

SHARING & OUTREACH

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ADVENTURES IN CARING

The essence of Christianity rests in the adventure of caring for others. As Pathfinder leaders, we have a solemn obligation to teach our boys and girls the thrill of serving others. The heart of Pathfinder ministry is centered on caring for others; all other aspects complement this theme.

The life of Jesus Christ was centered on caring for others. He served at joyous occasions like the miracle at the wedding feast of changing water into wine, or provided comfort for the sorrowing. He healed the sick, lame and blind, and providing for the needs of little children. In all examples His life was always focused on the needs of others.

The purpose of Pathfinder ministry is to create *Adventures in Caring* by modeling the spirit of service given to us in the scriptures. “*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me.*”

When determining projects for your club, here are some suggestions to considered:

- House of Worship
- Sick and handicapped
- Local community
- Elderly
- Fellow Pathfinders

How will this project involve the whole club (unit) and to what extent?

- Some projects will require only a few Pathfinders with certain skills. Consider the behind the scenes preparation as part of your evaluation of the project. Evaluate the skills of your club and use your Pathfinders accordingly. There may be times when you use part of the group at the site (such as painting, etc.) and another group is working on painting decorative flowerpots at the clubhouse. (This group delivers their own project to the work site.)

Projects need to be compatible with the church program.

- Discuss any potential ideas with your church board to eliminate the possibility of duplication of effort.

Projects must be within the capabilities of your club or unit.

- If your project is to be a positive learning experience it is important to determine what skills and resources will be needed. If the task is too large or beyond the capabilities of the group it can become a nightmare as opposed to a good experience. Projects need to be well planned so that each Pathfinder knows his or her own part.

Projects need to be one that the whole group can identify with.

- Without the united effort of your whole group enthusiasm will fade fast. Do not allow a project to become a special project of one individual.

Look for projects that are not being accomplished by other groups.

- To insure the greatest satisfaction to your Pathfinders avoid having your efforts diluted by other groups doing the same thing. Know what your Pathfinder's will be responsible for.

Timing is important.

- Determine what advanced preparation will be needed and allow sufficient time to do the job right. When doing yard work be sure you know what the homeowner wants done.

Be enthusiastic about your project.

- Enthusiasm is a contagious ingredient and will overcome many problems.

Take pictures of the club project.

- Pathfinders, as well as adults, like to feel proud of what they have accomplished. Display a poster where others can see it, such as the church bulletin board. Also, plan public relations with your church and community by using the news media, Gleaner, etc.

Caring for the House of Worship

Clean-up crews after church
Assist in church as ushers

Pass out literature
Assist with parking

Caring for the sick and handicapped

Send get well cards
Sing to those that are shut in
Provide meals

Clean up yards, paint, repair, etc
Visit and pray with the elderly

Caring for the community

Clean-up program in parks, etc.
Contact museums to volunteer services
Distribute Health brochures
Distribute evangelistic brochures

Help with Vacation Bible school
Provide food baskets to the needy
Help with cooking school
Help with a non-smoking program

Caring for the elderly

Visit the elderly and take time to listen
Adopt a grandparent
Sing to the elderly in a group
Make gifts for special holidays and deliver them

Take a bouquet of flowers
Provide yard care
Read to them

Caring for your fellow Pathfinders

Encourage when discouraged
Help a fellow Pathfinder with AY Classes
Help a fellow Pathfinder with a difficult honor

Encourage one another in spiritual life

SHARE-YOUR-FAITH IDEAS

Why do Share-your-Faith activities?

- It is the backbone of the Pathfinder Program (that's why it is called Pathfinder ministry)
- It teaches youth to care about others and to share with them
- It meets several Pathfinder AY Classes requirements

Share Your Faith activities benefit others directly although indirectly we receive a blessing. The list is endless of things that you can do to serve your community while serving your God.

Build-in Share Your Faith Activities

Can collection	Thanksgiving Baskets	Ingathering
Hospitals	Christmas Baskets	Caroling
Valentines Day	Nursing Home	Bible Skits in the Park
Clean-up day	Daycare	Gift Wrapping
Car Wash (Free)	Feed Homeless	Vacation Bible School

For more great ideas check out the following book: [Hands-on Service Ideas for Youth Groups](#), by Steve Chase and Fred Cornforth. ISBN 1-55945-789-9

FIFTY SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Adopt a grandparent
2. Adopt a missionary
3. Adopt a college or academy student
4. Birthday bulletin board and list
5. Bread baking and distribution
6. Children's church
7. Christmas packages for prisoners
8. Wrap Christmas presents for community
9. Church cleanup
10. Clean Windshields
11. Wash cars for elderly in church
12. Community service projects, parks, etc.
13. Drama group
14. Environmental awareness
15. Environmental preservation
16. Family group photos
17. Family worship by you
18. Feed the homeless
19. Food closet - stocking
20. Food merchant's food banks
21. Free car wash
22. Gift wrapping
23. Graffiti cleanup
24. Greeters at church
25. Landscaping
26. Letter of affirmation
27. Letters or cards for birthdays
28. Literature distribution
29. Missionary pen pal
30. Neighborhood Bible club
31. Notes of encouragement
32. Office flower blitz
33. Parent-teen seminar
34. Person of the year banquet
35. Public servant appreciation day
36. Rainy day curbside service
37. Rake and run (or snow and shovel and run)
38. Secret good deed company
39. Short-term mission trip
40. Short-term mission trip welcome home party
41. Smoking cessation program
42. Sponsor a child
43. Tapes of worship service
44. Tray favors for nursing homes
45. Treats for children's hospital ward
46. Vacation Bible School
47. Visitation program for mission youth
48. Welcome wagon (New Church members)
49. Yard sale
50. Youth Auction

EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS & PATHFINDERS

Wow! What a way to share our faith

During Evangelistic meetings there are many ways to involve a Pathfinder club.

1. Get the Pathfinders involved in the meetings. You will need to work with the evangelistic committee and set things up ahead of time. If you have a large club you might want to divide the group into units and assign two to four nights per week that each unit is responsible for. Have your Pathfinders help out in some of the following areas: parking, greeting, children's rooms, story telling, offering, deacons, at the Bible table etc.

Here are some honor suggestions:

- Personal Evangelism
- Hours of Community Service (for your AY Classes)
- Teaching
- AY Class requirements (there are probably other areas that will fit into these)
- Christian Story Telling
- Music

2. Hold your Pathfinder meetings at the same place and time as the evangelistic meetings and include visiting children grades 5 – 12, to join your club meeting. You will need to change your meeting to include your visitors.

Here are some suggestions:

- Have your normal opening exercises and worship talk on the theme for each meeting.
- Do the AY Classes working on Bible skits and other areas that can be done in groups.
- Drill and Marching - do a demonstration plus allow time to march together.
- Teach honors that can be finished in the amount of time you have for the evangelistic meetings. (They usually run several weeks)
- Have back-up honors or crafts for those who come occasionally. (Felt craft, decoupage, textile painting, glass painting, etc.)
- Recruit extra help during this time.

There are an unlimited number of honors you can work on during this time.

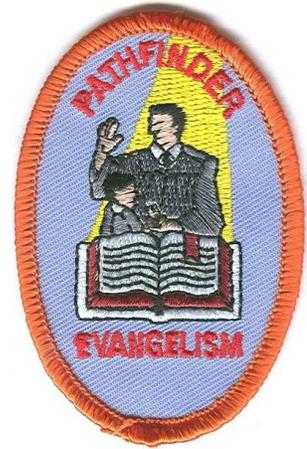
This option gives Pathfinders the opportunity to get to know the other young people in your community. On Friday night you will be able to do something different so that your guests get a taste of what an awesome experience Sabbath can be.

Note: Pathfinders may earn their **Evangelism Award** if they complete all the requirements.

PATHFINDER EVANGELISM AWARD

Requirements:

1. Be a Pathfinder or Staff member
2. Attend at least 10 meetings, Evangelistic Meetings, Revelation Seminars, etc. (If less than ten are conducted, attend at least two-thirds of the meetings.)
3. Participate at each meeting attended.
4. Wear you Pathfinder Class A (full dress) uniform
5. Participate in at least 4 of the following:
 - Be an usher
 - Pick up the offering
 - Assist in the Children's Meetings
 - Read scripture or give prayer
 - Assist in the set-up/take-down of the meeting hall.
 - Hand out the evening programs, brochures, etc
 - Give a testimony of what Jesus has done for you recently
 - Be a greeter
 - "Man" a Pathfinder Booth showing what the church has for its young people
 - Invite a non Seventh-day Adventist guest to attend the meetings and host him throughout the evenings.
 - Prepare a baked goods table (breads, etc.) to share as gifts or samples for the attendees.
 - Contact at least 10 individuals by phone or in person inviting them to attend the meetings.
 - Participate in at least two (2) Bible studies with at least one (1) "interest".



Awards:

Patches will be presented to each Pathfinder and Staff member who completes the requirements. This should be done at an appropriate program such as:

- During the last Evangelistic Meeting
- Follow-up baptism Sabbath
- Pathfinder Sabbath
- Investiture

During this time an invitation should be extended to all young people grades 5 – 12 to join the Pathfinder Club.

CAN COLLECTING

Make your Can Collecting Campaign the best ever!

- **Plan Ahead** Set the date - planning with your staff. Place the date in the club's yearly calendar, which is given to each family by September first and to your coordinator. Contact parents and other church members for safe drivers.
- **Supplies** Order the Canned Food Flyers from the Oregon Pathfinders Office. These must be ordered ahead of time. Plan one (1) per home or apartment visited.
- **Credentials** Get permission from the city to go door-to-door. This may just be a formality of explaining your program and letting the police department know of your program. Ask for a letter that shows you have received permission to solicit. This will help with those who question the authenticity of the program.
- **Communicate** Keep in touch with the church's public relations secretary. Announce your plans in the church bulletin and on the bulletin board. Alert the media so they can inform the public that you are coming. Some radio stations have free community service announcements so take advantage of those.
- **Drivers** Confirm with your Pastor that all drivers you select have filled out the Volunteer Application Form and been approved by the Conference Office to transport minors. Confirm that all drivers are properly insured by filling out the Certificate of Qualification to transport Pupils by Private Vehicle (see the Policies section of the *Oregon Pathfinders Handbook*).
- **Maps** Make up maps of each area you plan to send a vehicle. The territory to be visited should be selected in advance. If there are unfavorable or unsafe areas be certain that all drivers know to stay away from those areas.
- **Organize** Organize Pathfinders into working groups. You need a driver and another adult for each vehicle. Follow the 1-4 ratio (1 adult for every 4 Pathfinders – driver not included)
- **Containers** Have sacks and boxes for each vehicle. When the Pathfinders bring cans to the vehicle, have them place them in the boxes provided for the cans.
- **Records** Keep a record of the area each group went. By checking records later you can see if the areas you planned were good, i.e. amounts of people you used and safety. If they do not work out make plans for a different area next year.
- **Time** Time goes quickly when a group is excited about the outreach they are involved in. Be certain the driver and adult passenger know the time you are to be back to the Pathfinder room or church.
- **Dedication** Have the Pathfinders hold hands in a circle around the food and ask the Lord to help the food reach people in need. Pray that they will come to know Jesus, the Bread of life. You may want to sing, "We are His Hands."
- **Social** Make sure the Pathfinders have refreshments at the end of the evening.

WALK & KNOCK

A Halloween Alternative

Involve your Pathfinders in a good wholesome activity as an alternative to trick-or-treating at Halloween time.

Choose a Sabbath afternoon just before Halloween to use as a time to go door-to-door passing out paper sacks with letters and a printed Halloween brochure stapled to it. Keep the passing out time short. 1½ hours is plenty of time. Have the Pathfinders knock on the door and explain what they are doing. If there is no answer, leave the bag.

The purpose of this is to let the people know that kids can and are doing good things in the community collecting food for needy families to be passed out at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Be sure to mention that you will be back on Sunday afternoon (or whatever date you have set), between 1 and 4 pm to pick up the bags. Explain that if they will not be home they can leave the bag sitting on the step by the door for you to pick up.

You will want to have a map marked with the homes you visited. Usually parents or counselors like to be the adults who go along with the kids and then go back to help collect the bags. After the collection fun begins, let the groups that collected the canned foods sort them and stack the goods their group brought in a get a picture of them and record the amount they collected.

You will want to sort the cans in preparation for making up the food baskets later. Serve a Pathfinder family supper and some good old-fashioned fun and games after the work is done.

Some of the preplanning for this event involves getting materials together.

- Brochures from the Oregon Conference Pathfinder Department
- Letter - make up on ½ sheet of paper that says who you are, what you are doing and a Thank-you.
- Paper bags (start with 25 per Pathfinder)
- Staple brochures and letter to each bag

Sample Letter

Hello Neighbor,

Every year at Halloween, instead of collecting candy and treats Pathfinders around the world collect canned and non-perishable food items. These items are then made up into Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the hungry and unfortunate people in this community of ours.

Attached is a pamphlet explaining who we are and what our organization does at Halloween.

We will be picking up the sack on Sunday afternoon between 1 - 4 pm. If you will not be home, you may leave the sack outside your door and we will pick it up.

Thank you for your part in this community service project.

(club name) Pathfinder Club from the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church