

## Center resident found dead at upstate camp

A 21-year-old Staten Island Developmental Center resident was found dead in a lake at an upstate Boy Scout camp last night, two days after he was reported missing from his troop.

The mentally retarded man, Edwin Garcia, was found about 8:30 p.m. in a lake about a quarter-mile from Camp Kunatah, which is part of the Ten-Mile River Scout Camps near Narrowsburg, N.Y., a Scouting spokesman said.

"He had apparently fallen from a ledge into the water," the spokesman said.

Garcia arrived at the camp, which is about a 2½-hour drive from Staten Island, about 5:30 p.m. Sunday with 36 other residents of the center and seven supervisors. The supervisors, the Scouting spokesman said, were Staten Island Developmental Center staff members.

Elin Howe, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center, said the bus transporting Garcia's group to the camp was to bring another group back to the institution that same evening.

But the bus broke down, leaving the center's camp staff with twice its normal load of residents, she said. The apparent staffing shortage

was complicated further, the Scouting spokesman said, when some counselors left the camp, reportedly in search of a mechanic. It left the 70 campers under the supervision of seven staff members, he said.

Ms. Howe said this morning that the entire incident is the subject of a "full-scale investigation."

Garcia disappeared about 8:15 p.m. Sunday night, according to state police. He was last seen sitting at an outdoor table in the heavily wooded camp, police said.

Garcia's disappearance was reported to Scouting officials about 9:30 p.m., the Scouting spokesman said, after his counselors had searched for him for about an hour. State police were notified about 10:45 p.m., he said.

The following day, state Environmental Conservation Department officials assumed supervision of the search.

The spokesman said the lake had been searched twice by boats and a helicopter before the body surfaced last night.

Garcia was part of the Scouting for the Handicapped program, the spokesman said, but was not under Scouting supervision.

An autopsy was to be performed today by the Sullivan County Medical Examiner's Office.

Ms. Howe said that Camp Kunatah is one of several upstate camps that provide summer recreation program for residents of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The camp program was threatened earlier this year when state officials said they lacked funding to pay for it. But at the last minute funding was found and the program was saved.