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Branch kills teen camper

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WALDO LAKE - A tree limb struck and killed a 16-year-old Santa Rosa, Calif., boy as he slept in a tent on the first night of a 21-day wilderness expedition near Waldo Lake.

The boy, whose name was not released, was one of seven teens on the wilderness therapy trip, Lane County sheriff's Sgt. Mark Reese said. The teens were accompanied by four adult counselors from Albany-based Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Expeditions for troubled teens.

Counselors awoke Wed- nesday morning and found the boy dead inside his tent. A tree limb so large that two adults could not lift it had fallen on the corner of the tent where the boy's head rested, Lane County Deputy Medical Examiner Frank Ratti said. They reported the death at 9:24 a.m. Wednesday using a satellite telephone.

The group had arrived Tuesday afternoon for three weeks of snow camping and therapy near Charlton Butte about two miles east of Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest.

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