

# INDUCTION CEREMONIES

A Pathfinder membership Induction ceremony may be used to admit new juniors, teens or adults to membership in a local club. This should be dignified, simple and brief, but should be an impressive occasion that will inspire the Pathfinder candidates with the high ideals of the Pathfinder club organisation. An Induction ceremony using candles is given as a sample of what can be done to help impress upon the candidates the seriousness and responsibility of becoming a Pathfinder.

## PREPARATION

Place a table at the front of the Induction ceremony site. Centre a large Pathfinder emblem directly behind the table, with a Pledge banner on the right (as persons face the audience) of the emblem and a Law banner to the left of the emblem. In the centre of the table directly in front of the Pathfinder emblem, place a 40 cm candle representing the "Spirit of Pathfinding." In front of this candle place six 25 cm candles - blue, red, green, black (silver), brown (orange) and gold (yellow) - representing the six classes. In front of these six coloured candles place a candle-holder for each candidate's candle to be placed in during the ceremony. In front of the Law banner on a line with the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle, centre eight white 20 cm candles. Place five white 20 cm candles similarly in front of the Pledge banner.

Display a national flag to the right (as persons face the audience) of the table and a Pathfinder flag to the left of the table.

Seat the Pathfinder club by units in a "V" formation facing the table with the candles. The candidates sit in the centre of the formation. The director stands to the right of the table (facing the club) and the deputy directors stand to the left of the table (facing the club).

## CEREMONY

After the director has given a briefing of the program procedure to the candidates and special guests, the program is as follows:

**Director:** "Welcome to this Induction Ceremony of the \_\_\_\_\_ Pathfinder Club. We have \_\_\_\_ new members joining our club this year and this ceremony today is especially for them. This is our way of letting them know that we are glad that they are joining us and that we will all work together to help them enjoy their years as Pathfinders." (Lights out. Director lights the big Spirit of Pathfinding candle.) "This candle that I am lighting represents the 'Spirit of Pathfinding.' It is the spirit of adventure, fun, learning, friendship, awareness and awakening, and above all a spirit of love and unity, a spirit of willingness to let ourselves be used by God to reach out to others. It is symbolic of the high ideals for which the club stands and the growth that the Pathfinder will make as a club member."

"Just as this candle by itself is not sufficient to light a whole room, the Spirit of Pathfinding alone cannot achieve the aims of a Pathfinder club. There are six classes in pathfinders and our deputy directors, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now going to light the class candles, and explain the meaning of each one to us.

"The **Friend** class is designed to help one to be a better neighbour now and a friend of God throughout eternity."

"The **Companion** class gives more meaning to life and a companionship with Jesus Christ every hour of the day."

"The **Explorer** class helps one to find new adventure in exploring God's word and His created works."

"The **Ranger** class opens up new areas of discovery in the natural and spiritual world to secure true and genuine happiness."

"The **Voyager** class challenges the teen to develop a wholesome self-concept and Christian lifestyle."

"The **Guide** class emphasises personal growth and spiritual discoveries, and development of new skills in leadership and survival techniques."

As soon as the six class candles have been lit, the director replaces the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle in its original position.

#### **PATHFINDER PLEDGE CANDLES**

The director calls for the lighting of the Pledge candles. The five chosen Pathfinders are to light the candles. Their selection is on the basis of class, unit office, club record etc. In turn, each of the five Pathfinders marches smartly to the front to the director and salutes. The Pathfinder then takes the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle and lights one of the Pathfinder Pledge candles. After replacing the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle, the Pathfinder again salutes the director and repeats the following according to the candle lit.

1. **"Loving the Lord my God"** - I recognise that Jesus Christ is my personal saviour and I want to respond by loving Him.
2. **"I will daily seek His presence"** - I will set aside some private time every day to read my Bible and talk to God
3. **"I will show friendship to others"** - I will always be kind and thoughtful of others in my family, school, church and community. I will try to include the lonely and left out people in my friendship.
4. **"I will keep the Pathfinder Law"** - I accept the Pathfinder Law as being an important part of the Pathfinder Club, and choose by God's grace, to live by it.
5. **"I will honour my country"** - I will endeavour to be a good citizen at home, school and in my community, by obeying the laws of the land and respecting those in authority.

## PATHFINDER LAW CANDLES

The director calls for the lighting of the Law candles. The eight chosen Pathfinders are to light the candles. Their selection is on the basis of class, unit office, club record etc. In turn, each of the eight Pathfinders marches smartly to the front to the director and salutes. The Pathfinder then takes the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle and lights one of the Pathfinder Pledge candles. After replacing the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle, the Pathfinder again salutes the director and repeats the following according to the candle lit.

1. **"Look for good in others"** - I will not listen to rumours about people but will instead always try to speak a good word about everyone I know.
2. **"Aim to do my best"** - Because my life and abilities are gifts from God I will put one hundred percent effort into my work, play and relationships.
3. **"Love and respect my family"** - God has placed me in a family. I will speak courteously, and be obedient, thoughtful and unselfish in the way I act at home.
4. **"Be thankful for what I have"** - I will learn to be cheerful and grateful for the many wonderful things that I have. I will not complain when things do not go my way or I cannot have what others have.
5. **"Preserve God's creation"** - Because I recognise that God is the creator and owner of this world, I will not be careless when I am out in nature, but will do all I can to protect the environment in which I live.
6. **"Take care of my health"** - I will exercise regularly, eat a well balanced and healthy diet, and say 'no' to any substances that will be harmful to my body.
7. **"Be involved in my church"** - When I am asked to participate in programs at my church I will willingly do so. I will attend as regularly as I can.
8. **"Go where He sends"** - I will be ready to share my faith and follow God's leading in my life.

**Deputy Director:** "As Pathfinders, we accept and promise to keep the Pathfinder Pledge and Law."

Candidates come forward at this point, and stand facing the club members. They repeat the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.

**Director:** " \_\_\_\_\_ (Names of Pathfinders), you are now official members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Pathfinder club of the \_\_\_\_\_ Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Please come and light your candles from the "Spirit of Pathfinding" candle. (Music plays softly while this takes place)

**Director:** "Our club chaplain \_\_\_\_\_ is now going to come forward and pray that God will give you strength to live up to the high ideals of our club and to be a faithful and loyal club member." The chaplain offers a prayer of consecration.

New members then present themselves to the director to receive the hand of fellowship. Next the deputy directors, counsellors and captains of the units extend the right hand of fellowship. The club secretary may present the Pathfinder Passports, and the counsellors and captains usher them to their units.

**Director:** "We are now going to stand for the singing of the Pathfinder Song."

Lights are turned on, which brings the Induction ceremony to a close.

## CEREMONY WITHOUT CANDLES

If a club does not desire to use candles, a similar procedure may be followed using only flags and banners. The candidates may place their hands on the staff of the Pathfinder flag during the induction oath. The Pathfinder flag in this instance would be removed from its stand and the staff held in a horizontal position by the deputy director during the taking of the induction oath.

## CEREMONY TO INCLUDE PARENTS AND CHURCH MEMBERS

If the ceremony is being used as an official beginning to the club's year and all the church members have been invited to attend, then the members could be invited to also become involved.

After the acceptance of the new Pathfinders into the club (and before the prayer), the director may then say to the parents and interested church members:

**Director:** "You have witnessed the formal acceptance of new members into the \_\_\_\_\_ Club. The ideals of the spirit of Pathfinding are the ideals of Christian living. Light is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, the Guide and Comforter to all Pathfinders, and to all Christians who love the Lord. You have witnessed the Pathfinders sharing these ideals. I would like to invite each of you who have witnessed this ceremony to join us in dedication to the Lord."

The parents and church members who respond are given a small 10cm white candle that they light from one of the Pathfinders.

The chaplain then leads out in a prayer of consecration for the club, the new Pathfinder members and each of the church members.

## SIMPLE INDUCTION CEREMONY

The following procedure may be used as a variation of the more formal Induction ceremony. It is also convenient if a new member joins later in the year. This ceremony could also be used to induct captains, scribes or a new staff member.

During the opening parade, the director or deputy welcomes the new member and introduces the person to the club. The new member is greeted by the unit counsellor at the front of the parade and formally welcomed into the club. The presentation of the Pathfinder's Passport may be made at this time. At the conclusion the new member marches (with the counsellor) to the designated unit.