

PATHFINDER DAY

PURPOSE

The General Conference each year designates a Sabbath as Pathfinder Day, to be observed in all Seventh-day Adventist Churches with the following objectives:

1. To provide official recognition and encouragement to the Pathfinder club in the local church.
2. To acquaint the congregation with the scope of possibilities afforded by the Pathfinder club in the development of our Pathfinders.
3. To encourage greater cooperation and support of the local Pathfinder club by the congregation.
4. To recruit additional Pathfinder staff members.
5. To give the Pathfinder club members a greater sense of belonging to the church by their active participation in the church service.
6. To give an opportunity for the church to provide more financial assistance for the club by giving a special Pathfinder club offering during the worship hour. By vote of the local church board the church offering on this day may be appropriated to the local Pathfinder club.

PLANNING THE PROGRAM

For Pathfinder Day to meet the above objectives, detailed planning is necessary. Following are some ideas to help plan an interesting program.

1. Most pastors are long-range planners. Arrange with the pastor for a Pathfinder Day at the beginning of the year.
2. Discuss Pathfinder Day with the club staff and decide on the best program. Work as a team.
3. Present the program to the pastor with a complete outline. Ask for his suggestions and cooperation.
4. Apply to the church board to have the Pathfinder club receive the offering and to collect it during the service and do the ushering.
5. Notify parents, church members and the church communication secretary.
6. Train the participants, colour guard, speakers etc. Remember the Pathfinder club is on public display.
7. Most church members do not know the Pathfinder Song, Pledge or Law. Therefore, insert a printed copy of these into your church bulletin.
8. Indicate in the bulletin when the congregation is to stand. Also announce during the personal ministries period that a change has been made in the order of service.
9. The program should be snappy with no lagging. While the next part of the program is being announced, have the participants on the way.
10. Practise at least one trial run of marching in, taking places, reciting the Pledge and Law, posting colours and marching out.
11. Positions where groups or individual participants stand should be marked with masking tape or chalk.

12. The "needs of our club" section must have specifics. Tell the congregation exactly what the club needs by way of funds. A dollar per person will allow the club to do such and such. A campaign may be launched for a headquarters for the club, tents for camping and so forth.
13. Leaders should have confidence in the presentation of the program. Apologies reveal lack of preparation.
14. Invite a good speaker to present the message. The local conference youth director could be invited. He probably schedules speaking appointments months ahead, so invite him six months or a year ahead of time. It may be necessary to hold Pathfinder Day on another Sabbath. Work closely with your pastor on this part of the program. The sermon could feature some of the Pathfinders working together on a sermon. It could be a part of a Junior Voice of Youth program.
15. Following are several sample programs:

A. SERVICE NO. 1

Prelude, Ministers Enter, Silent Prayer

*Doxology, Invocation

*Presentation of Colours

1. Pathfinders march in and take places
2. Pledge and Law
3. Post Flags
4. Honour Guard returns to seats
5. Congregation and Pathfinders seated

Scripture Reading 1 Timothy 4:12

Hymn No. 529 "Under His Wings"

Congregational Prayer

Offering

Special Music

Pathfinder Report Pathfinder Director

Sermon Pastor

Hymn No. 508 "Anywhere With Jesus"

Benediction

Postlude

* Congregation Standing

B. SERVICE NO. 2

Prelude		
Personal Ministries Period		Pathfinder Outreach Experiences
Processional		Ministers, Directors, Pathfinders
Introit		(Ministers and Directors Kneeling)
Doxology		Choir
Invocation		Club Director
Post Colours		Colour Guard
Welcome		Pastor
Scripture Reading	1 Timothy 4:12	Counsellor
Hymn No. 529	"Under His Wings"	
Prayer		Two Pathfinders
Pathfinder Song		Pathfinders
Pathfinder Happenings		Directors
Pledge and Law		Pathfinders
Song or Instrumental Selection		Pathfinders
Pathfinder Objectives		Directors
Offering		
Sermon		Pastor
Hymn No. 508	"Anywhere With Jesus"	
Benediction		
Recessional		
	1. Ministers and Directors	
	2. Colour Guard	
	3. Pathfinders, Counsellors and other Staff	
	4. Congregation	

C. SERVICE NO. 3

Prelude

Personal Ministries Period

Ministers Enter

*Processional "The Captain Calls for You" Organ, Piano and Trumpets
Marching Order:
Colour Guard
Directors
Pathfinders, Counsellors and other Staff

*Flags posted

*Invocation

Welcome (Introduces Pathfinder Director) Pastor
Scripture 1 Timothy 4:12 Deputy Director
Pathfinder Song Pathfinders and
Congregation
Prayer Two Pathfinders
Special Music Pathfinder Choir
Pathfinder Happenings (A report) Director
Pledge Pathfinders
What Pathfinding Means to Me Pathfinder
Law Pathfinders
Why I am a Pathfinder Pathfinder
Objectives and Needs of Club Directors or Counsellors
Offering
Special Music Pathfinders
Sermon Pastor, Director or Guest Speaker
Hymn No. 529 "Under His Wings"
Benediction

Recessional "Onward Christian Soldiers" Organ and Piano
Marching Order:
Ministers and Directors
Colour Guard
Pathfinders, Counsellors and other Staff
Congregation

* Congregation standing

D. SERVICE NO. 4

Prelude

Ministers and Platform Personnel Enter

Doxology and Invocation

Processional "Onward Christian Soldiers"

(Pathfinders march in led by the national and Pathfinder flags. Colour guards stand in front of pulpit. All stand when flags enter and remain standing until flags are posted on platform.)

Pathfinder Song

Pathfinders

Pledge and Law

Led by a Pathfinder

Posting of Flags

Scripture Reading Proverbs 22:6
Ephesians 6:1-4

Pathfinder

Prayer

Counsellor

Welcome and Director's Report

Pathfinder director reports on year's activities, goals for new year and presents any recognitions and awards.

Special Music

Pathfinders

Why I am a Pathfinder

Director and six Pathfinders

Offering

Deputy Director

(taken by Pathfinders)

Special Music

Pathfinder or

Pathfinders

Short Sermon

Pastor

Hymn No. 543 "Jesus, Friend of Little Children"

Benediction

Counsellor

Postlude