



2015-2016
Pathfinder Handbook
Evergreen Pathfinder Club

This handbook belongs to:

Developed for the
The Pioneer Memorial Church
Evergreen Pathfinder Club
By
Your Evergreen Pathfinder Club Staff

August 2015

Dear Pathfinder and Parents:

Welcome to the PMC Evergreen Pathfinder Club! We're so happy that you've decided to join us this year. I encourage you, both Pathfinders and parents, to carefully read this handbook. It covers club policies, our aims and goals, and other items of interest.

Our club motto is, Come, Stay and Grow with us. Our goals for this year are to continually disciple youth to lead for Christ, create a positive and uplifting community, and have each pathfinder understand that God wants to use them to impact their world. It is our purpose in Pathfinders to provide spiritual training that will equip Pathfinders to serve God throughout their lives.

As your staff, we are making a commitment to you, a commitment to provide you with a fun, safe environment with caring, patient staff, who will mentor each Pathfinder as they participate in club activities. As a valued member of this club, you need to make a commitment to us, a commitment to attend all meetings, activities and outings with any items you're told to bring. Each time you miss a meeting or outing, you miss out on the activities, important information, and opportunities to work with the club to help make a difference.

Pathfinders, this is your club and its success or failure depends on you and all that you do. This club is your opportunity to form new friendships, learn new skills, explore your faith, and make a change in your community.

Parents, please do your part to make sure your child arrives on time, and that you are here to pick up your child(ren) on time. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. Your help and suggestions are invited and appreciated. We have a great year of activities planned and look forward to getting to know you and your Pathfinder better!

Blessings,

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ABOUT THE PATHFINDER CLUB

Our Pathfinder Club is one of several active Pathfinder clubs in the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Our aim is to provide fun Christ-centered activities for youth of all religions, 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 that the Pathfinder can enjoy during the year:

- Induction Ceremony: Formal ceremony welcoming new members into the club and developing pride in membership.
- Conference Camporee: Camping with other Pathfinder Clubs from the Michigan Conference at Camp Au Sable.
- 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 Drill Team.
- Additional campouts each Pathfinder year.
- Game Nights

TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

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 take the next step and become leaders in their local club. This is not for everyone and you do not need to be a TLT to be in the club. TLT's will 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 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 book of Exodus.

CLUB DRILL

Everyone will take part in club each Wednesday night. There will be three levels - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. Pathfinders who improve throughout the course of the year may be eligible to advance to a more advanced group. To be a part of the Advanced group, a pathfinder needs to have earned the Drilling and Marching Honor.

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.
- Members must maintain 75% of club points to remain on Drill Team.
- Members may miss no more than 10% of Drill Team Practices. Three tardies counts as an absence.

Tryouts will end the last week of September and the drill team and alternates will be announced the first week of October.

GAME NIGHTS

There are a number of times during the year where we will have social events for our pathfinders to have fun and bond together in games and other activities. Many of these are also open for friends of Pathfinders to attend as well. These will be marked on the schedule. We ask that you not advertise these as open gyms for just anybody to attend. These are only for our pathfinders and friends they may want to invite out.

ATTENDANCE

If the Pathfinder is absent from more than 50% of the scheduled events, they may be asked to withdraw from the club. If absent, the dues from the missed meeting must be paid at the next regular meeting.

An excused absence is one that involves sickness, death in the family, or required school activity. Pathfinders requesting to have their absences excused must have their parents send an email to evergreenpathfinders@gmail.com stating the date(s) of the absence, and the reason. If an absence is excused 8 points will be given for the excused absence. For an unexcused absence no points will be awarded.

A Pathfinder who is asked to withdraw from the club may reapply the next year. Acceptance will be determined by the club director in consultation with the staff and the Pathfinder's parents. If a Pathfinder is asked to withdraw; there will be no refund of the registration fee or club dues.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

PATHFINDER OF THE MONTH

Each month, a Pathfinder who has exhibited stellar attitude and helpfulness going above and beyond the call of duty will be selected by the staff and will receive recognition from the club as the Pathfinder of the Month. The behavior exhibited by a Pathfinder of the Month should not be the exception but rather the rule of their behavior within the club. Other monthly and annual awards may be given at the discretion of the director.

PATHFINDER OF THE YEAR

The Pathfinder of the Year award is given to a girl Pathfinder and a boy Pathfinder who go above and beyond the call of duty in their pursuit of the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. Points earned during the full year go toward this award. These points add up quickly by being at all meetings in uniform, on time, and taking an active part in the program. Along with these points, your attitude and courtesy to fellow Pathfinders, as well as the staff, helps to decide just who earns this yearly award. Pathfinders must also have completed all the investiture requirements for their level.

HONOR PATHFINDERS/GOOD CONDUCT BAR

Pathfinders who finish the year with more than 90% of the possible points are given the Good Conduct bar at Investiture to be worn on their dress uniform. Stars are added to the bar for each additional year. There will be a special trip at the end of the year for those who have earned this award.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

To join the Pathfinder Club, the applicant must be present at one of our registration meetings with at least one of his/her parents or guardians 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 \$50.
5. Be faithful in attendance.
6. Be faithful in paying club dues of \$10.00 at the first meeting of 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.

REGISTRATION DATES

Registration is open from August 19 to September 9. At other times, registration may be allowed at the discretion of the Club Executive Committee.

UNITS

All Pathfinders will be assigned to a unit of about five Pathfinders of their grade and gender. Many club activities will be done with this unit, which will also include a TLT and/or an adult staff member. Each unit will select its own Captain and Scribe who will have responsibilities during the opening exercises of each meeting.

FINANCES

A registration fee of \$50.00 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. However, it does not include the costs of the optional campouts and other events. These events may require a small fee to help offset expenses. Most events are under \$30. The exact cost will be announced before each event.

Club dues of \$10.00/month are to be paid at the first meeting of each month. Payment of dues is required for meetings for which the Pathfinder is absent.

Each Pathfinder must have a current club tee shirt which costs \$8.50. Also each Pathfinder must have a dress uniform and the patches for it. A complete 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 fees and uniform costs are a problem, please see the Club Treasurer, and 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 all phones, iPods, iPads, MP3 players, gaming systems, or other such devices. Electronics may 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

Points are awarded to each Pathfinder at each required Pathfinder Club function:

Weekly Meetings

Attendance	4	2 point if late, 0 points if Units have reported
Uniform	4	2 point if in partial uniform.
Participation	4	
Has journal	2	
Completed homework	2	2 points if no homework assigned
Good Behavior	4	
Maximum Possible	15	

Yes, 16 points are possible. Grace is built into our points system

Mandatory Events: Fair, Camporee, Pathfinder Sabbath, Thanksgiving food distribution, Food Fair, Alumni Parade, fundraisers etc.

Attendance	4	2 point if late, 0 points if more than 5 minutes late.
Uniform	4	2 point if in partial uniform.
Participation	4	
Good Behavior	4	
Maximum Possible	15	per day

POINTS REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

To be eligible to attend some special events you must have achieved at least certain percentage of points. To attend Teen Snow Outing you must have 85% of the total possible points. To attend the club end of year Award/Honor trip you must have 90% of the total possible points. Other optional events may have different standard for the number of required points.

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.

EVERGREEN CLUB MOTTO

Come,
Stay,
Grow.

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.

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 represent 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 Boys or Girls Director, as appropriate.

PATHFINDER UNIFORM ELEMENTS

FULL DRESS UNIFORM (also known as “Class A”)

- Shirt Tan, short sleeved dress shirt
- Pants/Skirt Black dress pants for boys and men. AdventSource* skirt for girls and women for most events. Girls and women will be permitted to wear black dress pants for certain events as announced.
- Belt Black Pathfinder belt
- Socks/Nylon Black socks with pants, skin colored nylons with 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
- Tie Staff must wear plain black tie, may wear ties.

*Alternate skirts may be approved by the Girls Director but they must be substantially identical in cut, length and style to the AdventSource skirt.

Master Guides may wear the green Master Guide uniform.

FIELD UNIFORM (also known as “Class C”)

- The current Club T-shirt (same as last year’s), current Club Sweat shirt, or the 2014 Oshkosh Evergreen Club T-shirt.
- Modest black, blue or tan jeans or khaki pants.
- Closed toe shoes with low or no heel.

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 _____

Sign and return this copy at registration.