



McDonald Road Pathfinder Club

Handbook



Pathfinder Club Membership Application

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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 missionary service
- 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.

Finances

Fees for Pathfinders include a \$40 registration fee to be paid upon entering Pathfinders. After that, Pathfinders will pay for camping trips and other events as they occur. A list of events and anticipated fees and due dates can be found on the yearly schedule which will be distributed at registration. Payment is due Monday night prior to each campout.

Each Pathfinder must also have a club tee-shirt. The cost for a tee-shirt is \$15.

If your child is in Drill there will be additional cost. These costs will be collected when Drill Team is finalized. When you sign up for these events you will see the cost of the ministries.

Each Pathfinder is responsible for purchasing a Class A uniform. The shirt may be rented. The scarf, slide, sash, and belt need to be purchased from Pathfinders. Pants are purchased by parents. (see list of uniform requirements). A complete uniform should be \$60-75. All patches and pins are provided by the club the first time. If they are lost you are responsible for the cost of the second.

If fees are a problem, please contact Pam Tuttle at (423) 432-6014 to make other arrangements.

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 5:13
5. Pathfinder will respect church/club 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 - Pathfinder is disobedient or uncooperative or displays any type of misbehavior – the counselor prays and talks with the child.

Step 2 – Pathfinder is disobedient or uncooperative or displays any type of misbehavior, the director is involved, talks and prays with the child; director then notifies the parents that night.

Step 3 – Pathfinder is disobedient or uncooperative or displays any type of misbehavior, then the child, parent, director, and counselor discuss together and the child misses the next Monday night and child is on probation for 1 month. If all is good for 1 month with no further issues, this resets the child to a clean slate.

Step 4 – Pathfinder is disobedient or uncooperative or displays any type of misbehavior, same group meets (the child, parent, director, and counselor discuss together) and the child misses the next camp-out. Probation is re-set for another month. If all is good for the next month with no further issues, this resets the child to a clean slate.

If there is an issue beyond step 4, that is grounds for dismissal. All misbehavior is subject to skipping steps at the director's discretion. If the Pathfinder is put on probation twice and does not make it through the probation period, that is grounds for dismissal. The Pathfinder is responsible to make up all missed work due to missing meetings/campouts for discipline.

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, attitude and uniform. 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. Excused absences are not counted in the totals. Before each camping trip, a review of the point totals will be made. Any Pathfinder with less than 80% of their total possible points will not be allowed to go on that trip. It is not fair to the staff and the other kids if you are always arriving late to the meeting. This interrupts the program so from now on three tardies are counted as an absence.

Uniforms & Dress Code

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

- 1) Class C - Club T-shirt
- 2) Class B uniform-dress shirt with dress pants and belt.
- 3) Class A uniform-full dress uniform including dress shirt, dress pants, sash, scarf and slide, belt.

The Class A & B uniform includes flat-heel, black dress shoes, black socks for boys and girls. ***No denim, no tennis shoes, no Capri pants, no hip-huggers.***

A calendar will be issued at the beginning of the year that specifies which uniform should be worn (A, B, or C) for each meeting or event.

Honor patches & pins are provided by the club. Patch & pin placement is important on the dress uniform. Please pay close attention to the diagram that is provided. Patches must be **sewn** on.

Dress code: We expect all Pathfinders to exhibit modesty in dress. No bare midriffs, no spaghetti straps or low-cut shirts, no high-cut shorts, no low-riding pants, no jewelry or heavy make-up.

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 expected to participate in service projects, fundraisers and all campouts.

Excused absences are granted for Pathfinder illness or death in the family only. Please call Pam Tuttle, (423) 432-6014, when you need to miss a meeting or other function. 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 6:30 PM. Please arrive between 6:20 and 6:25 PM. Please drop your child off at the gym.

The club meeting is over at 8:30 PM. We try to finish by this time and we ask that you arrive promptly to pick up your child. Please come to the gym to pick up your child. They will not be released until someone comes to the gym to pick them up. They also must be picked up by an adult you have designated on your paperwork.

Personal Electronics Policy

We do not allow any personal electronics at our club meetings, events or campouts. This includes iPods, MP3 players and related devices, cell phones, or video game devices. 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 will need to be kept with the staff. If it becomes a distraction, it can be taken away at the discretion of the director. Please keep these items at home.

I would like to join the McDonald Road Pathfinder Club. I will make every effort to attend all club activities including meetings and trips. I agree to be guided by the rules of the club and the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. I have read the club handbook and I understand and agree with everything in it.

Pathfinder Signature _____

Pathfinder Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Parent Cell Phone # _____

Current Grade _____ Age _____

School _____ Church _____

Approval by Parents or Guardians: We would like our child to become a member of the McDonald Road Pathfinder Club. We will assist our child in observing the rules of the Pathfinder organization. In consideration of the benefits derived from membership, we voluntarily waive any claim against the club, its leaders, the McDonald Road Seventh Day Adventist Church or the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh Day Adventists for any accidents which may arise in connection with the activities of the Pathfinder Club.

As parents, we understand that the Pathfinder Club program is an active one for my child. It includes many opportunities for service, adventure, and fun. We will cooperate:

1. By learning how we can assist our child and the Pathfinder leaders
2. By providing timely transportation to and from all Pathfinder activities
3. By encouraging our child to take an active part in all activities
4. By attending events to which parents are invited

By signing this application, I am stating that I have read, understand and agree with all the policies and rules in the McDonald Road Club Handbook.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian