



Loveland Cougars Pathfinder

Club Handbook

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What is Pathfinders?

Pathfinders is a world-wide organization to help young people build a strong relationship with Jesus. It also finds and develops personal interests and skills which the young person can use to be a blessing to others. Pathfinders helps young people become personally involved in sharing activities in the community—personal and group communication and practical skills are emphasized. Additionally, each Pathfinder is encouraged to make quality friendships and begin to develop leadership skills.

Purpose of Pathfinders

The purpose of the Pathfinder Club is to:

1. Lead its members into a growing, redemptive relationship with God
2. Build its members into responsible, mature individuals
3. Involve its members in active, selfless service

Pathfinder Objectives

1. Help each Pathfinder understand the Gospel and the steps of salvation and to work towards the personal commitment of every Pathfinder to the Lord.
2. Help each Pathfinder develop a balanced physical, mental, social and spiritual life
3. Help Pathfinders to understand that the church loves, cares for and appreciates them and needs them in its total program
4. Show Pathfinders what God has planned for their lives
5. Train Pathfinders for service for others
6. Develop the Pathfinder's appreciation for nature
7. Teach Pathfinders specific skills and hobbies that will make their life meaningful and will occupy their time profitably
8. Help keep Pathfinders physically fit
9. Give opportunities for the development of leadership

The Pathfinder Club will encourage its members to belong to the church, confess their Christian faith, and take an active part in fellowship, worship, outreach and service. The Pathfinder Club will challenge its members in the mission and ministry of Christ through the church so that God's Word becomes meaningful and fruitful in their lives.

What is required to join?

First, a young person needs to have a personal interest in Pathfinderism. It should be a personal choice, influenced by, but not made by the parents. Pathfinders is for all youth, boys and girls, ages 10-18 that are connected to local SDA churches and SDA schools. We accept all interested young people, regardless of religious persuasion, with the understanding that one of the purposes of Pathfinderism is the opportunity for our young people to learn more about our SDA heritage as well as building up their relationship with

Jesus.

Code of Conduct

1. Pathfinder will respect leaders and counselors—Romans 13:5;
Exodus 20:12
2. Pathfinder will listen for instructions and follow them the first time he/she is asked—Proverbs 16:20
3. Absolutely NO put-downs!—John 13:34, Romans 12:10
4. Pathfinder will respect other club members—Romans 13:9-10,
Galatians 5:1
5. Pathfinder will respect church/school property and the property of others—
Philippians 2:4
6. Pathfinder will exhibit modesty in dress and appearance—1 Timothy
2:9,10, 1 Timothy 4:12
7. Pathfinder will keep a positive attitude and not bring others down
with complaining—Proverbs 17:22, Philippians 2:14
8. Pathfinder will be obedient and cooperative—2 John 6, Titus 3:1
9. Pathfinder will keep a Christian attitude—Philippians 2:5
10. Pathfinder will not engage in improper conduct with someone of
the opposite sex—Ephesians 5:3

**Our club maintains a hands-off policy with regards to
relationships with those of the opposite sex.**

11. Pathfinder will keep the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.

Discipline Procedures

Step 1: Warning

Step 2: Separated from group for 5-10 minutes

Step 3: Taken to director

Step 4: Director will bring issue to parents to discuss further action

When can you sign up for Pathfinders?

Pathfinder registration is typically between August and the first weeks of September. The young person must be between the ages of 10 and 18 or turn 10 by the first meeting. Pathfinders is intended for 10 year olds who are in the 5th grade and up. However,

exceptions may be made for 10 year olds who are in the 4th grade with parent and director agreement. Unless transferring from another club, joining at other times outside of the scheduled registration date is discouraged due to the continuity that is required in AY work, honors, and Drill and March. Requests to join outside of the normal registration dates will be decided on by the Pathfinder management team on a case-by-case basis. The summer program is generally for Pathfinders already established in our club.

When do we meet?

The Loveland Cougars Pathfinders meet each Wednesday evening listed in the Yearly Calendar. Regular meetings will take place in the Campion Church Pathfinder Classroom—at times we will meet in the gym at HMS Richards Elementary School. Meetings begin at 6:15 and end at 8:15. Any exceptions will be announced beforehand. When we have events that take us into the community or beyond, they will be transported from HMS and returned to there at the end of the event. Note: Some events require Pathfinders get dropped and picked up from the event location. Please check all handouts for pertinent information.

What is required, and what is optional?

The entire program is optional. Parents and young people are encouraged to consider the benefits of Pathfinding. If you are looking for a Christ-based youth program, Pathfinders is the best of its kind. Some of the main benefits of Pathfinding are possible because of the free choices we encourage each Pathfinder to make. That being said, Pathfinders is not simply a come-when-you-want program. The program is dependent on and strengthened by regular attendance to all programs by all club members. Missing even one event can cause a gap in the progress of Honors, AY class work, skills, teamwork and sustained interest in club activities.

Point System & Awards

Our club operates with a point system. A Pathfinder accumulates points each time they are present for a meeting. Points are awarded for attendance, punctuality, uniform and conduct. The purpose of the point system is to encourage Pathfinders (and parents) to remain active and to promote accountability within the club.

Points are tallied after each meeting and a log is kept to tally scores by the club scribe. Excused absences are not counted in the totals. Any Pathfinder with less than 80% of the total possible points will not be eligible to take part in the Pathfinder rewards events

Honor Pathfinder

The Pathfinder of the Year will be chosen from those who achieve this level of participation. Qualifying Pathfinders will receive special recognition through the good conduct ribbon bar (or stars for those who receive it consecutively) that can be worn and displayed on the class A uniform. Pathfinders of the year will be chosen from those who qualified for the good conduct ribbon bar.

The following standards of excellence must be achieved and any Pathfinder may qualify for this award:

1. Attendance and participation: Present and on time to all club meetings, outings, and conference functions, etc. unless excused. Excused absences (for reasons of personal sickness, school priorities, or death in the family) may not exceed 10% of active participation in all club activities.
2. Uniform, Insignia, and Personal Appearance: Uniform must be complete, clean, and always worn as requested. Pathfinder will appear neat and well groomed.
3. Conduct: Courteous, kind, obedient, helpful, reverent, and an example to others in home, school, church, and club.
4. Spiritual Commitment: Show spiritual growth through participation in Sabbath School, regular church attendance, and participation in Share Your Faith and outreach activities.
5. Advancement: To qualify for the Honor Pathfinder Award, the Pathfinder must be invested in at least one AJY class, one Advanced AJY class, and must complete at least four AY honors during the pathfinder year.

Uniforms & Dress Code

Uniforms are required for all meetings and events unless specified otherwise by the Pathfinder director. We have 3 uniforms:

1. Class A uniform - full dress uniform including dress shirt, dress pants, sash, scarf and slide, belt, low-heel, black dress shoes, black socks for boys and girls.
2. Class B uniform – same as class A but without the sash, scarf, and slide
3. Class C Uniform - Club T-shirt with pants or knee-length shorts

Class A uniform shirts and accessories are provided by the club on a rental basis and are covered by the yearly dues except for the first year where there is a \$50 uniform fee. Class C t-shirts will be given to each PF and belong to the PF.

A calendar will be issued each semester that specifies which uniform should be worn (A, B, or C) for each meeting or event.

Uniforms

Uniforms are part of Pathfinders. Uniforms help staff identify our club members on outings, they help the public identify us when we are on a community outreach program, and they are a part of our group identity, commitment and accountability. Uniforms give the Pathfinder pride of ownership and help develop responsibility for remembering and maintaining their personal belongings—they are a part of the points system as well. Honor patches & pins are provided by the club. If a Pathfinder loses patches, pins, or other uniform parts they are responsible for purchasing

a replacement through the club. Patch & pin placement is important on the dress uniform. Please pay close attention to the diagram that is provided. Patches are recommended to be sewn on.

Dress code:

We honor God with our bodies. We expect all Pathfinders to exhibit modesty in dress. No bare midriffs, no spaghetti straps or low-cut shirts, all shorts will be knee length, no underwear showing.

Jewelry

Earrings, necklaces, rings, and other jewelry can be a source of injury while engaging in activities. Items can be expensive or sentimental and lost easily during activities. Jewelry can also be a source of controversy in a group such as Pathfinders. For these reasons, no jewelry of any kind should be worn to Pathfinder activities.

Footwear

Pathfinders must wear adequate footwear at all times. For safety during activities, shoes must have closed toes, sturdy soles, and cover most of the foot. Flip-flops may be used for showering only.

Swimwear

Swimsuits must always be modest for both boys and girls. Boys should wear swimsuits that come to mid-thigh; girls should wear one-piece swimsuits with adequate coverage. A tee-shirt will be encouraged if there is any question of modesty.

See Appendix for patch and honor placement.

Attendance & Participation

Regular attendance is necessary for a successful program. Pathfinders that are absent may not be able to complete projects, honors or Class Level requirements. They also miss information and important announcements.

Attendance at non-meeting events is also important. All Pathfinders are encouraged to participate in service projects, fundraisers, field trips, Pathfinder Bible Experience and camping trips.

Excused absences are granted for illness or vacation only. Please call or e-mail when you need to miss an event (phone numbers are in the back). Please call before the event to be missed. This is especially important if you cannot make it to an off-site event.

Arrival & Dismissal

We have only a short time to accomplish our goals each meeting so we ask that Pathfinders be prompt to meetings and other functions. The regular meeting starts at 6:15 PM. The club meeting is over at 8:15 PM. No pathfinders will be allowed outside until parents come to pick them up. Please come inside to pick up your pathfinder.

Personal Electronics Policy

We do not allow any personal electronics at our club meetings, events or campouts. This includes music players and related devices, cell phones, or video gamed devices.

On long trips, we will allow them in vehicles only. If a parent is insistent that a Pathfinder keep a cell phone with them on a trip, it must be used to call parents only and should be kept by a staff member. Please keep these items in a bag or backpack while at Pathfinders meetings or events.

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices are allowed at Pathfinder meetings and outings. Music players, Gameboys, Nintendo DS's, etc. should not be brought to any Pathfinder activity or outing. Any such item will be picked up from the Pathfinder and returned at the end of the activity or meeting.

Cell Phones

Most cell phones are basically hand-held computers and entertainment devices and should not be brought to any Pathfinder activity or outing. Any Pathfinder may call using the cell phone of a staff member if necessary. Parents will always be given staff cell phone numbers so that they can reach their child if necessary.

Finances

Fees for the full Pathfinder year are \$160 to be paid as specified at Registration. After that, there may be additional fees for camping trips and other events as they occur. Complete information can be found in the pathfinder packet parents receive by email or at registration.

Each Pathfinder must have a club tee-shirt. The cost is included in the yearly registration fee.

If fees are a concern, please contact Alex Rodriguez at 931-544-4434 or

pastorajrod@gmail.com to discuss.

Dues

The \$160 fee per year and can be divided up monthly in the following way: \$56 the first month followed by \$13 per month for the remaining 8 months. Dues are payable on the first Wednesday of each month, September through May. Dues cover part of the cost for ongoing Honor classes and other activities including outreach and pay for the Fall and Spring campouts. Remembering to bring dues the correct night and staying current is part of the responsibility being taught, and is also a part of the points system.

Fees for Honors

There are generally no fees for honors offered. However, there may be some of the more expensive activities or crafts that would require a small fee for material. These will be listed and explained, as needed. An example would be cross-country skiing, where there would be equipment rental.

Financial information

It is our desire to have every Pathfinder in attendance at every activity. If there is a situation that prevents you as a parent from supplying the necessary funds in a timely manner, please don't hesitate to let the director or any other staff member know. It is our desire that all young people who want to participate receive that opportunity regardless of personal finances.

Class Work

All pathfinders are encouraged and expected to complete the corresponding class work as part of the pathfinder program. The pathfinder needs to complete the AY and Advanced AY class work to be eligible for Pathfinder of the year consideration. The class work is presented and discussed at pathfinder meetings. All group activities are completed during the weekly meetings. It is the expectation that the pathfinders will complete the Personal Growth and Spiritual Discovery sections at home during the Pathfinder year.

AY

AY (Adventist Youth) classes are a multi-year program to teach all aspects of Pathfinding, beginning with basics and becoming more advanced each year. This curriculum includes personal spiritual growth, interpersonal relationships, physical activities, outdoor activities, nature study, and arts and crafts. This enables the Pathfinder to develop ways to be a blessing to others. AY classes are one night per month, and parents should ensure their Pathfinder does not miss this evening as it could cause their young person to get behind in AY

lessons.

Camporee

A camporee is held each year at the end of the summer. These are put on alternately by the Rocky Mountain Conference and the Mid-America Union. The Oshkosh Camporee is put on by the North American Division every five years. These are a time to get to know our pathfinders, staff, and activities better, and are a great way to kick off the Pathfinder year.

Club Campouts

The Loveland Cougars Pathfinder Club holds our own camp-outs for the purpose of fellowship and outdoor learning. These are important for completion of selected AY requirements, such as fire-building, camp cooking skills, and nature learning. Attendance is strongly encouraged. There are two official campouts on the calendar—one in the Fall and the other in the Spring. Club dues cover the expenses for both campouts.

Extra Outings and Campouts.

Along with the regular schedule, optional field trips, events, and campouts will be planned involving a day or more. If these have significant transportation requirements, they will generally require an additional fee. Optional weekend events involving camping are \$25. Most other activities are \$5 - \$10 and will include meals while we are out and about.

Outreach

Community outreach is a vital element of Pathfinding. This may take many forms during the year, from assisting the elderly, to collecting and distributing food to those in need during the holidays, to simply sharing our faith in our wonderful Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Drill and Marching

Each meeting Pathfinders participate in unit drill and learn marching skills. Drill teaches teamwork and discipline. All Pathfinders are expected to participate in this activity. Toward the end of the year, Pathfinders exhibit against other clubs at the Pathfinder fair.

Pathfinder Fair

The middle of May is a time for reflection on the Pathfinder year and to display what we have done as a club during the year. It is a time for displays, exhibition and skills testing, fun activities, and to see what other clubs have done.

Hand-outs

From time to time, your pathfinder will be given material to take home for the parents to read and be aware of. Always ask your Pathfinder if there is any information they have to take home when you pick them up at the end of each meeting.

Food

The club provides meals to Pathfinders at many activities. Menus are varied and follow ovo-lacto vegetarian guidelines. Dairy and eggs are used in addition to other vegetarian items. There will be vegan options at many meals. Effort is made to serve food that kids enjoy. If you wish your pathfinder to be provided with a special needs diet, please let us know, and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Personal Items

All personal items belonging to Pathfinders should be labeled in a permanent way so as to ensure that your child returns home with all their possessions.

Pathfinder Staff

All Pathfinder staff are volunteers who love to work with children. For the safety of our children, all staff members undergo a background check submitted through the Conference Office.

Funding and Sponsorship

Our club is sponsored by the Campion Seventh-day Adventist Church and receives much of its funding through the generosity of the church board and individual members. This, along with dues and fees, does not cover all of the expenses of the Club during the Pathfinder Year. The Club also holds fundraisers at various times throughout the year and all Pathfinders are strongly encouraged to participate in these fundraisers whenever possible.



Loveland Cougars Pathfinders Directors

Pastor Alex Rodriguez, Co-Director

931-544-4434 pastorajrod@gmail.com

Stacey Rodriguez, Co-Director

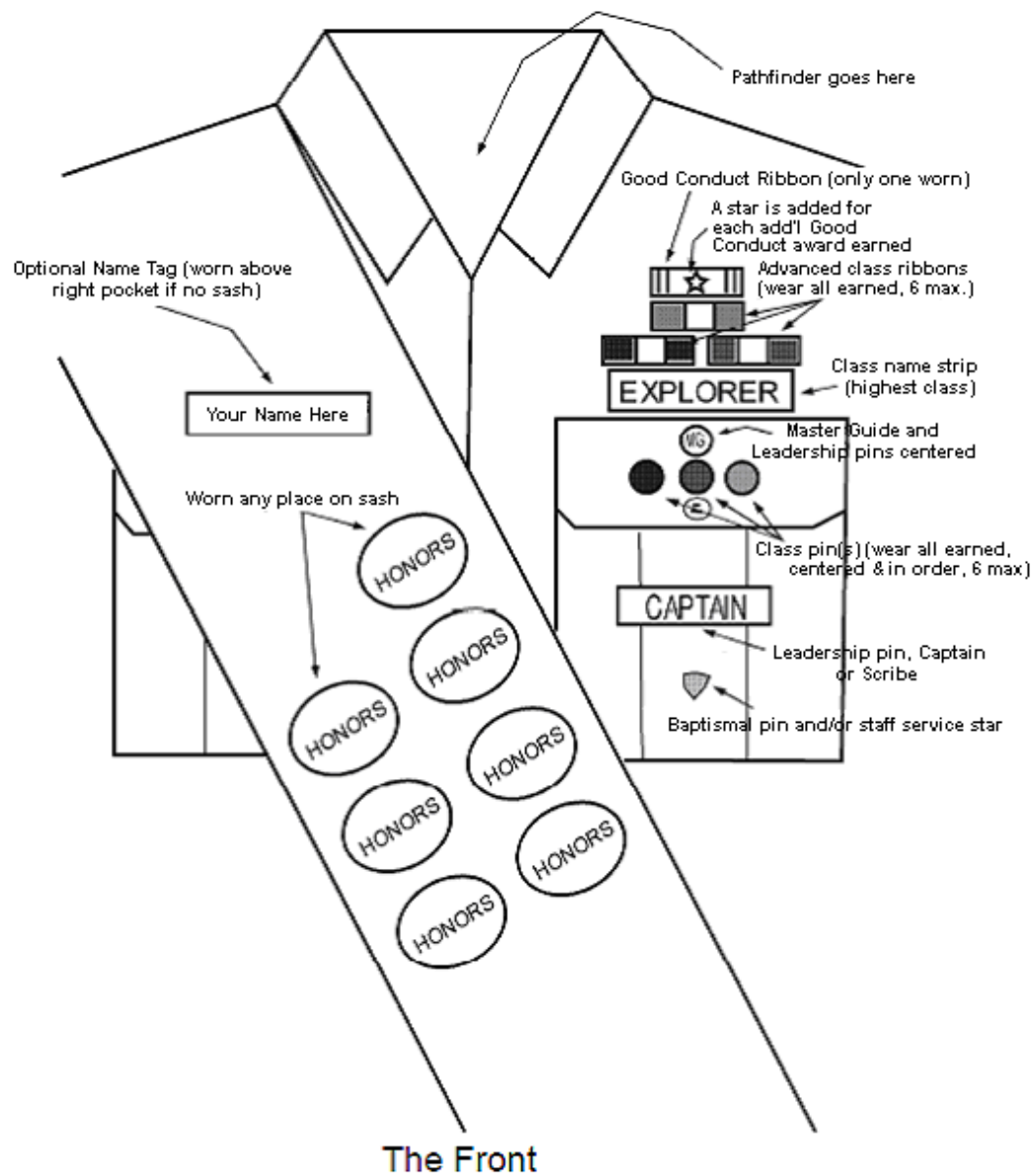
931-544-4334 mama4cccc@gmail.com

Pastor Michael Taylor, Campion Pastor

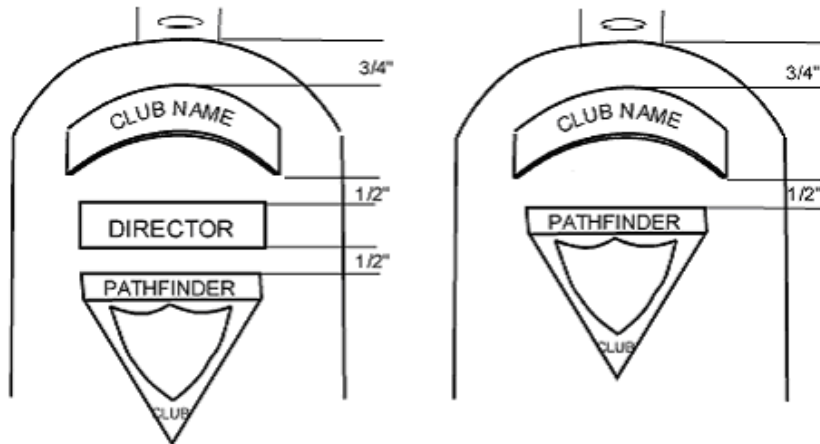
269-364-9638 ilovethe7thday@gmail.com



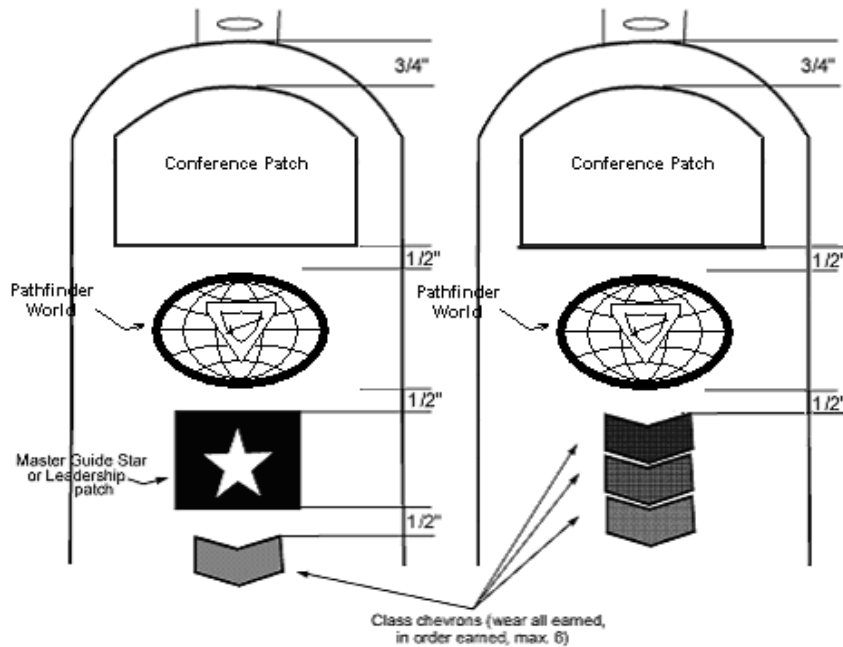
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RIGHT SLEEVE



LEFT SLEEVE



The Shoulders