



Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes

Cultural Diversity



Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise.

Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. (*On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required*)

Additional Reference Material

Acknowledgements

The material here is based on that found at

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book/Outreach/Cultural_Diversity_Appreciation

It is a very useful site, but be aware that material on any Wikibooks site is beyond the control of the SPD

Cultural Diversity Honour

BEFORE STARTING

The objective of this honour is to develop an awareness and appreciation for the cultural diversity within our church and society.

Important:

Leaders, before you give approval for someone to do this honour, please carefully and prayerfully consider the following.

- The well-being of young people as they may meet with people not known to them, yourself or other leaders.
- The sensitivities of that culture and the impacts on the 'student' or on that culture itself.

Earning this honor as a club

If you wish for your whole club to earn this honor, you have an excellent opportunity to organize a church social. Identify several people from different cultures, and ask them to participate first. These will be the special guests. Give them a list of the questions well before the event so that they may prepare. Once you have at least three special guests representing three different cultures, set a date, and invite the whole church to attend. Select a different Pathfinder to conduct each interview. Reserve questions for the audience - ask the guests to answer the questions.

As part of the social, you may wish to serve a meal consisting of items from the cultures represented. Identify each food item, indicating what it is, what the major ingredients are, and what culture the food represents. Place these food items on a special table. In addition, you may ask your featured guests for recipes ahead of time so that your club can prepare some food as well. Be sure to place the dishes made by your club on a different table so that, if it turns out nothing like it's supposed to, nobody blames your guests. You may also open this up as a potluck, asking everyone to bring a cultural dish representing either their own culture or one they are familiar with. Again, you may record the interviews, or you can have your Pathfinders take notes.

Earning this honor on your own

It would be possible to do all the work of this requirement by researching in one or more of the areas suggested in this requirement, but it is more important to make a personal contact and discover what you can from the person you contact. If the contact can develop into a friendship, especially if you are able to support a new arrival or person who is isolated by the fact of their minority culture, all the better.

The person who is befriended does not have to be of your own age. There are many older people from other cultures who are lonely and who have a fund of information that would be helpful, and who could be helped by friendship from Pathfinders.

Club leaders and parents will have to be sensitive to supervise such contacts though to protect Pathfinders from unwise friendships.

This would be an excellent opportunity for you to invite your friend's family to your house for a meal (perhaps Sabbath lunch). Having them come to your house is more socially acceptable than inviting yourself over to their house, though it *is* going to be more work for you. If you are living with your parents, be sure to clear this with them first. Also make it clear that you wish to interview the entire family about their culture when you make the invitation. Be sure your house is clean before they arrive. If you like, you can even give them a list of the questions you intend to ask ahead of time so that they may prepare. They may also wish to bring a few items from their home to show you.

When they arrive, you should spend a little time socializing with them before the meal is served. Your goal here is to set them at ease and make them feel comfortable. If you like, you may serve appetizers, and perhaps something to drink, such as juice, hot chocolate, or water. After the meal, you should bring out your question sheet. If it's OK with your guests, you may record the conversation, or you may simply take notes. Remember to be courteous during the entire visit, and ask follow-up questions for any of their answers that intrigue you, or which you do not understand. Do not pry into personal affairs that are none of your business. Remember, this is not a news magazine interview attempting to sensationalize a scandal.

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REQUIREMENT 1: Define culture and cultural diversity

Culture

Culture is the arts, customs, and habits that characterize a particular society or nation. The beliefs, values, behavior and material objects that constitute a people's way of life.

While the art of a group is often considered the mark of culture, in actual fact it is the daily habits of a group of people that primarily marks their culture as different from that of others.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity is the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole. For example: in Australia and New Zealand, our cultural diversity is the result of the original inhabitants plus the multitude of different cultures that have arrived in the past 200 years.

Christianity itself is a modifier of culture so that a Christian group is different in their culture to the group from whom they came.

REQUIREMENT 2: Define stereotype and identify how you may have stereotyped people in the past.

Stereotype is a conventional, formulaic, and oversimplified conception, opinion, or image. A person who is regarded as embodying or conforming to a set image or type. It really means that we make a judgment about a person based on what we think we know about that "type" of person (i.e., because of the person's race, sex, religion, etc). Sometimes this judgment is subconscious, and we are not even aware that we have made a judgment at all. An example would be a sudden feeling of fear upon seeing a person of a different race in a lonely place, or the automatic assumption that because a person is female, she must like to bake or sew, or she cannot repair an automobile.

REQUIREMENT 3: Study the following Bible texts and answer the questions.

a. 1 Corinthians 9:20 How does this text explain the importance for a Christian to have a cultural diversity awareness?

1 Corinthians 9:20

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. - NIV

In order to reach people of a different culture, it is important to understand that culture. For them to feel accepted by you, you should consider adopting some of their practices, as Paul did. Adopting the practices of others does not have to be permanent, and thought must be given to whether adopting this practice is contrary to your Christian beliefs. Adventist arrivals in Australia do not have to adopt the Australian culture expressed in "alcohol, gambling and meat pies" that defines the Australian culture for some, to become good Australians.

This shows that you have an open mind and are genuinely interested in them. It will also serve to encourage them to build trust in you.

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b. Galatians 3:27-29 What does this text say about all who are in the family of Christ?

Galatians 3:27-29 for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. {28} There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. {29} If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. – NIV

This passage indicates that all believers are equal in the eyes of Christ. Being "clothed in Christ" means that the Christian's sins are covered. Instead of God seeing your sins when He looks at you, He will see His Son instead. This means that no matter how heinous your sins were, God will still accept you if you accept Christ. This also applies to Christians of other cultures. No matter what terrible things the others have done, they will be forgiven in the eyes of God. This makes you no better than them (and vice versa).

Try to distinguish between things that are “different” in another culture and things that are “wrong” (from a Christian view point) in that culture.

c. Ephesians 2:14 What should be the result of accepting Christ Jesus into our lives? How do you plan to apply this message to your everyday life?

*Ephesians 2:14
For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. - NIV*

The barrier spoken of in this verse is the one that existed at that time between the Jews and the Gentiles. However, the lesson can be applied between peoples of any two cultures, and should not be viewed as having an application only between Jews and Gentiles. Christians should accept and love other Christians as Christ does. And remember Jesus did not love only good people, “while we were yet sinners he died for us”, but that does not mean he overlooks our sins. He forgives us to change that aspect of our lives, but not cultural differences that are acceptable to him.

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REQUIREMENT 4: Develop a friendship with a boy, girl or older person from your church, school or community whose cultural background is different from yours and conduct research from the following: library, internet, videos, encyclopaedia, etc, about their culture. Arrange an interview with this family and complete the following:

- a. Where did the culture originate?
- b. What language/s is/are spoken?
- c. What religions are prominent in that society?
- d. What foods are typically eaten for:
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Supper
- e. How are eating habits influenced by the food available in that country?
- f. Are there cultural traditions that are different from yours? What are they?
- g. Do the people in this culture celebrate the holidays that you celebrate? What customs do they have for celebrating the different holidays?
- h. What customs or traditions from the original culture have been continued by the family in your country?
- i. Is the clothing different from the clothing of your country?
- j. Identify 5 ways in which you are similar and 5 things which make you different and tell how your attitude or feelings towards people of different cultural backgrounds has affected you. How do you feel about your differences?
- k. Identify 3 similarities and 3 differences by doing one of the following:
 - Attend church / worship service, with your friend if it is different to yours, or;
 - Attend a church service / worship service of a different cultural group, or;
 - Attend an event which is approved by your leader

IMPORTANT

Please take into account the comments made at the start of these notes at the top of page 2.