

Gastonia Police Department

Protect, Serve & Enhance the Quality of Life for All



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Sept. 25, 2018

Search for Maddox update

Rankin Lake Park will remain closed to the public until further notice. Search crews will patrol overnight on foot and ATVs to continue the search for 6-year-old Maddox Ritch. Drones will also continue their work in the coming hours. Investigators have gotten additional tip calls since the news conference this afternoon from individuals who were at the park on Saturday.

We continue to ask for information to help us develop the most accurate timeline we can to assist us in finding Maddox. The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to the location of Maddox Ritch.

Maddox was reported missing on Saturday, Sept. 22. He has blond hair, blue eyes, weighs 45 pounds, is 4 feet tall and was wearing an orange T-shirt with lettering "I am the Man," black shorts, and closed toe sandals. Maddox is autistic and does not talk.

Police ask anyone visiting Rankin Lake Park on Saturday to call the tip line at 704-869-1075.

Attached are photos of the Gastonia SWAT team on kayaks searching nearby waterways for clues in this case.

We are working on the release of the 911 call and hopefully will have that available sometime tomorrow.

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