



MISSING: CHRIS DENNIS

Description: 22 years old
Caucasian male
Black hair, brown eyes
Approximately 5'7" and lean

Last seen: 6 am on Wednesday May 22
Canoeing on Cayuga Lake
(4 miles south of Sheldrake Point, Ovid, NY)
Wearing blue and red shorts, no shirt

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at 315-539-9241.

This document is updated by a team of volunteers. To request changes, contact Alyssa (808-341-3770, ayt24@cornell.edu)

Please help if you are able. More information below:

[UPDATE \(Thursday 9:30 PM\):](#)

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UPDATE (Thursday 9:30 PM):

After a full day of air, water, and ground search, Chris has still not been found. We thank the volunteers who canvassed Cayuga Lake's perimeter and the many who have shown support by supplying us with food, water, and shelter.

ON FRIDAY May 24th, we will resume the search. (Volunteer coordinator contact info below)

[WATER SEARCH](#)

Boats- if you own a boat or know someone who does and are willing to help, please do so but be mindful of law enforcement

Kayakers- please help! kayaks are especially important along the coasts as they can access areas that are not visible to aircraft or motorboats. We would like to send out a group in the early morning if possible although help is more than welcome throughout the day

[GROUND SEARCH](#)

Search parties will leave the Schwartz Center in College Town at 10am, 12pm, and 2pm (continuing on at 4pm as necessary). Meet in the gazebo in front of Schwartz, do not part in the bus stop. Please sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/a/cornell.edu/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ant6ZNCNsQQ4dERkVIFaa3g4LTZMZ0FmYkFvRXI4RHc#gid=2>

Volunteers will be dispatched from there to the checkpoints on the east side (Milliken Station Rd. <http://goo.gl/maps/iK8Jr>) and the west side (Sheldrake Point <http://goo.gl/maps/nFQRm>) of the lake.

Volunteers: Please expect cold rainy conditions; wear close-toe shoes, warm clothing, bring water, snacks, sunblock and appropriate supplies. We will try to have food, water, reflective vests, and

ponchos available throughout the day.

DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has donated already, however, we need all the help we can get. We welcome food, water, coffee, folding tables, kayaks, generators, stovetops, and call-in donations in the form of gift certificates or sponsorships, especially for gas. We can also arrange drop-offs if you are unable to meet in person. Please contact us if you can help.

CONTACT INFO

(if it's urgent and no answer, please leave a message)

East side:

Primary: Anthony Santa Maria [\(617\) 763-2955](tel:6177632955)

Reed Steberger [\(973\) 557-8916](tel:9735578916)

West side:

Primary: Anna-Lisa Castle [\(312\) 330-7998](tel:3123307998)

Alyssa Tsuchiya [\(808\) 341-3770](tel:8083413770)/Julie Fiore [\(845\) 240-8288](tel:8452408288)

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP SEARCH

[Sign up sheet](#) (rideshare)

- WHO: anyone! Cornell students, Ithaca residents, Seneca/Tompkins county residents, boaters, kayakers, etc.
 - WHAT: ground and water search for missing Cornell student Chris Dennis, last seen on Wednesday morning
 - WHEN: 8am-8pm Friday, with emphasis on search parties departing Ithaca at 10am, 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm
 - WHERE: searches will be dispatched from checkpoints on the East and West shores of Lake Cayuga.
 - HOW: sign up on rideshare document. Bring close-toed shoes, warm clothing, water, snacks, sunblock and appropriate supplies.
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Search Efforts Summary

- Police have swept both shores of Lake Cayuga with boats (sonar), planes, and on foot every day since Wednesday
- Over 150 volunteers have canvassed most of the lake shore
- “In addition to a large group of Cornell students, the search has involved about 50 personnel from the Seneca County Sheriff’s office, Cornell University Police Department, Yates County Sheriff’s office, state police, state park police, Romulus Fire rescue and firefighters from Aurora, Seneca Falls, Union Springs and Border City”¹
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- **Volunteers are needed to search for Chris on Friday (May 24) -- see information above**
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¹ <http://www.stargazette.com/article/20130523/NEWS01/305230033/Cayuga-Cornell>

8am Thursday Call for Volunteers

Help find missing cornell student! Need volunteers at 8am, May 23rd to search for missing Cornell student
Chris Dennis Search party for missing Cornell student

Who: We need as many volunteers as possible

Where: Sheldrake Point (12 miles north of Taughannock Falls, off of RT 89)

When: 8:00am, May 23

Dear friends,

Chris Dennis was last seen at 6am on Tuesday, May 22nd, while camping with friends on Cayuga Lake, at the Johnson property at 890 Lone Retreat Road, Trumansburg, NY north of Taughnack State Park. He asked his friends if they wanted to join him to go canoeing. His friends declined and that was the last sighting of him.

His canoe was discovered overturned 4 miles north of the campsite near the center of the lake. The water temperature is close to 40 degrees, so hypothermia sets in very quickly.

The Seneca County Police along with several other county departments are treating this as a water accident coordinating the search and rescue. They are currently using small boats to check the shore lines. They had an aircraft that is searching as well, but we really need a ground search and need as many volunteers as possible.

This is all we know right now. Please help. Chris is a loved son, brother and member of the Cornell community. Time is of the essence.

Contact:

Danfung Dennis:Meimei Dennis -Kelsey Ericson - 978-618-9816

Maya- 831-345-8401

Any help is appreciated. Please forward this message if you are a listserv admin. Please post on facebook if you have an account.

Thanks,

Laura

5am Thursday Call for Volunteers

In addition to the search party that will head out from Shaledrake point at 8:00 am (guided by police), a group of Chris' friends are arranging extra search efforts. Please help where you can:

Early Search Team

A group of us are headed to search for Chris before 8am tomorrow. We're meeting in Ithaca early tomorrow morning to organize and arrange rides. Details:

Where: 109 Sage Place Apt #5

When: 5am Thursday May 23

Rideshare (all day)

Rideshare to Sheldrake - please fill out if you need or can offer a ride:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ccc?key=0Ant6ZNCNsQQ4dFRkVIFaa3g4LTZMZ0FmYkFvRXI4RHc#gid=0>

In addition, rides will be offered from Schwartz Center in Collegetown at 7:15am for those joining the 8am search party.

Private Boats

Please let us know if you know of anyone with a private boat on Lake Cayuga that is willing to help with search efforts. The police will also be searching the water with boats and divers, but any help is appreciated.

Door to Door Canvassing

In addition to ground search, whatever time people join the search, if they could knock on every lake house they pass by during the search to alert them.

More Information

All the information we know on the search effort is in this document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/16LPZHWOJHeX_v5wwDAwRdYJSW5jAagQV-LGiYm0cexo/edit?usp=sharing

We'll be updating it as we know more.

For more information on these efforts (early search team, private boat search), please contact

Alyssa 808-341-3770 (ayt24@cornell.edu)

Jamie 607-592-5744

Kelsey 978-618-9816

Anna-Lisa 312-330-7998

Mona 607-793-0627