

Teen Drowning Victim in Deschutes River Tragedy Identified

by Cheryl McDermott

The 15-year-old boy who drowned in the Deschutes River last Wednesday while playing on a rope swing has been identified as Kyle Riedel of Gresham.

Riedel, who would have turned 16 next month, drowned on August 9 about 4:30 p.m. He and five other teenagers visiting Sunriver, two boys and three girls ages 14-17, had been floating the Deschutes River between Sunriver and Benham Falls when they saw others playing on a rope swing and stopped to join in.

According to a news release by the Deschutes County Sheriffs Office, the young man and his friends were swinging over the water from a rope that was tied to a tree along the riverbank. The victim swung out on the rope, 15 to 20 feet above the water, and landed face first into the river. He surfaced briefly, then went back underwater, said Sgt. Marvin Combs.

Summoned by a call to 911, Bend Fire Department, Sunriver Fire Department, and United States Forest Service personnel responded to the area and made contact with the reporting party. The Deschutes County Sheriff's Search and Rescue were called to the scene and arrived with boats, their dive team, and a dog team trained in water rescue. They were able to locate the victim several hours later in about 8 feet of water approximately 50 feet downstream from where he was last seen.

Teen Drowning Victim in Deschutes River Tragedy Identified by Cheryl McDermott