

# INVESTITURE

The Investiture service is one of the most important occasions in the Pathfinder and church calendar. It is during this special service that the Pathfinders are rewarded for completing the requirements of the Pathfinder classes, and as such is the culmination of the year's work.

The ceremony is usually held during the church service or in the afternoon, as a special program. An Investiture may also be conducted on special occasions, such as at Camporees and Pathfinder Rallies.

## INVESTITURE PROCEDURE

1. **Setting the Date.** The Pathfinder Executive Committee should meet and discuss the choice of a suitable date for the Investiture. Sufficient time needs to be allowed for the completion of all the class requirements by the members of the club. A check will need to be made with the church calendar, youth ministries calendar, and school calendar.
2. **Check with Church Pastor.** The date needs to be confirmed by the church pastor, making sure that there are no other programs scheduled for that day that will clash with the Investiture service.
3. **Check with Youth Director.** The date should be made known to the conference youth director, and an invitation extended to a guest speaker who is to conduct the ceremony. If the youth director is not able to be there on the date the club has chosen, a new date may be made, or the district director may be chosen to invest the Pathfinders.
4. **Arrange with District Director** (where applicable). The youth director will notify the district director of the date, and check as to whether they can visit the club. A visit should be made at least one calendar month prior to the date of the Investiture. This visit by the district director is to provide opportunity for checking the progress of the Pathfinders, and finalise plans for the Investiture service. A report will be given to the conference youth director.
5. **Ordering Requirements.** Order all necessary supplies from the local conference youth ministries office. These include the necessary badges and insignia required by the club as requested by the district director and/or club director. Clubs should ensure that Pathfinders are wearing full dress uniform, with all proper insignia, on the occasion of the Investiture.
6. **Planning the Program.** The Pathfinder Executive Committee should give careful study to the Investiture program. If it is to be a part of the church service, there will be a need for consultation with the church pastor or senior elder. The ceremony should be designed to run smoothly and efficiently, and should be presented in an appropriate way that will be reverent, that will create an atmosphere of worship and praise, and highlight the principles of the Pathfinder club.
7. **Suggested Investiture Programs:**

## A. CHURCH SERVICE

Organ Prelude

March In

(All Pathfinders and leaders march in two abreast and in Pathfinder uniform with club flag only. Organ plays march time.)

Present Club Flag

Pledge and Law

Be Seated (in front pews of church)

Silent Prayer

Welcome

Hymn

Prayer

Offering

Investiture

1. Opening Remarks (by conference youth director or person investing)
2. Directors Report
3. Presentation of Candidates (by director or deputy director)
4. Investiture of Pathfinders
5. Charge (delivered by person conducting Investiture)
6. Consecration Prayer (person investing, or pastor)
7. Pathfinders seated

Hymn or Item

Sermon

Hymn

Benediction

March Out

(Pathfinders march out with club flag preceding the rostrum party, and if desired, forming a guard of honour for rostrum party either inside or outside the front door)

Organ Postlude

## B. INDOOR AFTERNOON SERVICE

Present Flags, Pledge and Law (be seated)

Welcome and Prayer

Director's Report (interspersed with practical demonstrations)

Item (presented by Pathfinders)

Talk

Investiture

Charge

Hymn

Dedication Prayer

### **C. OUTDOOR EVENING SERVICE**

A special symbolic Investiture may be conducted in the evening where parents, church members and friends gather to witness Pathfinders' progress in their classes.

March in, Present flags, Pledge and Law, Prayer

1. Pathfinders stand in their respective classes around an area that has been set aside for fires. These fires could be shaped to spell the first letter of each class.
2. Beginning at the upper end of their letter, each member of the Friend class lights part of the fire. While the fire is lit, the meaning of the Pledge and Law could be given or a class requirement outlined.
3. When each section of the fire is ablaze the Friend class is invested.
4. The above process (1-3) is repeated for each class to be invested.
5. At the conclusion the charge is given followed by a prayer of consecration, asking that the skills of each Pathfinder be enhanced as they begin a new class.

### **D. OUTDOOR SERVICE**

An outdoor Investiture program can effectively enhance the value of nature in the Pathfinder club. This is an excellent opportunity to incorporate Pathfinder participation into a service in natural surroundings.

Nature dioramas (pictures constructed from bush material) can be used to highlight the class requirements that have been completed. These can be used as a series of displays or to form a backdrop to a play.

March in  
Present flags  
Pledge and Law  
Prayer  
Singing  
Director's report  
Dioramas  
Investiture  
Charge  
Benediction

## THE INVESTITURE CHARGE

At the close of the Investiture, before the dedicatory prayer, one of the following charges (or a variation) is to be given by the conference youth director or district director.

1. You have now come to the place in your program of study and self-improvement where you are ready to assume a new relationship to the church and its work. You have completed the work outlined in one of the Pathfinder classes. The insignia you have received represent the highest ideals of the Seventh-day Adventist organisation. This insignia is to be held in trust only so long as you carry out in your daily life the ideals for which this insignia stands - the ideals embodied in the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. Therefore I charge that by the grace of God you endeavour every day to cherish these high principles and to live them out in your words and actions, that by so doing you may prove to be a true servant of God and friend to man.

If for any reason whatever you lose sight of these ideals and do not care to cherish and practise them in your daily life, you are honour bound to return the insignia to the conference making the award. However, I trust that God will always keep you true to Him and to these worthy ideals.

2. Today, Pathfinders, you have completed your course and we are all justly proud of you. This insignia that you have just received is a token of our faith in you. Jesus too, is proud of you and is always willing to help you to be loyal to your Pathfinder Pledge and Law.
3. Today the conference and your local church honour you as we invest you. In presenting you your badge we are saying that we are proud of you for successfully completing the requirements for your respective classes.

We remind you, however, that with the additional skills and knowledge that God has given you, comes a responsibility to share that knowledge and use those skills in God's service. You may wear your badge on your uniform, always remembering the high ideals for which it stands - the ideals in your Pledge and Law. Our prayer is that God will daily keep you by His power, that you might indeed prove to be a servant of God and friend to man.

4. Pathfinders, you have now come to the place in your program of study and self-improvement where you are ready to assume wider responsibilities in the church.

You have completed the requirements of another Pathfinder class. The badge that you have received represents the highest ideals of the Seventh-day Adventist youth organisation. You should therefore hold it in trust and I charge you, by the grace of God and through the power of His Spirit, to cherish these high principles, to always show and share genuine love, to live in word and action in accord with the Pledge and Law. In doing so you will be a servant of God and true friend of man. May God always keep you true to Him and to these worthy ideals.

5. Congratulations on your success. The award you have received acknowledges the completion of an achievement level in the Pathfinder club. Through a course of study you have gained insights into several basic areas of Christian development. You now have a greater knowledge of the Bible and your responsibility for service to others. You have followed with interest the progress of the church through the ages. You have pledged yourself to a healthy lifestyle. You have also gained a greater appreciation of nature and the outdoors. The Pathfinder organisation invites you to accept this award while ever you adhere to the principles and lifestyle that it represents.