

Pathfinder Parent Handbook



**Nashville First S.D.A.
Church Falcons**

pathfinders@nfsda.org

<https://nfsdafalcons.club>

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Greetings from your Nashville First Seventh-Day Adventist Church (NFSDA) Falcons Pathfinder staff. It is with great pleasure that we accept the awesome responsibility of serving the youth of NFSDA. This year we strive to become the club that God would have us be and we appreciate your support in helping us accomplish this goal.

We would like to invite the parents of our Pathfinders to have greater participation in our club this year. Please feel free to participate in any of our events. We plan to include you in many of our activities such as field trips, campouts, and fundraising activities. That's right, you will receive the opportunity to actually see for yourself, the joy that comes from being a part of the NFSDA Falcon Pathfinder Club. Just imagine, you will get a chance to witness for yourself, the beaming joy on the faces of these little lambs from heaven. So parents, be ready. The "joy" is coming your way soon.

We would like you to know that your cooperation with our program in the past has been greatly appreciated and the staff looks forward to working closely with you in the future. Please keep us in your prayers.



Pathfinder Pledge

By the grace of God,
I will be pure, kind and true
I will keep the Pathfinder Law
I will be a servant of God And
a friend to man.

Pathfinder Law

The AJY law is for me to:

1. Keep the Morning Watch
2. Do my honest part
3. Care for my body
4. Keep a level eye
5. Be courteous and obedient
6. Walk softly in the sanctuary
7. Keep a song in my heart
8. Go on God's errands

Aim

The Adventist Message to All the World in My Generation

Motto

The Love of Christ Compels Me

Pathfinder Song

Oh we are the Pathfinders strong
The servants of God are we
Faithful as we march along
In kindness, truth, and purity
A message to tell to the world
A truth that will set us free
King Jesus the Savior's coming back for you and me

***Nashville First S.D.A. Church Falcons Pathfinder Club
Objectives & Plans of Action***

Pathfinder Club Purpose

The objectives of the Pathfinder Club are:

- To work towards the personal commitment of every Pathfinder to the Lord.
- To provide an attractive Church centered achievement program.
- To interest parents and senior youth in participating in the organized church activities for youth.
- To encourage Pathfinders to discover their own God-given potential in service to others.
- To foster the harmonious development of the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual life of the Pathfinder.
- To give an opportunity for the development of leadership abilities.
- To provide an appreciation of God's love through the study of nature.
- To assist parents in the education and training of their Pathfinder-age children.

Requirements for Pathfinder Club Membership

1. Youth in grades 5 to 10+ are eligible for Pathfinder club membership.
2. Club activities include crafts, field trips, campouts, regular club meetings, and fund-raising campaigns. All Pathfinders must agree before joining the club to participate and cooperate in these activities.
3. Members must be faithful in attendance. The club has established limits on absences and tardiness, and club members who do not comply with these regulations are asked to withdraw from the club.
4. The Pathfinder parents must be willing to cooperate with the regulations and activities of the club, as agreed to on the *Pathfinder Application*. At times the parent will be asked to supply time and money to support their child's membership. It is also important to attend parent meetings sponsored by the club.
5. All club members must learn the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.
6. Non-Adventist youth who conform to the requirements may be admitted to membership.
7. Each member must own and wear on designates a complete Pathfinder uniform.

Application

It is very important that we have on file a current Pathfinder membership application and health record form for each child enrolled in the club. Both old and new club members must fill out a new form.

Dues

Club dues will be \$150.00 per year. If you wish to pay per month it will be \$15 a month for dues. Each additional kid from the one family has a \$25 discount off the overall dues.

Schedules

We always try to keep an updated schedule of all club activities and follow this schedule as close as possible. Please make sure your child checks this schedule, the church bulletin, the Pathfinder calendar on the website, and the Pathfinder bulletin board each week for any changes to this schedule.

Attendance

Club members should have an average attendance of at least 80% of all club activities. All excused absences must be presented in writing from the parent or guardian and submitted to the club director or unit counselor. Any member having two unexcused absences in any one quarter will be placed on a probationary roster for the remainder of that quarter. The attendance of probationary members at special events and field trips is not permitted.

Club Discipline

In a Pathfinder club, good discipline provides an environment that is conducive to cheerful attitudes and cooperative behavior. It emphasizes guidance rather than restraint and is constructive rather than destructive. It is not crippling, it is enabling. It encourages self-control and purposeful activity and discourages punishment.

The best kind of discipline is present but not seen. It teaches the Pathfinder to do the right thing at the right time in the right way. Good discipline prevents trouble. It can be compared to the cultivation of a garden. If discipline is neglected, the garden will be filled with weeds, but the cultivated garden will be filled with flowers.

A busy and happy Pathfinder is not likely to get into trouble. It is our goal as a Pathfinder Staff is to offer each member plenty of opportunities to keep active, guiding stored up energies into worthwhile channels.

This year our focus will be on prevention of discipline problems rather than cure. Here are some of the preventative measures we will be implementing:

1. Plan an extensive program of activities.
2. Never come to the meeting unprepared.
3. Set up democratic standards of conduct, not just rules.
4. Never use sarcasm or ridicule.
5. Be fair and impartial.
6. Maintain self-control and practice patience at all times

Type of punishment that will be used implemented when necessary

1. Withdrawal of points from the honor system
2. Withdrawal of privileges in club meetings
3. Loss of rank or office
4. Exercise
5. Loss campout or field trip privileges for a specified time
6. Dismissal for the club for a specified period.

Discipline procedures

1) If a Pathfinder is not obedient and cooperative:

- The counselor tactfully talks to the Pathfinder.
- The counselor explains what is expected of the Pathfinder as a member of the club.
- The counselor has a private visit and prayer with the Pathfinder.

2) If the Pathfinder continues to be disobedient and uncooperative, the counselor refers to the offending Pathfinder to the Club Director:

- The director will talk privately with the Pathfinder.
- The director will explain how important it is to have unity, cooperation, and understanding from every club member. The director will also convey the seriousness of the matter.
- The director will have prayer with the Pathfinder.
- The director will consult parents, if necessary.
- Disciplinary actions will be taken, if necessary

Uniforms

The uniform makes the organization real and visible. It becomes emblematic and representative of an ideal, a standard. One of the ways to set up a standard and bring the members of an organization up to that standard is through the uniform. It should stimulate loyalty toward that standard by building morale and binding members into closer fellowship. It also appeals to those not already members to join. The uniform becomes a builder of club spirit.

The club will mail in a uniform order periodically, check with staff for order dates. Forms are available so that you may order a uniform separately if you so desire. Each club member must maintain their uniform and keep it clean and well kept. The periodical uniform inspection will be performed.

Uniform items may be purchased from:

Advent Source
5040 Prescott Ave
Lincoln, NE 68506
1-800-328-0525
www.adventsource.org

NASHVILLE FALCONS PATHFINDER UNIFORM DESCRIPTION

Pathfinder Girls \ Young Ladies

Blouse	Tan regulation Pathfinder shirt with appropriate patches.
Pants	Black dress slacks fitted to the waist.
Socks	Black socks or Flesh tone stockings.
Belt	If the skirt has belt loops, the black webbed belt with silver Pathfinder buckle is to be worn.
Shoes	Black, flat heel, a closed-toe shoe with laces. The black patent leather is permissible.
Scarf	Yellow regulation Pathfinder scarf with Pathfinder slide
Sash	Black

Pathfinder Boys \ Young Men

Shirt	Tan regulation Pathfinder shirt with appropriate patches.
Pants	Black dress slacks fitted to the waist.
Belt	Black webbed belt with silver Pathfinder buckle is to be worn.
Socks	Black
Shoes	Black, flat heel, a closed-toe shoe with laces. The black patent leather is permissible.
Scarf	Yellow regulation Pathfinder scarf with Pathfinder slide
Sash	Black

Checklist of Campout Supplies

Check	ITEM
	Bible
	Sabbath School Lesson
	Sleeping bag - rolled or in a stuff sack
	Sleeping pad
	Pillow
	Flashlight that works (extra batteries and bulbs)
	Poncho, rain suit or umbrella
	Casual clothes (jeans, t-shirts, shorts, etc.) for each day
	Club field t-shirt
	Class A Uniform
	Two pairs of shoes (hiking and/or tennis)
	Socks for each day - plus one
	Underwear for each day - plus one
	Warm Jacket and or Sweatshirts
	Dirty clothes bag
	Personal items (deodorant, Chapstick, comb)
	Toilet paper (if restrooms not available)
	Towel, Washcloth, Soap
	Toothbrush and Toothpaste
	Canteen or Water Bottle
	Hat (for either sun or cold weather or both)
	Camera (optional)
	Notepad and Pencil
	Cushion to sit on at meetings (optional)
	Compass (optional)
	Daypack
	Bug repellent
	Sunscreen
	Mess Kit

Pathfinder Meeting Schedule

Pathfinders will meet on the First and Third Sunday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

2020-2021 Falcons Pathfinder Staff

NAME	Titel	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL

Outdoor Activities

Pathfinders offer many opportunities for outdoor activities and camping. Fresh air, exercise and a connection with God through nature helps develop a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Nature and the outdoors - "God's other book" - are an important part of the Pathfinder experience, whether it be through the study of trees or stars, hiking and climbing in a State Park, learning to row or sail, or just appreciating the sounds of owls, crickets and the crackle of a campfire on a cool autumn evening.

Pathfinder Camping Code:

I will camp only where camping is allowed.

I will keep my campsite clean at all times, and I will leave it cleaner than when I found it.

I will never leave my campfire unattended, and when I leave I will be sure that it is entirely out.

I will never use my knife or ax to cut, mark or scar live trees.

I will never pick wildflowers without permission.

I will never cut trails while hiking.

I will never pollute a lake or stream.

I will always respect the privacy of other campers.

I will always be polite and courteous.

I will respect all signs, authority, rules and private property.

I will always conduct myself as a Pathfinder and a Christian.

I will always leave a campsite knowing that I am welcome to return.

Camping Supplies

The Falcons Pathfinder Club schedules several camping trips a year. Some equipment is supplied by the club; other equipment should be supplied by the Pathfinder. Pathfinders working on Ranger, Voyager, and Guide class will also take part in backpack camping, and additional information on proper gear will be distributed early in the Pathfinder year. If you need assistance in finding, selecting or borrowing gear, please contact a staff member.

All Pathfinders should have:

Sleeping Bag

Mess Kit (Plate, bowl, cup, fork and spoon, preferably metal or strong plastic)

Mesh Bag (to hold mess kit for drying)

Flashlight with extra batteries

Travel-size personal hygiene kit (Should include at least toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, washcloth, towel)

Bible, Notebook, and Pencil

Sleeping Mat (optional but recommended)

Compass (optional)

Commitments

Pathfinder Commitment

In order to get the most out of the Pathfinder program and to help ensure the most positive experience possible for all concerned, I agree to:

- Be on time for all activities.
- Consistently attend all activities.
- Participate willingly in all activities.
- Do my share of the work. (Remember that different tasks will be required for different activities.)
- Speak with respect to my fellow club members and to all Pathfinder staff.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Wear the appropriate uniform in an appropriate manner.
- Bring my dues every month. (This will help with the costs of supplies for the many activities throughout the year.)
- Obey all regulations and instructions given by all Pathfinder staff.
- When I have a concern or complaint, discuss it with my counselor or other Pathfinder staff instead of complaining to other Pathfinders.
- Share with my counselor or Pathfinder staff any ideas or suggestions that I may have. I also understand that not all suggestions or ideas will be put to use, however, each one will be sincerely considered and acted on when it is possible and in the best interest of all concerned.

Parent and Guardian Commitment

I have read and understood the Pathfinder Club Membership Application and have signed that application on behalf of the minor named on the application. I understand that while participating in or attending Pathfinder functions the child is subject to the rules, guidelines, policies, instructions, directions, and orders of the Falcons Pathfinder club and its staff. I agree that I will not interfere with the Pathfinder staff in the conduct of its duties while participating in or attending such events with my child; I agree to this because I understand that to do so will undermine the purpose of the Pathfinder organization.

It is my right and duty to inform the senior staff or director of the Pathfinder club immediately should I observe action taken by any Pathfinder or staff that I believe to be inherently dangerous or potentially harmful or inappropriate.

I understand that the participation of my child in the Pathfinder club is “at-will” and the club or I may remove my child from the rolls of the Pathfinder club at any time. I understand that this will not disqualify my child from future participation in Pathfinders although there may be a specified period of time for temporary disqualification should it be deemed appropriate. I understand that if I remove my child from the Pathfinder club or my child is expelled by the club I am not entitled to any reimbursement of funds paid for joining the Pathfinder club.

I agree to assist the club according to those items delineated in the Pathfinder Club membership application and handbook. I further agree that my signature on the application is my contract to pay fees associated with the Pathfinder club and those fees must be paid as agreed unless waived by the Director or Treasurer as a result of my specific request for financial waiver or assistance.

I understand that if I seek a financial waiver or assistance the information I supply to the director will remain the property of the Pathfinder club. The Pathfinder club will use this information only for the purpose of considering my request for financial assistance and will not without my foreknowledge share this information with any other department of the church or outside entity public or private. I understand that in some cases as a result of financial accountability to the church Pastor(s), Treasurer, and/or board may be made aware of this information and that they will not use the information for any purpose other than auditing and will not share the information within the church or make the provided information public.

I understand that the medical information provided to the club during this process will remain confidential. The information will be carried on and to all outings and campouts and will be made available to any Pathfinder or conference medical officer or any medical or emergency professional in the case of an accident or emergency. The information will be shared with doctors and medical facilities as required for the treatment of injury or illness.

Pathfinder And Parent Agreement

Agreement of Pathfinder:

I have read the Nashville First Seventh-Day Adventist Falcons Pathfinder Club handbook and I understand the contents and agree to be guided by the Pathfinder Pledge and Law and the rules of the club. I will make every effort to attend all club activities including meetings, trips, fundraising activities, outreach and service opportunities.

Pathfinder Name (Please Print) _____

Pathfinder Signature _____ Date _____

Agreement by Parents or Guardians:

I/We have read the Nashville First Seventh-Day Adventist Falcons Pathfinder Club handbook, and understand and agree to support the above-named Pathfinder to uphold the standards of the Pathfinder organization and abide by the rules and guidelines of the Falcons Pathfinder Club.

I/We will cooperate with the Falcons Pathfinder Club:

1. By learning how we can assist our child and the Pathfinder leaders
2. By providing timely transportation to and from all Pathfinder activities
3. By encouraging our child to take an active part in all activities
4. By attending events to which parents are invited
5. By ensuring dues/fees are remitted promptly, or making alternative arrangements with the Director or Treasurer.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

[Please return this page by the first Falcons Pathfinder Club meeting]

Pathfinder Contact Info:

Please provide your contact info.

Pathfinders: _____

Mother/Guardian: _____

Father/Guardian: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____-_____

Mother Mobile Phone: (____) ____-_____

Father Mobile Phone: (____) ____-_____

Mother Email Address: _____

Father Email Address: _____

Pathfinders Home Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred contact method: Mobile __ Home __ Email __