## **Child Lost Not Mine**

## Joseph Parish

My wife and I went to North Carolina to visit my youngest son this past week and while at his home I noticed that my son's eldest daughter, Brooklyn showed an intense interest in survival techniques. To me this is great, as I am a firm believer in children learning how to take care of themselves in emergency situations. One never can tell when a disaster or a dangerous situation will develop. Keeping that clearly in mind I started thinking that I do not write enough survival articles directed and related to children. There just may come a time when your child does not have you or another adult available to watch out for them and the skills, they learn today will prove life-saving. To that end I now plan to take more interest in educating the children while developing a mini series of survival skills for kids. As my first article in these genera, I plan to show how a child can take a common analog watch and using the sun extract directions from it.

Often time people mistakenly pass on false survival information thinking it is actually real and will work. Sometimes this is unfortunate because people's lives are on the line. I recommend that everyone always check out a suggested skill prior to accepting it at face value. I have done this skill multiple times however, I still advise the reader to check it out on their own. This survival trick will enable a child who can read an analog watch to determine direction of travel. It is important that the watch have the correct time properly set.

To determine your direction, take and point the hour hand of the watch and point it directly towards the direction of the sun. Next, the child will need to find the point on the watch which is located exactly at the halfway point between the direction of the sun and the 12:00 hand. That will indicate the south direction. As an example, if the hour is 3 PM simply point the number three on the watch towards the Sun and the south direction will be midway between three and twelve or in this case 1:30.

Keep in mind that during daylight savings time you will need to properly adjust the time by subtracting one hour from the time which is displayed on your watch. By using the sample above you would point the 2:00 hand towards the sun and read 1:00 as being the southern direction.

This s a simple procedure and children will have fun checking the direction of travel at all times. Remember, practice makes perfect. You should stress to your child that the best course of action if they are lost is to remain where they are and the rescuers will find them however when all else fails at least they have the necessary skills to make their way home.

In conclusion I would like to say thank you to my granddaughter Brooklyn for inspiring me to write this article.