

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

May 21, 2025



### **Okaloosa County Recognizes Scouting America Troop 544 for Finding Missing Child**

**Okaloosa County, Florida** – Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Mixon proudly presented a proclamation to the scouts of Troop 544 to recognize them for their role in helping locate a missing 11-year-old autistic child in April this year.

Scouts were gathering for their weekly meeting on April 7 at their Scout Hut near Ferry Park in Fort Walton Beach when they were approached by local law enforcement. Once informed of the missing child, the scouts quickly organized into patrols led by the older scouts and Assistant Scoutmaster to search Ferry Park for the child.

The swift action, teamwork and sense of community spirit displayed by the scouts helped them locate the child hiding in some bushes as the sun was beginning to set. They were able to reassure and calm him down until law enforcement arrived, ending a potentially frightening and dangerous situation for the child.

“I am very proud and appreciative of how Troop 544 demonstrated scouting values of helping others, showing kindness and teamwork,” said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Mixon. “The actions of Troop 544 not only showcased their dedication to scouting principles but also emphasized the importance of community engagement and support in times of crisis.”

Scouting prepares boys and girls of all ages for life’s challenges by teaching leadership and service to the community. It builds confidence in young people through outdoor adventures, community service projects and other activities focused on character development.

More information on Scouting can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/>

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