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Emergency crews identified a teenaged girl who drowned while swimming in the South Fork River on Monday.

Makenna Warlick, of Lincolnton, was recovered around 5:20 p.m. Tuesday just below the High Shoals Dam where the 16-year-old girl had been swimming with two friends.

Warlick attended West Lincoln High School, according to [a GoFundMe page](#) set up to raise funeral expenses. She is the second teenager this month to drown in the river.

Emergency workers spent more than a day trying to locate Warlick from an undercut near the dam. The operation was delayed in part by a lightning strike which knocked out a generator Monday night.

They repaired the generator by 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, allowing crews to reduce water levels and divert water away from the area she was found.

George Schmidt was near that area the day before, observing nature and listening to music on his phone, when he says he heard the girl's two friends screaming for help.

The group had been exploring a rocky area when Warlick slipped and fell into the water.

"The girl told me she went off the waterfall," Schmidt said. "I emptied my pockets out and jumped off and went into the water underneath the waterfall."

Despite his efforts, Schmidt wasn't able to get to the girl. Rescue workers eventually ushered him out of the area to safety.

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hard."

Gaston County Emergency Medical Services, Dallas Rescue Squad, the Gaston County Police Department, North Gaston Volunteer Fire Department, Denver Fire Department, Lincoln County Swift Water Rescue Team, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Gaston County Emergency Management assisted in the recovery.

Bill Melton, a spokesman for Gaston County Emergency Management, continues to advise people not to swim in the river.

"When you're swimming in natural aquatic environments, nature can play hard," Melton said. "And it's not something where most people are used to swimming and it's not something we recommend you swim."

"Stay out of the South Fork River."

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