

# TLT MINISTRY – THE CLUB

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## What’s TLT All About?

### **The TLT Program**

“The TLT program is a four-year course designed to include all aspects of Pathfinder club management, programming, operations, and encourage teens to explore and develop their talents in leadership, planning and social skills.” (*TLT Manual* pg. 6)

### **TLT Mission Statement**

“The Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program is designed to address adolescent developmental needs and promote leadership skills, enabling and empowering teens to become full partners in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with Pathfinder adult leadership in a “shared service experience” of the Pathfinder ministry in the North American Division.” (*TLT Manual* pg. 5 sidebar)

### **TLT Pledge**

“Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the work of the Teen Leadership Training program, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world.” (*TLT Manual* pg. 6 sidebar)

### **Requirements for Membership** (*TLT Manual* pg. 7)

- Applicants must be in grades 9-12.
- Applicants must have completed at least one level of Investiture Achievement.
- Applicants must have had an attendance record of at least 80% during the most recent active year.

# How TLT Ministry Works

## Curriculum of Teen Leadership Training (TLT):

- For TLTs – *Teen Leadership Training Manual*, 2014 Edition, NAD Pathfinder Ministries (Note: page numbers in parenthesis below correspond to the TLT Manual listed here)
- For Staff – *Tools for Teen Leaders*, 2009, NAD Pathfinder Ministries, Advent Source

## Purpose of Teen Leadership Training (TLT):

- The TLT program is designed to train and mentor youth in service and leadership skills (pg. 6).
- The TLT program is a four-year course that includes all aspects of Pathfinder club management and programming, and enables teens to develop leadership skills (pg. 6).

## Requirements for Participation in Teen Leadership Training (TLT):

- Application process – A teen must complete an Application Form and acquire three recommendations from their Pastor, a teacher, and a Pathfinder Staff member. (pg. 9)
- Acceptance process – The Club TLT Council approves the application, works with the teen to assign a mentor, and registers the teen with the conference Pathfinder dept. (pg. 9)
- Probation Period – A minimum 60-day probation period is required for the teen or club staff to determine if the TLT program is for them. Then a TLT shoulder cord and scarf is issued upon completion of the probation period. (pg. 9) Then the teen should be presented in their church as being actively involved in the conference TLT program.
- Department Evaluation and Promotion – At the completion of each operational rotation an evaluation review is done. Then the teen continues on to the next operation. After the completion of two operational departments the teen earns a level-star pin. When all four levels have been completed the teen has finished the TLT program. (pg. 9)

## TLT Training Options:

1. Club-provided training (does not fulfill Academic Credit requirements)
  - a. The Club TLT Council assigns an Operational Mentor who provides training for the operational department the teen is working on. (pg. 7)
2. Conference-provided training (fulfills Academic Credit requirements)
  - a. The TLT with the Mentor must attend all 6 workshops at a Conference-sponsored TLT training event to receive the required curriculum training. There are no options for making up missed classes.
  - b. The TLT and Mentor must follow-up the training by completing the specified Operations (lab exercises) within their local club (pgs. 19-22).

## TLT Academic Credit Option:

If the conference Pathfinder department and the conference Education department work closely together elective academic credit may be granted to TLTs attending junior and senior academies. TLTs must be enrolled in the TLT program and complete the TLT requirements. For TLTs not attending Adventist schools academic credit documentation may be provided to parents for inclusion with their child's academic records. (pg. 15)

# TLT Program Objectives

The objectives of the TLT program, as described in the TLT Manual (pg. 6), are met by club staff intentionally mentoring their TLTs through the operational departments' expectations (pg. 6)

There are four operational expectations that are common to all operational departments. (pgs. 19-22) These correspond to four TLT competencies that are developed throughout the TLT program. (pg. 16 sidebar)

## Operational Expectations

1. Meet deadlines
2. Work together without prodding
3. Communicate effectively
4. Exhibit a Christian Spirit

## TLT Competencies

1. Be organized
2. Build relationships
3. Enlarge networks
4. Grow spiritually

As the operational expectations are being fulfilled and the TLT competencies are being developed the TLT Mentor, along with the club staff, continue to promote the program objectives. These objectives also correlate with the expectations and competencies. (pg. 6)

- A. Encourage TLT members to belong to the church and to actively participate in the organized leadership of the church/conference Pathfinder ministry.
- B. Involve TLT members as associates with Pathfinder adult leadership, holding responsible positions in local and Conference Pathfinder ministries.
- C. Enable TLT in skill-building opportunities through positive communication and friendship networks created to increase resilience to peer pressure, increase self-efficiency, and increase self-confidence.
- D. Challenge TLT members in the mission and ministry of Christ through Pathfinding, making God's Word meaningful and fruitful in their lives.

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# TLT Uniform Guidelines

## **Guidelines for TLT uniform insignia** (*TLT Manual* pg. 13)

1. TLTs may wear all the TLT insignia if they are registered with the conference and actively working on the TLT Operations. If they drop out of the program they are to move all TLT insignia to their Pathfinder sash and remove the TLT cord from their Class-A Uniform.
2. TLT Mentors, Club Directors, TLT Administrative Staff, Area Coordinators, and Conference Directors may wear all the TLT insignia as long as they are actively mentoring a TLT, have TLTs in their club, their area, or their conference. If they do not have TLTs to mentor, they are to move all TLT insignia to their Pathfinder sash and remove the TLT cord from their Class-A Uniform.

# Club TLT Organizational Flow Chart

In order for Pathfinder clubs to most effectively facilitate teen leadership training for their TLTs it is recommended that they organize their staff around the TLT Operational Departments. (Refer to pg. 8 for small and large club flow charts)

Office titles and combinations may vary according to the club size and staff skills.

