



PATHFINDER SPECIALIST AWARD



PTHOPS006



Pathfinder Community Service

Resource Material

April 2010



Resource material for the Pathfinder Specialist Award.

The Resource Material, Review Booklet and Assessment tools were produced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Ministries of the South Pacific Division (SPD). The original material for this unit was written by Kelly Fry however the updating and revision of the document was undertaken by Pr John Wells. He was assisted by a number of other experienced leaders and an editorial team brought the task to completion. We wish to express our deepest thanks to them all.

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The Unit Outline is unchangeable. However, Conferences/Missions in the SPD are encouraged to be creative in the delivery of the training to suit their local needs. Photocopying of this material is permitted in the context of leadership training. It is not to be used for commercial purposes.

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Orientation

Welcome to the Resource Material for PTHOPS006 Pathfinder Community Service.

Purpose

This unit covers the role of spiritual gifts and of community service in Pathfinding. It outlines opportunities available to Pathfinder clubs to be involved in community service.

The Resource Material

This Resource Material contains the essential information to meet the competencies outlined for this unit. It should help you to:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of Pathfinder Community Service.
- Understand Pathfinder Creativity Skills as they relate to a Pathfinder Club.
- Prepare for the PSA training/review/assessment program.
- Acquire knowledge that will help with your Pathfinder Ministry.

A basic Review Booklet has been developed for this unit. It contains a small number of worksheets that, once completed, provide evidence that you understand the material. The Review Booklet needs to be completed before the assessment and forms part of the requirements to gain competence in this unit.

Note: If you have any questions, please consult your District Director or your local Conference/Mission Youth Department.

What Additional Resources Do I Need?

- None

What Do I Need to Bring for the Training/Review/Assessment Program?

- Resource Material (if received beforehand).
- Review Booklet (completed, if required).
- Pencil/pen.
- Any other resources or equipment as specified by your assessor.

How Will I Be Assessed?

At the Conference/Mission training/review/assessment program, your competency will be assessed by one or more of the following methods:

- Written/oral questioning.
- Practical demonstration.

Reassessment Process

- Opportunity will be given to training participants to be reassessed if they are not found competent.
- There will be no limit to the number of opportunities for re-assessment

Appeal Process

Participants who are not satisfied with their assessment can:

- Discuss the issue with their Assessor.
- Discuss the issue with their District Director.
- Request the mediation of another Assessor.
- Report their concern to the Conference/Mission Youth Director.

Unit Outline

The Unit Outline below summarizes the requirements (Elements) of this unit. Each Element requires completion of various tasks (Performance Criteria).

PTHOPS006	Pathfinder Community Service
PSA	Pathfinder Specialist Award

DESCRIPTION: This unit has been developed by the South Pacific Division (SPD) Youth Department. This unit covers the nature, purpose and implementation of community service in the context of a local Pathfinder club.

The Competency Based Training (CBT) method has been adopted for the delivery of this unit

Element	Performance Criteria
1. Explain the role community service has in the spiritual development of Pathfinders.	1.1. Define what Pathfinder community service is. 1.2. Identify the role of service in the spiritual development of Pathfinders. 1.3. Understand the impact of community service on the local club. 1.4. Identify the impact of community service on the community.
2. Identify different types of community service that Pathfinders could become involved in.	2.1. Identify the types of community service that could be considered by Pathfinder clubs. 2.2. Detail sources of community service ideas. 2.3. Identify community service ideas that could be relevant to Pathfinder club.
3. Establish a community service program in the local Pathfinder club.	3.1. Identify the abilities of your club based on their spiritual gifts and skills. 3.2. Identify the needs of your community. 3.3. Demonstrate involvement as a team member in one Pathfinder community service project. 3.4. Detail the procedure for preparing for a community service project. 3.5. Demonstrate ability to lead the Pathfinder club on a community service project. 3.6. Demonstrate ability to debrief the experience. 3.7. Outline the follow up procedures for the project.
4. Analyse the spiritual gifts that Pathfinders have.	4.1. Understand the role of spiritual gifts in the church. 4.2. Explain the meanings of each of the biblical spiritual gifts. 4.3. Identify your own personal spiritual gifts and have them verified. 4.4. Conduct a special program where a group of Pathfinders are able to identify their personal spiritual gifts.

CHAPTER ONE: Core Concepts of Service in the Bible

This unit explores the role of Community Service in the program of the local Pathfinder Club. It outlines its impact on the Pathfinders and the community that they wish to serve. It surveys some of the service ideas suitable for Pathfinder Clubs. It outlines a basic procedure to follow when organising such a program.

The core concepts of service and mission are found in the Bible. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament have a lot to say about community ministry. Some of these ideas include:

Sharing the Gospel with the world (Matt 28:19-20)

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Being God’s witnesses (Acts 1:8)

“But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Helping and loving others as yourself (Heb 13:2)

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realising it!”

Loving your neighbour (Luke 10:25-37)

The story of the Good Samaritan

Vs 37 – “Then Jesus said ‘Yes, now go and do the same.’”

Being known by our actions (Matt 25:31-45)

The story of the Sheep and the Goats

Vs 40 – “I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!”

Being an example in the world (Matt 5:16)

“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Youth providing service (1Tim 4:12)

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity.”

Another resource that has important statements concerning evangelism and attitude to service is Ellen G White's book titled "Evangelism". This is a compilation of pieces she has written on gospel campaigns, evangelistic meetings, methods of presenting the message, and the psychology of public appeal. Below are a few quotes from this source.

"Men (and women) are needed who pray to God for wisdom, and who, under the guidance of God, can put new life into the old methods of labour and can invent new plans and new methods of awakening the interest of church members and reaching the men and women of the world¹."

"Let us not forget that different methods are to be employed to save different ones²."

"Means will be devised to reach hearts. Some of the methods used in this work will be different from methods used in the work in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism³."

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is presented as the power and presence of God in the lives of believers that makes service effective and meaningful. Spiritual Gifts are provided for everyone for the spiritual growth of the church and its service to the community.

¹ White, E.G. Evangelism. p105

² White, E.G. Evangelism. p106

³ White, E.G. Evangelism. p105

CHAPTER TWO: Role of Community Service

Understanding Pathfinder Community Service

The Pathfinder movement is club based consisting of juniors and early teens aged 10 – 15 and their enthusiastic adult leaders. Pathfinder Clubs reflect the community that they come from. They include children of church families and often friends from the community. They can either be committed to Jesus or in the process of making this choice.

The 'Community' is the population immediately surrounding the church where the club is located. It is made up of the people from the town or suburb of that area. The community reflects all of the social and generational needs of the people inhabiting that particular environment.

Service is to render aid to someone. It means to be helpful and contribute to the community. In the Biblical sense it is to make an impact in some way to draw an individual's attention to Jesus.

The Impact of Community Service on Pathfinder Faith Development

Adolescents grow and develop in many ways – physically, mentally, socially, spiritually and emotionally. They change in their relationships with friends and family members. They also experience changes in their spiritual lives that affect their relationships with God, others, and their own self-esteem.⁴

A church and Pathfinder Club that models 'faith in action' is very influential in facilitating faith development for early adolescents. This can be seen when considering some of the statements that theorists have made.

Each Pathfinder travels through a series of distinct stages of development as they grow to be adults. Pathfinders aged 10-12 are in the faith development stage called 'reflective faith'. This is where they are starting to discover their own identity. They like to learn new things and learn to make choices. Role models are also very important in this age group because these Pathfinders reflect on how/what their role models believe in and how they act.

Bailey Gillespie, a Seventh-day Adventist specialist in faith development states in his book 'The Experience of Faith', that "groups of interested people in the church must learn to care for this group of children with intense concern. Activities must be provided in which the church is seen as provider and modeller of a life that includes God. Programs, both social and service, must be provided that show what it is like to have faith and to live by faith."⁵

The next stage of development according to Gillespie is 'Personalised Faith'. This is the ages of 13 – 15. This stage is characterised by a sense of freedom to choose, to gain personal identification with their faith, to be actively involved in discussing various worldviews. Dawson McAllister in his book, 'Saving the Millennial Generation', says that this generation of Teens base their choices and faith on experience – their own or others. "They really want to grow in their faith! They are highly motivated to learn about and experience the love and grace of God. Students' desires for purpose and love can be both met and fed as we involve them in service projects."⁶ "This generation wants to do more than

⁴ Black, W. An Introduction to Youth Ministry. p107

⁵ Gillespie, V.B. The Experience of Faith. p118

⁶ McAllister, D. Saving the Millennial Generation. p142

simply hear about God. They want to hear about God while they do something positive and active. They want to be involved in something that will change the world.⁷

“As much as possible, get the students away from the church and out where they can touch the lives of hurting, needy people. Use these times to reflect on Jesus’ ministry, His priorities to seek and save the lost and heal the wounded, and the ways that the experience has touched the lives of participants. I’ve seen these experiences open the hearts of young people.⁸”

The American author Merton Strommen, has done extensive research over many years into youth culture. In her book titled ‘Five Cries of Youth’ Strommen details her findings, one of which examines faith development. She says that youth and teens that are ‘exposed to direct personal experience of God’s presence, differ from those who do not.’⁹ Her studies showed that these areas of difference were in their:

- Outlook on life
- Relationships with other people
- Motivation and
- Sense of moral responsibility.

To achieve these outcomes leaders need to encourage involvement. Pathfinder Leaders can provide opportunities where Pathfinders can grow, experience, relate and share. These outcomes can easily be achieved by providing opportunities for service and community ministry within their Pathfinder Clubs. By involving, providing experiences, nurturing, and encouraging, leaders can provide a building block for Pathfinders to move on to their next stage of faith development into adolescence.

The Impact of Community Service on the Pathfinder.

Amidst the changes that take place in each generation there are core elements that impact most on the individual. . Jesus simply told the disciples to share what they knew about the gospel. This has nothing to do with age or time in earth’s history. It is a basic challenge of Christianity that Christians are called to be the mouthpiece of the saviour to the people in their community. Pathfinding is a great vehicle for sharing the excitement of this gospel calling. A positive Pathfinder Community Ministry program may:

1. Present a sense of achievement and self worth, for example overcoming some great physical challenge in the outdoors.
2. Develop unity and team as effectively as most other group development or problem solving programs.
3. Help to put problems into perspective. Christ is still a miracle-working power in this world. Not all problems are easily solved. Personal faith grows when it is stretched by positive ministry experiences.
4. Aid in providing personal growth for participants. As Pathfinders share what they know about the love of God, they discover more about the love of God.

⁷ McAllister, D. Saving the Millennial Generation. p145

⁸ McAllister, D. Saving the Millennial Generation. p132

⁹ Strommen, M. Five Cries of Youth. p155

5. Provide an opportunity for personal discovery. Pathfinders are able to provide a service that is appreciated. It provides a vehicle where the participant can explore the reality of their spiritual gifts and find out the reality of the connection with Christ through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
6. Bring both the pathfinder and the community to the holy ground at the foot of the cross.
7. Provide a sense of place and belonging beyond the church family, within the community.
8. Help someone else. It gives a sense of personal worth. Service allows the Pathfinder to realise they have a place in society, that they can be appreciated for who they are as individuals.
9. Impact on Pathfinders for the rest of their lives. Their life purpose may become clear for the first time. They desire to become life changers for people's betterment.
10. Build unity within a Pathfinder group. As Pathfinders realise that every member forms a unique part of the fabric that makes up the group involved in the service activity.
11. Build the realisation that service has been given as a gift to men and women. It is not limited by sex, culture, language, creed or age. All are called to be part of God's action plan. Service has a blessing. Paul says "And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news'"¹⁰ Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, to the end of the age."¹¹

The Impact of Community Service on the Pathfinder Club.

Any community ministry positively impacts the club program. This is more than gaining points for the Conference 200 Club Award. It is more than just presenting great reports to the local church. Community ministry develops one of the core elements within Pathfinding.

A positive Community Ministry program in the Club can:

- Give the Pathfinders a challenge
- Become an anchor-point experience that is never forgotten
- Be a fun experience
- Builds spirituality within the club as Pathfinders are drawn closer to God
- Develop a team spirit
- Give Clubs a sense of achievement
- Develop a positive accepting environment
- If the experience is positive, service makes the Pathfinders want to continue
- Expose Pathfinders to the advantages they have in their life
- Develop skills and provide opportunities for leadership
- Develop organisational skills
- Give the Club a positive profile in the community
- Maintain the ideals of the Pathfinder spirit
- Provide an opportunity for media exposure (e.g. newspaper, radio, local media)

¹⁰ Romans 10.15

¹¹ Matthew 28.19,20

The Impact of Pathfinder Community Service on the Community

A positive environment is created for the Pathfinder club that focuses outside of its own requirements of class work requirements and other in-house events. The emphasis on community service helps to keep the focus on Pathfinder ministry.

Pathfinder clubs involved in Community Service can impact the community by:

- Creating an awareness of their existence.
- Being the hands and feet of Jesus in action in a practical way.
- Showing love, freely given.
- Offering practical services or meals (i.e. lawnmowing, soup kitchen etc).

CHAPTER THREE: Types of Community Service

Just as the New Testament writers highlighted a range of spiritual gifts, there are different ways that leaders can view Community Service. Community Service is part of a wider goal of the church. Whenever the church serves the community there is positive Christian impact. When leaders plan community projects they need to consider the level of time commitment needed by pathfinders. As pathfinders serve they open up the community to an awareness of Jesus.

All forms of service as an outreach tool are important. There are different types of outreach with varying levels of commitment needed to be effective. The following table outlines outreach or community service programs Pathfinders can be involved in. Service has a valuable place in Pathfinder ministry.

Level	Concept	Contact Outcomes	Types of Activities
1	Generally a 'once off' event	Has minimal contact with the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letterboxing • Giving out drinks such as during a fun run
2	Annual event that the community identifies with. Has longer term impact on community. Provides good image for the church	Makes limited contact with individuals in the community. Can develop into good contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term ministries/projects • e.g. Kids Club • Vacation Bible School • STORM Co • ANZAC Parade • ADRA Appeal • Fly & Build • Special church program • Christmas Community Festival.
3	Monthly or weekly event. Can be community specific or church based program	Has potential to develop good friends. Meeting specific needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup kitchen • Caring for a group of needy people • Regular old peoples visitation • After school games, crafts, teaching English as a second language, homework etc • Non SDA attend Pathfinders or church activity regularly.

4	<p>Program focused on sharing about Jesus.</p> <p>Program operates for a specific time.</p> <p>Requires a commitment from the provider and participants.</p>	<p>Develops friendships. Specifically designed to encourage people towards baptism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Ministry • Pathfinder/Youth Outreach program • Small Group ministry • Bible study • Fly and preach
5	<p>Life work in the church or a Christian organisation</p>	<p>All of the above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time mission work

Not only are there different types of Service as outlined above, Ron Gladden in his book 'The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Churches' ¹² shares a concept of evangelism that is vital for Pathfinder Leaders to understand. Evangelism is more than attendance at events, or the numbers of people baptised in a year. Consider the Evangelism Scale shown below in Figure 3.1.

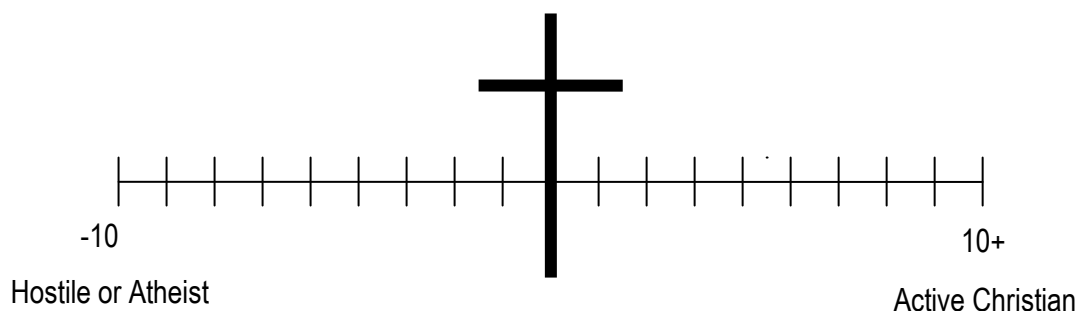


Figure 3.1: Evangelism Scale.

The Evangelism Scale says that everybody in the world is somewhere on this scale in their relationship with God. The non-churched person is around – 7. Every step toward the cross is an act of faith. It is the result of some act of evangelism. The Pathfinder Club through community ministry becomes involved in the evangelism process. Every functional type of Outreach has a positive effect according to the Evangelism Scale. This scale reveals that spiritual growth does not stop at the cross or baptism. All believers need to grow in their Christian experience as much as those who do not really know Jesus. Ron Gladden makes these statements:

1. The goal of the gospel commission is to make disciples. Evangelism does not stop at the cross. Jesus says “go and make disciples of all the nations”¹³ He says that the process includes “baptizing them”¹⁴
2. Evangelism is not an event; it is a process.

Pathfinder community ministry has a role to play in the overall evangelistic program of the church. Nowhere does the bible limit evangelism to an age grouping. Evangelism is for every person who has a story to tell about Jesus. Evangelism is for any person who is excited about their church.

¹² Ron Gladden. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Churches. p50 - 59

¹³ Matthew 28:19

¹⁴ Matthew 28:19

Sources of Community Service Ideas

The biggest challenge is to find projects that are interesting, relevant and achievable for the members of the Pathfinder Club. Here is a process that can be used to determine projects that would be suitable for a local club:

- Club – what contacts does the club have? What has the club already done or is doing successfully? What are the specific needs of the members of the club and the families that they come from? What human and physical resources does the club have? What is the specific goal or outcome of the ministry?
- Church – contact the church pastor and leaders. They could have a range of great ideas that have potential. Talk among the members of the church. Consider the plans of the church. Can the club do something that fits in with those plans? Do any of the members have contacts in the community?
- Conference Office – contact the ADRA representative. They can share a whole range of ideas that they know are already being tried in other churches. The Personal Ministries leader can help with specific service ideas. The Youth department can share other ideas that are already happening in the conference/mission.
- Community Leaders – contact people in the local council. Find out who the key community service people are. They will be able to share needs within the community. Talk with the community social worker and find out where there are gaps in the needs of the community.
- Keep alert to radio or newspaper requests for help with specific projects that may be suitable for Pathfinders. Have a look on the internet for service projects.

List of Service Ideas

- Kids Party – when one group organises it for another group.
- Reading aloud to vision impaired people
- Adopt a grandparent
- Community weekly Kids Club or VBS (Vacation Bible School)
- Cut lunches for people who are moving
- Baby sitting
- Free books/flowers/food for new mums
- Doing something nice for family members
- Ask the pastor for a list of people that could be visited
- Find a missionary/volunteer and write them a letter
- Singing/visiting the elderly at an aged care facility
- House work for the elderly
- Car Wash for busy/needy people
- Food drives for farmers' families that have been affected by the drought
- Water distribution at a Fun Run
- Christmas hamper for the less fortunate
- Free car wash
- Volunteer for 'Clean up Australia Day'
- Remove weeds from National Parks, nature reserves or medium strips on roads
- Volunteer at a Soup kitchen
- Take responsibility for a 'Signs' rack
- Visit kids in a hospital (where you have gained permission)
- Letterbox literature
- Bring friends along to Pathfinders

- Look after an elderly persons garden
- Collect money for an organisation eg, ADRA, Guide Dogs, etc
- March in local parades such as ANZAC
- Pathfinder booth at the local show
- Clown ministry – share God’s love in a shopping mall
- Donate birthday money to a worthy cause
- Cook some food to give to families in need
- Organise a ‘Children’s Church’
- Christmas packages for prisoners
- Tin Can food drive for welfare service organisations
- Graffiti clean up
- Notes of encouragement to disadvantaged groups, jail inmates, solo parents etc.
- As a Club – sponsor a child
- The list is endless

CHAPTER FOUR: Programming for a Community Service Activity

Programming for any sort of activity follows a specific process that has already been outlined in the unit PTH ADM 001 Pathfinder Administration. This chapter will develop the process in the context of Community Ministry. If community ministry has never been done before, the introduction of a new service ministry needs to be well prepared and presented so that the Pathfinders will be excited. Regarding programs previously conducted there is no harm in reviewing how it has run. There may be variations that will add something new so the program maintains its value and retains interest for the Pathfinders?

Research

The following questions are worth considering about your club. There will be other relevant questions also.

Regarding Pathfinders

- What is the age range of the group? Older or Younger
- What is the skill level of the group?
- What is the attitude of the group? Positive or Negative.
- What are the recognised Spiritual Gifts in the group? Developed further in the next chapter.

Regarding Pathfinder Staff

- What interest do they have in Community Ministry? This needs to be discussed at a Pathfinder Staff meeting. Leaders need the support of staff for any new ideas to be successful.
- How much time is available for this sort of ministry? This will give leaders parameters as to viable options.
- What ideas about Community Ministry do the staff have? What has already been done? What is already part of the annual Pathfinder program?
- What transport would be available if needed?

The above parameters can be taken as a bench mark for the next step in planning.

Develop the Idea

Reflect on concepts mentioned in the previous chapter. Consider all the ideas that your leadership team can generate. Brainstorm with a group of people. They may be Pathfinders, Pathfinder parents and staff members. If possible, involve the Pastor or sponsoring elder in the process. Pray about it. Have a lot of fun and work out the best practical ideas.

Consider such things as:

- The achievability of the idea for the need that has been identified?
- What are the outcomes of the program? Are they relevant to the Pathfinder group and the target community group?
- Do a costing of the project.
- Present the idea to the Pathfinder Staff and the Church Pastor. Gain their support for the idea.

Sell the Idea

Once the idea has been accepted then you will need to work out all of the aspects and logistics of the project. Leaders must process all details surrounding the project. The leader needs to be excited by the idea and be committed to selling it to the Pathfinders. Selling involves the following things:

- Advertising the project to Pathfinders, Pathfinder Staff and the parents.
- Informing the church so that they can support the project.
- Send out applications. The forms need to include all safety and legal requirements included on the forms in the Pathfinder Pack for the year. Remember to obtain the parental consent for the activity.
- Check that 'dealing with children' forms or cards are current for all Staff.

Plan Logistics

The most important part of planning is the process of taking a great idea and making it work. Leaders who have developed a well thought out plan will find it easier to adapt as the program happens. Good leaders need to make sure that they have thought of all the needs for each aspect of the project such as:

- Securing the location for the project
- Gaining permission from the community if needed
- Organising advertising in the community if needed
- Meeting transport needs
- Creating a running sheet for the project.
- Assigning responsibilities and writing job descriptions
- Involving everyone in the activity
- Identifying all the equipment that will be needed.
- Training people for specific roles in the project
- Completing a Risk Management Form for the activity so potential risks are dealt with in a safe way.
- Communicating how issues are going to be dealt with
- Identifying the medical personnel
- Planning a budget for the project and applying for funds if necessary
- Praying for the project
- Other relevant issues

Implement the Project

Whatever the project, ensure that it is surrounded with prayer. Pray at the beginning and end with the team. Don't be afraid to have people praying during the program. The leader's role during the program is to:

- Be the leader. Play your part to the best of your abilities.
- Mentor each of the participants. Encourage them in whatever role they have.
- Adapt the program according to the needs of the community, environment and the team
- Encourage everyone.
- Have fun. Make sure the Pathfinders really enjoy themselves. Don't get so caught up with the function of the program that there's no time to relax.
- Keep the program to time. Keep focus on the purpose of the program.

- Get good photographic coverage of the event. Have someone responsible for recording the event and sending in a report to the local news paper and church bulletin.

Conclusion/Pack-Up

Conducting the event is satisfying, however packing and cleaning up afterwards can be a tiresome part of the process. It is just as important though. Observations are:

- Have a team prepared to do the pack up. This may be the whole team. It may be necessary to give people or groups specific responsibilities. Whatever the method, try and avoid leaving it all to a small group, making it a negative experience.
- Check everything before it is stored. Check if tools need cleaning or repairs. If they need repairs organise that as soon as possible. Make it part of the process of packing up.
- Pack everything away as soon as possible. Preferably in its correct place.
- At the same time allow time for staff and participants to say goodbye in an appropriate fashion.
- Complete evaluation forms. Ask the basic questions of
 - ◆ What went really well?
 - ◆ What may be improved?
 - ◆ How did you feel about your role?
 - ◆ Would the club do it again?
- Have a debrief time. This is best undertaken immediately after the program. Share what happened, what went well and what could be improved. Praise the team and end with a special prayer time. Respect everyone's opinion.
- Follow up with the participants if it is appropriate.
- Send out thank you letters to the supporting organisations or individuals.
- Send/hand out participation certificates to the Pathfinders and helpers who were involved in the project
- Find a way to celebrate with the team, either a meal or even an ice cream can do wonders with Pathfinders as a thank you.

Report

It is important to give a report of the program so that everyone knows what has happened and can join in the rejoicing or learning process. Important things to remember are:

- Get together and show the pictures at a reunion or the next club meeting.
- Present a report to the church. Show the pictures and have different Pathfinders share their experiences.
- Write up a short report for the Conference Newsletter complete with a picture.
- Include all community ministry projects in the investiture program with pictures of those involved.

CHAPTER FIVE: Spiritual Gifts and Community Service

Spiritual Gifts and Pathfinder Community Ministry are linked together. The concept of spiritual gifts was introduced to the disciples just before Jesus ascended into heaven on the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to his disciples "When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere"¹⁵

Paul spoke of the ascension as the time when spiritual gifts became available to the church. He said that the purpose of the gifts was to:

- Equip God's people to do his work (sharing the gospel)
- Build up the church
- Develop unity in the church through the gift of Love¹⁶

Pathfinders develop their faith through the influence of home, church and the wider community. As they develop spiritually and grapple with the attitudes of their generation, they may also become aware of the spiritual gifts that God has given them through the Holy Spirit. The Pathfinders club is one place where they can be introduced to these concepts. It is very valuable for the teens in the Pathfinder Club to discover and explore their Spiritual giftedness. Some of the Juniors may be mature enough to have a basic understanding of these concepts too.

Knowing their Spiritual Gift gives Pathfinders a sense of place within the plans of God. The fact that they are special enough to be gifted for a role in His church is a wonderful revelation. Spiritual gifts can help the spiritual development of the Pathfinder. Whether they are baptised or not, an awareness of these gifts and their potential in their own personal life is important. An awareness of their Spiritual gifts can have a powerful effect on the decisions that the young person makes in regard to their life work, life attitudes and relationship to God and the church.

The effectiveness of a Pathfinder Club will be enhanced by the recognition of Spiritual Gifts found within the group. The staff will appreciate each other's strengths and weaknesses. The Pathfinders will have an awareness of the importance of these gifts and their influence while working together, understanding each other and appreciating each person's uniqueness. The awareness of these gifts will be a contributing factor in the choosing of Community Ministry projects.

The scriptures outline a wide variety of gifts. These gifts are beneficial to the smooth running of the church, some are specific to special needs of the church and its mission. Some basic things to remember about Spiritual Gifts are:

- Everybody receives a Spiritual gift.
- Some people receive more than one Spiritual gift.
- God gives the gifts through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes they may complement a talent. Other times they may be something completely different.
- All gifts are equal
- All gifts have different functions
- Some gifts are not so relevant in today's ministry context.

¹⁵ Acts 1.8

¹⁶ Ephesians 4.12,16

Basic Description of Biblical Spiritual Gifts

Much has been written about this topic, so a simple outline of what the biblical Spiritual gifts are will be provided in the table below. Some of the gifts are mentioned in more than one place in the scripture. Some gifts are not as easily identified as other gifts. There are different lists in the New Testament and some other references in the Old Testament. Bible scholars have identified different gifts of the spirit. Some of the gifts are not as common in the present context and so they are not featured. The list below is found in the workbook Connections, Implementing Spiritual Gifts in the Church.¹⁷

Category ¹⁸	Gift	Basic Description ¹⁹	Biblical Reference
Support Gifts	Helps (serving)	Ability to support other people in practical ways	1 Cor 12:28
	Mercy (kindness)	Ability to sympathize with hurting people	Rom 12:8
	Giving	Ability to happily support church or individual needs financially.	Rom 12:8
	Hospitality	Ability to provide fellowship, food and shelter in a kindly caring environment	1 Pet 4:9,10
	Encouragement	Ability to inspire other Christians to live out their faith in practical ways	Rom 12:8
Teaching Gifts	Teaching	Ability to explain knowledge (especially the Bible) in an understandable way to others	1 Cor 12:28 Eph 4:11
	Knowledge	Ability to bring Biblical truth to the church through Biblical insights	1 Cor 12:8
	Wisdom	Ability to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation	1 Cor 12:8
	Pastor (Shepherding)	Ability to look after people in a positive way. To encourage people to grow in their spiritual development.	Eph 4:11
Leadership & Administrative gifts	Faith	The ability to believe that God is acting even when there is no evidence	1 Cor 12:9
	Leadership	Ability to set the goals, care for and have authority over a group	Rom 12:8

¹⁷ Bugbee, Bruce, Cousins, Don. Connections, Implementing Spiritual Gifts in the Church p106 - 127

¹⁸ James Zackrison Practical Spiritual Gifts

¹⁹ Descriptions based on Bugbee and from Young Calvinist Workshop 1981

	Administration	Ability to accept the group's goals and to make them a reality	1 Cor 12:28
	Apostleship	The ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministries.	1 Cor 12:28
Outreach Gifts	Evangelism	The ability and desire to share the gospel story at every opportunity and to move people's hearts to accept Jesus.	Eph 4:11
	Tongues	Ability to communicate the gospel story in an unknown language that is relevant to the listeners.	1 Cor 12:10 1 Cor 12:28
	Discernment	Ability to sense the presence of evil. Can distinguish between good and evil.	1 Cor 12:10
	Creative Communication	Ability to communicate through a variety of art skills (music, drama, art, writing etc) to draw peoples attention to God	Psalms 150:3 - 5
	Crafts	Ability to creatively design or construct items from raw materials to be used for ministry.	Exodus 31:3
Signs & Wonders Gifts	Miracles	Ability to confirm the Christian ministry through unusual events that bring glory to God	1 Cor 12:28
	Healing	Ability to be used of God to heal people through words, prayer or speaking.	1 Cor 12:9 1 Cor 12:28
	Prophecy	Ability to be used of God to reveal truth and share it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification	Eph 4:11

Identifying Your Gifts

Everyone is different. God has created humanity that way. God adds to individual uniqueness by giving us everyone their own Spiritual Gifts. When combined with each individual, they make our role for God and his church something very unique.

There have been many schemes developed over the years. Currently the consensus is to consider a number of factors that contribute to individual uniqueness. These factors are:

- Personal Passion – how you enjoy serving God is a special thing about you. God gives everyone a different passion. The fact that you are involved in Pathfinders may be an indication of your passion. You want to serve this special age group.
- What is your motivation for Service – Servility or Servant-hood? What is the difference?

Servility	Servant-hood
Serves out of obligation	Serves out of obedience
Motivated by what others see	Motivated by what God sees
Serves with the attitude of “its not my job”	Serves with an attitude of “whatever it takes”
Ministry mindset is “Me first”	Ministry mindset is “Father first”
Serves with a spirit of pride	Serves with a spirit of humility
Results are self-seeking	Results are God-glorifying

- Personal Style – the personal style elements that help leaders understand who they are:
 - ◆ How are you energised? Task-Oriented v People-Oriented.
 - ◆ How are you organised? Unstructured v Structured.
 By understanding personal preferences in these opposites leaders get an idea of their ‘style’
- Spiritual Gift Survey – by completing the survey leaders and Pathfinders will discover possible areas that they may be gifted in by God.
- The results from all of these surveys will help leaders and Pathfinders understand their Spiritual gifts. It is important to review the results with their friends to see whether they think the results are correct.
- Pray and reflect – Learning about individual spiritual giftedness needs to be reflected upon and prayed about. It may take a while to gain a thorough understanding of individual spiritual gifts.
- Affirmation – Test the results. If a pathfinder feels that the results are correct, then the experience has confirmed what they suspected. Continue to be involved in the Club and local Church. Use these gifts with the Pathfinders and get excited about the ministry potential. If the survey has revealed something new, then enjoy the excitement of exploring these new possibilities. Both leaders and Pathfinders may discover a new sense of worth that God has given to them. If it feels right then rejoice.

All of these concepts come from the Workbook 'Connections, Implementing Spiritual Gifts in the Church'.²⁰ The Conference/Mission Personal Ministries Director may be able to run a seminar that may be useful to a group in your church. Leaders may want to expose the Pathfinders to the exciting world of learning things about themselves. This would be especially relevant to the Teens in the club.

Conclusion

Community ministry is a very valuable activity within any Pathfinder club. Through meaningful interaction with local communities many important friendships will emerge, that could result in people entering into a faith relationship with Christ. Through community service, the broader unchurched community will realise that Adventists are interested in them personally. This is often the first impression many people will have of the church, as they meet a Pathfinder with a grin on their face and a shovel in their hand. Jesus once said, 'I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Mt 25:40. Through Community Service Pathfinder will in a very real sense become the hands and feet of Jesus.

²⁰ Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins, Bill Hybels & Monte Syhlin. There is a leaders Guide and one especially for the participant.

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