helicopter flies over. If it is cool and you are rested, make crosses or SOS using broken shrubbery, rocks, or by dragging your foot in the dirt.
- **There are no animals out there that want to hurt you.** If you hear a noise at night, yell at it or blow your whistle. If it is an animal it will run away to protect itself. If it is a searcher, you will be found. Fears of the dark and of lions and tigers and bears are a big factor in panicking children into running. They need strong reassurance to stay put and be safe.
- **You have hundreds of friends looking for you.** We have children in the local area of a search tell us, "My parents would never spend the money to search for me with all these people". Search personnel are mainly volunteers who work with other professionals who charge nothing and do it because they care. Many children who are lost don't realize that if they sit down and stay put, one of the many searchers will find them. Some are afraid of strangers and people in uniform, and don't respond to yells. Many have actually hidden from searchers they knew were looking for them.
- **Foot printing your child** is a five minute exercise that cuts down the time of a search by several hours. Have the child walk across a piece of aluminum foil on a soft surface, such as carpeting or a folded towel. Mark the foil with the child's name. With this print, trackers can separate your child's track from the hundreds of others in the area, and quickly determine the direction of travel.