



2016-2017
Pathfinder Handbook
Evergreen Pathfinder Club

This handbook belongs to:

Dear Pathfinders, Parents and Guardians:

Recently I heard a 6 year old pray something like this:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being real to me today,
yesterday and
tomorrow.

Amen.

To me that was a profound prayer because she was able to realize that Jesus is real, and isn't that what I try to help others see. I want the young minds to see that God is real, His love is supreme and that He is coming again!

This year, the Evergreen Pathfinder club has taken a new appearance with the intent to give pathfinders, and anyone who encounter the Evergreens, a refreshing spiritual experience. An experience that will make them see and feel and know that God is real, not 'barely' but fully!

We are fortunate to be at the campus of Andrews University, supported by Pioneer Memorial Church, where we have the opportunity to grow and explore as we grow. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated leaders and staff who are investing into this club and truly they are investing for heaven! We are fortunate to have each one of you be a part of this new experience.

Welcome to Evergreen Pathfinders! I am looking forward to a great and exciting year. With the blessings and guidance of God, the Great and Real Director, we will make it just that.

As you go through this handbook please read carefully as it contains valuable information.

Pathfinders: This club is for you, and so it is up to you as to how you make of this club. Always remember, to him who is faithful in small things, God will make him oversee greater things. This entails attendance, conduct, spiritual growth, and social relations.

Parents/Guardians: Thank you for giving us the privilege to work with your children. It is your responsibility to make sure they get to the meetings on time, and that they are picked up on time. If you have financial difficulties or transportation issues, please talk to us. Also, your help and input is appreciated as we work together to fashion minds in the image of God.

Welcome again!

Blessings,



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Contents

ABOUT THE PATHFINDER CLUB	4
CLUB STRUCTURE	4
WEARING THE UNIFORM	5
DRESS CODE FOR NON-UNIFORM EVENTS.....	5
PATHFINDER UNIFORM INFORMATION.....	5
TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (TLT).....	6
PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (PBE).....	6
DRILL TEAM.....	6
REMIND	6
REGISTRATION DATES.....	7
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS	7
FINANCES	7
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	8
OFF CAMPUS EVENTS	8
ELECTRONICS POLICY.....	8
POINTS.....	8
ATTENDANCE	8
PATHFINDER OF THE SEMESTER.....	8
PATHFINDER PLEDGE, LAW, AND SONG; AY AIM AND MOTO	9
CODE OF CONDUCT	10

ABOUT THE PATHFINDER CLUB

The Evergreen Pathfinder club is one of many clubs within the Michigan Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. Our aim is to provide fun Christ-centered activities for youth of all religions from grades 5-12. It is our prayer that, in these activities, the Pathfinder will discover the value of a personal relationship with Christ. Listed below are some of the exciting activities which the Pathfinder can enjoy during the year:

- Induction Ceremony: Formal ceremony welcoming new members into the club and developing pride in membership.
- Union Camporee: Camping with other Pathfinder Clubs from the Lake Union Conference at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds.
- Pathfinder Sabbath: Pathfinders plan & present both worship services at Pioneer Memorial Church.
- Pathfinder Fair: End of the year event in which clubs from across Michigan Conference gather at Camp Au Sable and highlight what each club has done over the year
- Investiture Service: Pathfinder equivalent of graduation, held each year as a conclusion to the year of classwork and to recognize the Pathfinders for their achievements.
- Honors: Various honors will be taught and earned during the year.
- Fancy and Basic Drill Teams.
- Pathfinder Bible Experience: Bible quiz and memorization challenge.
- Additional campouts each Pathfinder year.

CLUB STRUCTURE

This year the club will be operating as three separate “squads”:

- *Trail Seekers* meeting Sunday afternoons and focusing on Nature and Camping
- *Movement Masters* meeting Monday evenings and focusing on Sports, Health and Fitness
- *Creative Adventure* meeting Wednesday evenings and focusing on Arts and Crafts.

We will all be meeting together once a month on the second Sunday morning of each month for general club activities.

Within each squad pathfinders will participate in all aspects of pathfinding including the Investiture Achievement classwork, outdoor and nature activities, march and drill, and spiritual development. A greater portion of the time will be spend with activities related with the focus area of the squad.

WEARING THE UNIFORM

The uniform as listed on the schedule and as described on this page is to be worn unless otherwise announced.

Each Pathfinder and Staff member is expected to wear modest attire, consistent with the Christian principles held by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Hair should be neatly groomed and styled. The uniform is a symbol of Pathfinders and reflects our mission to be soldiers for Jesus; as such the uniform should be worn with dignity and pride.

DRESS CODE FOR NON-UNIFORM EVENTS

As a Pathfinder you are representing Christ. High standards of modesty and dress must be the norm, not the exception. Accordingly, we ask that you refrain from wearing low-riding or sagging pants, tight pants, short or tight skirts or shorts, low cut tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, midriff-baring tops, or T-shirts with crude language or other inappropriate content. Clothing should be clean and in good repair. Swimwear should be modest; one-piece or equivalent swimwear is appropriate for women. Jewelry is not to be worn, with the exception of Medic-Alert items and wedding bands (if married). Pathfinders not following these standards will be asked to change. If you have a question if an item of clothing is appropriate to wear for Pathfinders please address it to the uniform coordinator or any director.

PATHFINDER UNIFORM INFORMATION

FULL DRESS UNIFORM (also known as "Class A")

Shirt	Tan, short sleeved dress shirt
Pants/Skirts	Black Dress Pants or Black knee-length or longer skirt with belt loops. Skirts are required for some events such as PBE, and Pathfinder Sabbath.
Belt	Black Pathfinder belt
Socks/Nylons	Black socks when wearing pants, jet black nylons when wearing a skirt.
Shoes	Black plain closed toe shoes with low or no heel.
Scarf	Yellow scarf & Pathfinder slide
Sash	Black
Hair	Simple black hair accessories are allowed.

Master Guides may wear the green Master Guide uniform. Ladies must wear skin colored nylons.

FIELD UNIFORM (also known as "Class C")

The new Club T-shirt or current Club Sweat shirt.
Modest black, blue or tan jeans or khaki pants.
Closed toe shoes with low or no heel.

TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (TLT)

Pathfinders that are in 9th-12th grade, and have been in Pathfinders for at least one year (in any club / at any time) may apply to become part of this special program. This program enables teens to grow into leaders in their local club and church. This is not for everyone and you do not need to be a TLT to be in the club. TLT's may also have TLT only events throughout the year.

PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (PBE)

This is a program that encourages Bible memorization. Each year teams of 4-7 Pathfinders work on memorizing a book(s) of the Bible and meet weekly on Friday nights to practice and study together. The teams first compete at a local level and may progress all the way to the division level. Multiple teams may be formed. There is nothing better than hiding God's word in your heart. This year we will be studying the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1st & 2nd Timothy.

DRILL TEAM

We have both a Fancy and a Basic Drill Team, both require tryouts and you can only be a member of one team.

- Membership is by tryout only and requires a thorough mastery of basic drill.
- Members wear a braid whenever in their Full Dress Uniform
- Membership will require significant time outside of the club meetings. Typically this has been two Sunday mornings per month for two hours each time.
- Members may miss no more than 10% of Drill Team Practices. Three Tardies counts as an absence.
- Before tryouts for the team both the pathfinder and their parent must sign a contract committing to the extra time and effort involved with drill team if they are selected for the team.

Fancy Drill team tryouts will end the around September 31. The fancy drill team and alternates will be announced early in October. Tryouts for the basic team will be announced later.

REMIND

We plan to use a service called Remind for most emails and notifications about Pathfinders. We will enter your email address to contact you via Remind but you also can sign up for notifications in Remind via Text message or by installing their app for iOS or Android.

REGISTRATION DATES

Registration is open from August 24 to September 11. At other times, registration may be allowed at the discretion of the Club Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

To join the Pathfinder Club, the applicant must be present at one of our registration meetings with at a parent/guardian and complete the following steps.

1. Be in the fifth through twelfth grades.
2. Submit an **Application**, signed by the applicant and their parent or guardian.
3. Submit a **Health History, Consent to Treatment & Health Insurance Information** form and copy of insurance card.
4. Pay a registration fee of \$60.
5. Be faithful in attendance.
6. Be faithful in paying club dues of \$10 at the general meeting each month.
7. Be in the appropriate uniform specified for each event (see Schedule).
8. Obey all regulations and instructions from the Pathfinder Club Staff.
9. Learn and keep the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.

FINANCES

A registration fee of \$60 per Pathfinder is to be paid at registration. This fee, along with your dues, covers the required activities such as Pathfinder Fair and Club Campout. It does not include the costs of the optional campouts and events. These events may require a small fee (generally no more than \$30) to help offset expenses. The exact cost will be announced before each event.

Club dues of \$10 per month are to be paid at the general meeting each month.

There is a \$10 discount per pathfinder for pre-payment of all monthly dues. There is a \$20 registration discount for each child in a family after the first child.

The cost of the new club t-shirt is included in the registration fee. Also each Pathfinder must have a dress uniform and the patches for it. A complete dress uniform and patches should be approximately \$60-\$75 dollars. The cost will be less if you can find a hand-me down from a previous Pathfinder or from our storage closet.

If registration fees, dues and uniform costs are a problem, please see the Club Treasurer, and fill out our Financial Assistance Request Forms. We will work to make arrangements to see that each Pathfinder has what they need.

No child should be denied being a part of Pathfinders because of money.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement is a very important factor in the Pathfinder program. Though non-staff parents do not attend meetings, you may need to assist your child in fulfilling their investiture requirements. Each child will receive a copy of their investiture requirements so you can track their progress.

If you, as a parent, have a special skill that you could teach during our meetings, it would be greatly appreciated. We also need parents that are willing to help out as counselors and support staff.

OFF CAMPUS EVENTS

The club will have many events outside the Pathfinder building. For all events off the Andrews University Campus, a permission slip signed by a parental/legal guardian is required. A new permission slip will be required for each event. Transportation to off campus events may be in private, church owned or Andrews University owned vehicles or other modes of transportation as may be deemed necessary. Each vehicle will be driven by an adult 21 years old or above and, in the case of University owned vehicles, the driver will be approved by the Andrews University Office of Transportation.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

We allow restricted use of personal electronics at our club meetings, events, or campouts. This includes iPods, iPads, MP3 players, gaming systems, or other such devices. They will be allowed to be used while traveling to events and at other times at the discretion of the director. Pathfinders not observing this policy and using their electronics outside of the allowed times will have their electronics confiscated for the remainder of the meeting, event or activity.

POINTS

We will be suspending the conduct and attendance points system for the Fall Semester. Decisions about points for Spring Semester will be made towards the end of Fall Semester

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at all pathfinder meetings is a requirement to complete your Investiture Achievement class and honors. While we are suspending the points system for at least the Fall Semester attendance may still be taken. If you will be absent for a given event please notify your teacher, director or the coordinating director before the meeting you miss.

PATHFINDER OF THE SEMESTER

The Pathfinder of the Semester award is given to a girl Pathfinder and a boy Pathfinder from each squad who go above and beyond the call of duty in their pursuit of the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. Your attitude and courtesy to fellow Pathfinders, as well as the staff, helps to decide just who earns this award.

PATHFINDER PLEDGE

By the grace of God, I will be pure, kind, and true. I will keep the Pathfinder Law. I will be a servant of God and a friend to man.

PATHFINDER LAW

The Pathfinder Law is for me to:

Keep the morning watch,
Do my honest part,
Care for my body,
Keep a level eye,
Be courteous and obedient,
Walk softly in the sanctuary,
Keep a song in my heart,
Go on God's errands.

PATHFINDER SONG

Oh we are the Pathfinders strong.
The servants of God are we.
Faithful as we march along,
In kindness, truth and Purity.
A message to tell to the world.
A truth that will set us free.
King Jesus the Savior is coming back for you and me.

PATHFINDER AIM & MOTTO

AIM:

The Adventist message to all the world in this generation.

Motto:

The love of Christ constrains us all.

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH MOTTO

Connect, Grow, Serve, Go.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES*

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

* Non-United States citizens shall not salute or pledge allegiance to the United States Flag. They shall stand respectfully and quietly while the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Pathfinders agree to abide by the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.
2. Respect and the golden rule characterize our actions. Talking back to staff or any adult at any time is not acceptable. Absolutely **NO bullying**, put-downs, profanity or other inappropriate behavior will be tolerated at any time.
3. Pathfinders will be on time and in proper uniform to all club meetings, events and other club functions.
4. When called to fall-in, Pathfinders will line up immediately and come to attention with their unit.
5. During club meetings or events, unit members should stay together and with their counselor at all times. No one is to be off by themselves.
6. Pathfinders are expected to participate in every activity and maintain good conduct at all times.
7. Certain activities will only be attended by those that meet the required number of points and good behavior. These activities are privileges that are to be earned and not rights.
8. Any Pathfinder who continually engages in inappropriate behavior after being asked to stop may be asked to leave on the recommendation of the staff.

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Pathfinder: _____ Date _____

Parent / Guardian: _____ Date _____