

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The program for the wholistic ministry to the ten-to-fifteen-year-olds (Years 5-10 or equivalent) within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and sponsored by the Department of Church Ministries, is called Pathfinders.

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSE

The objectives of the Pathfinder club are to:

1. Help the Pathfinders to understand that God loves them, cares for them and appreciates them.
2. Encourage Pathfinders to discover their own God-given potential.
3. Inspire Pathfinders to give personal expression of their love for God.
4. Make the number-one priority of the club program the personal salvation of every Pathfinder.
5. Build into a Pathfinder's life a healthy appreciation and love for God's creation.
6. Teach Pathfinders specific skills and hobbies that will make their lives more meaningful and will occupy their time with profitable accomplishments.
7. Encourage the Pathfinder to keep physically fit.
8. Give opportunity to develop and enlist leadership.
9. Seek to foster the harmonious development of the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual life of the Pathfinder.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **ORGANISATION**

The youth director of the local conference is the director of all Pathfinder activity conducted within the conference area. The youth director's counsel may be solicited in regard to any club activity. When planning major programs, the youth director should be advised and may be invited to participate. In regional areas a district director may be appointed by the conference to act on behalf of the conference youth director, and is therefore directly responsible to the youth director.

In the local church, the Pathfinder administrative director is to act as coordinator of the junior and teen clubs, or between churches (where applicable) and represent them on local church boards. The director of the club should be an adult who is vitally interested in young people and who sympathetically understands the problems of young people. Where possible, the director should have a Pathfinder Leadership Award, and be resourceful and enthusiastic, and must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All activities of the club will be under each club director's supervision and it is the director's responsibility to call, organise and arrange for each club meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the club will be an administrative director (where there is a junior and a teen club), a club director, two or more deputy directors, club secretary and treasurer, and a chaplain (these may be deputy directors). The staff will include counsellors, junior counsellors and instructors as needed.

**Section 2.** The administrative director and club directors are appointed by the nominating committee of the sponsoring church or churches.

**Section 3.** The deputy directors are appointed by the directors, and approved by the church boards.

**Section 4.** The secretary, treasurer and chaplain are appointed at the discretion of the directors (may be deputy directors).

**Section 5.** The counsellors, junior counsellors and instructors are to be appointed or replaced by the Pathfinder Executive Committee.

**Section 6.** The Pathfinder staff consists of those mentioned in sections 1 to 5 of this article.

## ARTICLE V

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

**Section 1.** Administrative Director: The coordinator of the teen and junior club directorship, representing the church in the Pathfinder organisation and as a member of the church board. The main responsibility is to coordinate all activities in the Pathfinder organisation.

**Section 2.** Director: All activities of the club are under the supervision of the director. The chairperson of all committees will be appointed by the director after consultation with the deputy directors or executive committee.

**Section 3.** Deputy Directors: Assist the director and take charge whenever the director is absent. May be designated to care for the following duties: achievement classes, secretary and/or treasurer, games, camping activities, Honours and creative skills, music, equipment, nature, chaplain, transportation, special events etc.

**Section 4.** Secretary: Renders monthly reports to the local conference office. Is responsible for all club correspondence. Takes meeting notes. Is responsible for personnel records and for any other records necessary to the smooth running of the club.

**Section 5.** Treasurer: Takes charge of the expenses paid out and collects and cares for all income, such as membership fees, fund-raising projects etc. and is to present a financial report upon the request of the executive officers or staff, and will transmit the accounts and all undistributed funds to any successor. The club treasurer needs to work in close harmony with the church treasurer.

**Section 6.** Chaplain: This may be a deputy director. Assist the director in maintaining a strong spiritual tone in the club; knows each Pathfinder's relationship to the Lord; and serves on committees dealing with the worships in club meetings and camps, outreach and discipline.

**Section 7.** Counsellors/Junior Counsellors: The counsellor is the leader of a unit of six to eight Pathfinders, who takes charge and leads or teaches the unit or class through the requirements necessary for a successful Investiture of the members. The junior counsellor assists the counsellor as instructed.

**Section 8.** Instructors: Instructors may be drawn from the staff, and may be the unit counsellor, or be specialists selected from the church or community to teach specific subjects.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** The standing committees of a club are:

- a. Coordinating Committee (for churches with junior and teen clubs).
- b. Executive Committee.
- c. Staff Committee.
- d. Discipline Committee.
- e. Unit Captain's Council.

**Section 2.** The coordinating committee consists of the administrative director, club directors, deputy directors, pastor, secretary, treasurer and chaplain. The committee, of which the administrative director is the chairperson, is to be responsible for all joint Pathfinder activities.

**Section 3.** The executive committee consists of the club director, deputy directors, pastor, secretary, treasurer and chaplain. The committee, of which the director is the chairperson, is to be responsible for all Pathfinder activities.

**Section 4.** The staff committee consists of the executive committee plus counsellors, junior counsellors and instructors. Unit captains may be invited to meet with this committee.

**Section 5.** The discipline committee consists of the director, deputy directors, the counsellor of the Pathfinder(s) involved, and a Pathfinder boy and girl chosen from the club.

**Section 6.** The unit captains' council consists of the director and the unit captains.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**QUORUM**

For the transaction of business by any of the committees, a majority of the committee membership must be in attendance.

## ARTICLE VIII

### MEETINGS

**Section 1.** Pathfinder meetings will be held generally twice monthly, for at least ten months of the year. The time and duration of these meetings will be decided by the executive committee and may be based on one of the following models:

**Model A:** This is conducted in one three-hour session with opening and closing ceremonies, marching, games, curriculum and craft, all integrated into one program.

**Model B:** This is a three-hour program, but it is conducted in two separate segments:

**Segment 1:** One hour of Pathfinding, which may be on Sabbath, featuring fellowship and curriculum.

**Segment 2:** Two hours of Pathfinding, including marching, games, curriculum, craft, and opening and closing ceremonies.

**Section 2.** Staff meetings are to be held once each month as announced.

**Section 3.** Executive committee meetings are to be held at least bimonthly.

**Section 4.** The yearly Pathfinder club program should include the requirements of the reporting system as set down by the local conference youth ministries office.

## ARTICLE IX

### MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

**Section 1.** Ten to fifteen years is the official age for Pathfinder membership. The first class, which is Friend, is designed for the average ten-year-old and is structured in keeping with their physical and intellectual abilities. Commencing this class before the ideal time of ten years may cause some hardship and will, most likely, detract from the interest in future courses during the important teen years. Juniors nine years of age may only commence Pathfinders (and the Friend class):

- a. When they are in Year 5 or its equivalent, or
- b. When the 10th birthday falls within the first quarter of the Pathfinder year.

The state and national educational levels equivalent to Year 5 are:

Aust. Capital Territory	Year 5	Tasmania	Year 5
New South Wales	Year 5	Victoria	Year 5
Northern Territory	Year 5	Western Australia	Year 5
Queensland	Year 5	New Zealand	Standard 4
South Australia	Year 5		

**Section 2.** Where a church conducts a junior and teen club, Pathfinders between the ages of ten and twelve (or Years 5-7 or equivalents) will join the junior club, and those between thirteen and fifteen (or Years 8-10 or equivalents) will join the teen club.

**Section 3.** Membership will be granted when the following specifications are met:

- a. Acceptance of application.
- b. Payment of membership fee.
- c. Completion of Pathfinder Passport Application Form.
- d. Complete uniform.
- e. Willingness to conform to the principles of the Pledge and Law.
- f. Willingness to participate in all Pathfinder activities.

**Section 4.** Non-Adventists who conform to the above requirements may be admitted to membership.

**Section 5.** The admittance of new members into the Pathfinder club will be at the beginning of each Pathfinder year.

**Section 6.** An attendance roll is to be marked at all Pathfinder programs.

**Section 7.** The Pathfinder is to have an average attendance of at least 75% at all Pathfinder activities.

**Section 8.** All excused absences must be presented in writing from the parent or guardian and submitted to the club director.

**Section 9.** Any member having two unexcused absences in any three-month period, will be placed on probation.

**Section 10.** Any probationary member may be reinstated by payment of a membership reinstatement fee, and attendance at two successive regular meetings, if approved by the executive committee.

**Section 11.** Attendance of probationary members at special events is not permitted.

**Section 12:** A period of three months is allowed as provisional membership to obtain uniform, and make a definite commitment to full membership.

## ARTICLE X

### CLUB UNITS

**Section 1.** Pathfinders are organised into units of six to eight Pathfinders, with a counsellor as the leader. This division into smaller units permits better order and discipline, and more individual attention can be given to each member.

**Section 2. Unit Officers:**

- a. **Unit Captain:** Each unit within the club, with its counsellor, selects one of its members as its captain. The captain is responsible for the unit and should lead it in promptness and cooperation in all club activities and sets an example of good conduct at all times. It is suggested that unit captains be selected every four to six months to give more members in the club opportunities for developing leadership.
- b. **Unit Scribe:** Each unit within the club, with its counsellor, selects one of its members as a scribe. The scribe is responsible for reporting the attendance of the unit's members to the club secretary. It is suggested that unit scribes be selected every four to six months to give more members in the club opportunities for developing leadership.

**Section 3. Uniform:**

- a. **Dress Uniform:** The official Pathfinder uniform is the conference recommended uniform for each club member and officer, and is to be worn only at club meetings and other occasions as directed by the club director.
- b. **Field Uniform:** The official conference-recommended field uniform for each club member is to be worn at all Pathfinder activities as directed by the club director.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **CLUB FINANCE**

**Section 1.** The membership fee established by the executive committee is payable annually, half yearly, quarterly or at each meeting.

**Section 2.** Reinstatement to membership for unexcused absences after a probationary period, calls for a payment of a reinstatement fee that is determined by the executive committee.

**Section 3.** An annual personal insurance fee and club equipment insurance should be included in the annual budget.

**Section 4.** Financial reports will be rendered to the executive committee.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **POLICY**

The club will be governed by policies as laid down by the youth director of the Department of Church Ministries of the local conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** Changes to this constitution may be recommended to the South Pacific Division by a two-thirds vote of a Pathfinder staff committee, after counsel with the local conference youth director.

**Section 2:** Changes to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the South Pacific Division Youth Ministries Committee.