

Pathfinder of the Year

The Pathfinder of the Year program should be the central focus of the planning for the entire Pathfinder year activities. On registration night the Pathfinder of the Year program should be explained to parents and Pathfinders.

The Pathfinder of the Year award is given to the young person who, on his or her own initiative and without prodding, desires to receive the award. The requirements are not intended to be easy and are designed to present a challenge to the Pathfinder who is exceptional in all aspects of life and desires in every way to be an “outstanding” individual.

All Pathfinders should be encouraged to complete these requirements. They are all within reach. This award should be highly coveted, and those receiving it must be deserving of it. It is the intent of this program to encourage excellence among our young people.

In reviewing the requirements for the Pathfinder of the Year, you will note that four of these honors must be taught to all Pathfinders during the year and two additional honors must be earned on his or her own efforts. Also, note that an advanced AY Class and regular AY Class must be earned. Spiritual and Share Your Faith activities must be performed.

The director must realize that it is an award for a very exceptional Pathfinder. The program must be explained and each Pathfinder encouraged to participate. However, this is not an award for the person who must constantly be reminded and prodded to meet the requirements.

Even if a Pathfinder has met all the requirements of this award, but does not have a positive attitude toward Pathfinding, he should not be considered for this award. Throughout the entire Pathfinder year the director and staff should be looking closely at all Pathfinders to determine what kind of attitude the Pathfinder under consideration might have.

The Pathfinder to receive this award must be approved by the majority vote of the local Pathfinder club staff based on personal observation and the Pathfinder’s evaluation sheets. This puts the decision on the total staff so that no one person must bear the responsibility.

Please understand that the Pathfinder of the Year award and an award for a local outstanding Pathfinder are not the same. You may have an outstanding local Pathfinder who may not measure up to a Pathfinder of the Year award. (Any Pathfinder who barely misses being Pathfinder of the Year certainly deserves some special recognition from the local club as compensation for his or her accomplishment).



Pathfinder of the Year Requirements

All Pathfinders are encouraged to become Pathfinders of the Year. All candidates who fulfill the requirements below will receive the award during Investiture services, Pathfinder Sabbath or at Pathfinder Camporee.

1. Participation

- A. Be an active member since the beginning of the current Pathfinder year.
- B. Must be present and on time for no less than 85% of the weekly meetings.
- C. Attend all local club functions: hikes, campouts, trips and projects.
- D. Attend all Conference and area-wide functions that are applicable. (Teen Invitationals are not required outings).
- E. Be involved in church spiritual activities. Explanation should be given that a non-Seventh-day Adventist involved in his/her own church activities meets this requirement. Also, a non-Seventh-day Adventist who is a non-church member anywhere may rely on the Pathfinder club's spiritual activities for meeting this requirement.

2. Uniform and Insignia

The Pathfinder must own a complete, clean and pressed uniform and wear it when required. Each Pathfinder must know the meaning of the insignia.

3. Personal Appearance

The Pathfinder must be neat, clean, and well groomed.

4. Conduct

The Pathfinder must be courteous, kind, obedient, and an example to others at home, school, church, and at Pathfinder meetings, reflecting positive Christian attitudes and manners.

5. Spiritual

The Pathfinder must show evidence that he/she is reverent, has personal devotions (Morning Watch) and attends church regularly.

6. Achievement

The Pathfinder must be:

- A. Invested in an AY class completed during the year.
- B. Invested in an AY Advanced class completed during the year.
- C. Complete six (6) AY honors within current Pathfinder year (two of these must be earned on the Pathfinder's own initiative and not done at camp, school or in Pathfinders).

7. Special

Plan and perform an individual outstanding accomplishment during the year, at school, church, or for the community, approved by the club director. A detailed plan of the special project will be submitted by the Pathfinder to the club director by November 1. The club director is to submit a list of names and proposed projects to the conference Youth Director by December 5.



8. Resume

A resume of at least 200 words shall be submitted by the Pathfinder to their club director by March 1. It should include name, age and club name. The resume must include the outstanding accomplishment, and why the Pathfinder feels they should be accepted as a Pathfinder of the Year. In other words, “as a result of the preceding guidelines and my project, how has my life or character been better molded? What has it done for my outlook on life?”



Individual Outstanding Accomplishment

Early in the Pathfinder year, each counselor needs to meet with his/her unit to determine those Pathfinders who desire to earn Pathfinder of the Year. One of the requirements needing long range planning is the Pathfinder's individual outstanding accomplishment.

In selecting a project, the Pathfinder needs to remember that he should give a minimum of 20 hours to its planning, implementation and follow-up. A proposal of the project should be given to the club director in writing prior to November 1. This outstanding accomplishment should be completed, and a written resume of approximately 200 words should be submitted to the club director by March 1.

The Pathfinder should feel free to choose a special project of interest to him/her. Some examples are:

1. Fundraising for worthy projects
2. Assisting in Sabbath School departments
3. Temperance talks to younger grades
4. Tutoring of younger students at school
5. Free yard care and/or housework for the elderly or invalid
6. Having story hours
7. Holding a church office
8. Volunteer work in hospital (candy striper)
9. Landscaping a public building or church
10. Developing nature trails
11. Tree planting
12. Flower boxes for town streets
13. Literature racks
14. Wildflower seeds
15. Books, games to hospitals
16. Books to officials
17. Helping church with mailing lists
18. Rehabilitation with physically handicapped
19. Posters and art projects for hospitals
20. Prepare Christmas stockings for orphans
21. Develop vesper programs for church
22. Assist with food or clothing distribution

Remember that this should be an outstanding project. It is **NOT** a club project. It is something that the Pathfinder should choose, work at, and report on from an individual basis.

