



FLORIDA/NAD OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS Section F

- Philosophy and Objectives
- Rationale for Activities
- Risk Management
- Pathfinder Insurance
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- PAC Constitution

Philosophy and Objectives

As found in the NAD Pathfinder Staff Manual

Pathfinder Philosophy

Training and saving young people is one of the most important missions of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Scientists tell us that children's brain patterns are formed by the time they reach twelve years of age. This means that during their early, formative years it is crucial that they be taught good habits. Centuries ago the Scriptures recorded, "Bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6. This is more than a cliché--it is now a proven fact.

The church must accept an increased responsibility in influencing the child for Christ because of the breakdown of social structures. Within the Adventist church the divorce rate is no different from the general public. In one out of every five Adventist homes the spouse is not an Adventist. This means that in those families there is only one parent to provide the encouragement and incentive needed to lead the children to Christ. Even in two-parent homes both parents often work away from home, spending little time with the children. This reduces the effectiveness of the home influence and adds to the responsibilities of the church.

Only about 40% of Adventist children in grades 1-8 are attending church school, and in some conferences the percentage is less. The church is challenged to nurture these children from Adventist homes who are attending public school. Pathfinding has the potential to meet their needs.

Pathfinder Objectives

The Pathfinder club, a church-centered recreational-spiritual program, is designed for both boys and girls, grades 5-12. The program offers action, adventure, challenge and group activities that produce team spirit and loyalty to the church.

One of the Pathfinder Clubs' basic purposes is to fulfill the Elijah message of Malachi in which the "hearts of the parents are turned toward their children and the hearts of the children are turned to their parents." As parents and church members work, worship and play together with the Pathfinders, the so-called generation gap disappears in a bond of common experience. Children learn best by example; the whole Pathfinder philosophy is built on this idea. It is important, then, that spiritually committed, dedicated leaders of high principles be chosen to work with the Pathfinders.

The ideals and objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist church must be made attractive through an activity program which appeals to this restless age and so, much of the Pathfinder club program is physical action.

The Pathfinder club provides a key step in the educational program of the church for it provides the opportunity to take children out of a classroom setting into outdoor adventure.

The Pathfinder Objectives Require that Pathfinder Leaders:

- 1. Help Pathfinders to understand that the church loves, cares for and appreciates them and needs them in its total program.**
- 2. Show Pathfinders what God has planned for their lives.**
- 3. Train Pathfinders for missionary service.**

Teach them that witnessing about God to others is not a once a week activity. It is a daily way of life, and it can be focused through such activities as Harvest programs (can-collecting), Ingathering, singing bands, and community service projects.
- 4. Work for the salvation of each individual Pathfinder.**

Seventy percent of all Adventist children who eventually become members of the church make their decision before the age of 14. "Children of eight, ten, or twelve years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion." (Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 400)
- 5. Develop the Pathfinder's appreciation for nature and a concern for the environment.**

"In order for children and youth to have health, cheerfulness, vivacity, and well-developed muscles and brains, they should be much in the open air, and have well-regulated employment and amusement." (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 83)
- 6. Teach Pathfinders specific skills and hobbies that will make their life meaningful and will occupy their time profitably.**

Pathfinders like to make things out of wood, plastic, steel, clay, felt, yarn and other materials. It brings them great satisfaction to put together an engine that runs or a radio that plays. Pathfinder clubs should encourage this through AY/Pathfinder honor classes.
- 7. Help keep Pathfinders physically fit.**

"An understanding of the philosophy of health is a safeguard against many of the evils that are continually increasing... (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students. p. 138)

"The children need to be instructed in regard to their own bodies...Show them that if they violate the laws of their being they must pay the penalty by suffering disease."

"Recklessness in regard to bodily health tends to recklessness in moral character." (Testimonies Vol. 2, pp. 536, 637)

"Whatever promotes physical health, promotes the development of a strong mind and a well-balanced character. Health should be as faithfully guarded as the character. Knowledge of physiology and hygiene should be the basis of all educational effort." (Education. p. 195)

Pathfinders should be given an opportunity to take the Temperance Pledge Honor, determining never to use drugs, alcohol, tobacco or any other thing that is harmful to their health. They need to learn that to deny appetite increases strength and stamina for the emergencies of life. By so doing they present their bodies as a living sacrifice to the Creator.
- 8. Give opportunities for the development of leadership.**

The Pathfinder club is a democratic organization where members learn to work together and share in leadership responsibility. They learn discipline, obedience, resourcefulness, patriotism and the processes of group dynamics.

The aims of Pathfinding do not include trying to cast every boy and girl into one mold. Rather they encourage each Pathfinder to develop to the best of his/her capacity. The Pathfinder club program should not be planned solely by adults in a staff meeting. Pathfinders should be included in both the planning and the execution of those plans.
- 9. Develop a balanced physical, mental, social and spiritual life.**

Luke 2:52 says: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." "True education is the preparation of the physical, mental, and moral powers for the performance of every duty; it is the training of body, mind, and soul for divine service. This is the education that will endure unto eternal life." (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 330)

Leaders should be concerned that there is harmonious development of each Pathfinder to assure that they become a good citizen of this world and the world to come.

Rationale for Activities

Article I: Leadership Convention

Section A: Rationale for Leadership Convention

The Pathfinder Leadership Convention is held each year in Florida for all Pathfinder staff volunteers, especially directors, deputy directors and counselors. This program is designed to inspire and train.

Section B: Guidelines for Clubs Attending

1. The attendance at Leadership Convention by at least one club representative is required for "Pathfinder Club of the Year".
2. Personnel attending the convention should remember that this is a training course and not a family weekend. Club leaders should bring only those persons who will help in the club program during the year.
3. Pathfinder directors should register their convention members using the on-line reservations site at (<https://floridaconference.com/events>) well in advance of arrival to guarantee a sleeping accommodation.
4. Those attending should be encouraged to wear their Class A uniform on Sabbath morning and/or proper Sabbath attire and casual wear for the balance of the weekend.

Article II: Conference Events

Section A: Conference Camporees

The Conference Camporees are held in various parts of Florida and, when prepared for properly, provide opportunities for the Pathfinder to broaden his/her experience in several ways. The Conference Camporee can draw on a far larger source of talent, skills, and knowledge than normally available to the club.

1. Attendance at a Conference Camporee provides Pathfinders with a broadened concept of the Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder movement.
2. Club leaders and Pathfinders have an opportunity to compare the progress of their own club with that of other clubs.
3. Pathfinders expand their personal friendships when they meet other young people.
4. Pathfinders are given a chance to demonstrate their special skills and achievements.

Section B: Guidelines

1. All clubs, new and old, must attend camporees to qualify for "Pathfinder Club of the Year".
2. Clubs should set up before sundown on Friday.
3. Club leaders must supervise and be responsible for their Pathfinders at all times.
4. All Pathfinders are expected to participate in all events.
5. Pathfinders and club staff should wear uniforms during Sabbath or as specified by the Conference director. No short shorts or questionable attire allowed while at the camporee.
6. The Florida Conference Camporee is for Friends through Master Guides and staff.

Article III. Area Events and Staff Activities

Section A: Area Camporees, Staff Activities, and Special Events are planned by Area Administrator and staff to allow clubs in their areas to join in Christian fellowship for short periods of time. It provides Area Administrator with the opportunity to have all clubs involved in activities unique to their local areas of the state. Area events help clubs minimize the expense of traveling long distances. Area camporees are open to clubs outside their specific geographical area. These outside directors are to contact the Florida Conference of their plans to attend the camporee. Examples: beach programs, bike trips, canoe adventures, nature camp outs, backpack trips.

Section B: Guidelines

1. Area camporees and activities may be limited in size and scale. Area Administrator will specify the limits of the activity in correspondence to directors under their supervision.
2. Area camporees and activities are not financed by the Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Department. Fees may be charged depending upon the extent of the event or activity.
3. Seventh-day Adventist standards of conduct for area events are similar to those at Conference Camporees (See Conference Camporee, Article II). It is the responsibility of each club staff member to see that these standards are kept.

Article IV: Conference Invitational Events

Section A: Conference Invitational Events are special activities planned by the Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Director and Area Administrators to provide a unique adventure for Pathfinders. Examples: trips to historical locations, recreational activities, special study programs in nature.

Section B: Guidelines

1. The Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Director or individual assigned by Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Director for the leadership responsibilities is in complete charge of the program and arrangements for the activity. He/She will dispense information to club directors well in advance of the program.
2. The Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Director will establish special rules pertaining to safety of Pathfinders and staff involved in the event. Pathfinder clubs must send proper adult supervision with Pathfinders. The Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Director or event leader cannot assume disciplinary responsibilities. This is the responsibility of the adults who must accompany participants from the local club.
3. The costs of Invitational Events are paid by staff and Pathfinders and vary depending on the activity.
4. Pathfinders and staff are responsible for transportation, meals, equipment and accommodations, unless otherwise specified.

Article V: Southern Union Camporees

Section A: Rationale for Union Camporees

Eight states and eight conferences join together in a comprehensive four day camporee incorporating the best talent, skills, and knowledge available to the Southern Union Conference. The activity is of national importance with the Southern Union Conference often inviting distinguished General Conference personalities. This is a program your Pathfinders will never forget.

Section B: Guidelines

1. Clubs will need to plan well ahead for this event because of the great distance covered and the cost.
2. Equipment taken to the Union Camporee should be given special consideration.
3. The Union Camporee is for Friends through Master Guides and staff. A fee is charged by the club for each Pathfinder to cover transportation, food and camp costs. A fee is charged by the Southern Union to cover camporee expenses.
4. Club directors and staff are responsible for the safety and welfare of Pathfinders at Union Camporees. Clubs and club vehicles must be insured to go to Union Camporees.

Article VI: Conference Closing Program

Section A: Red Zone

The Closing Program culminates the year's Pathfinder program. The current Pathfinder year is not officially over until after the Closing Program.

RISK MANAGEMENT

I. Pathfinder Leadership in Risk Management

(Applies to ALL PATHFINDER DIVISIONS)

A. Objective

It is the objective of the Pathfinder directors, counselors, instructors and all other staff to lead out in maintaining a consistently safe environment for all club activities and properties.

B. Standards

Standards should be set by the director and staff for each situation and adhered to by all club members.

C. Educating Policy

Creative and innovative techniques should be used to promote interest and a positive response toward consistency in risk management.

II. Risk Management Practices

A. Resources

The Adventist Risk Management is an excellent source for proper procedures in all activities.

B. Risk Inventories

Consideration should be made of all activities where there is an element of definite risk.

C. Church Standards

Activities shall conform to the Christian standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (Refer to Church Manual).

D. Insurance Coverage

All Pathfinders and staff are covered by an excess accident insurance policy that the Conference purchases through Adventist Risk Management for all board approved activities.

1. High Risk Activities—NOT ALLOWED:
 - a. Use of aircraft
 - b. Use of trampoline or any other device to propel the body, such as Reuther board or springboard
 - c. Skateboarding
 - d. Tree climbing
 - e. Fireworks
 - f. Rock-climbing
2. Parental Permission Slip--A parental permission slip shall be obtained from each Pathfinder for each activity.
3. Consent for Medical Treatment
 - a. This form shall be filled out annually and kept on file at each activity site.
 - b. The consent for treatment form shall only be resorted to when every means to contact parent or guardian has been exhausted.

III. Risk Determinants and Safety Procedures

A. Levels of Risk

The level of risk shall be determined by the following factors:

1. Instructor's qualifications and past experiences
2. Type of activity
3. Number of participants in class or activity
4. Location of activity
5. Quality of equipment being used
6. Allotted time for activity
7. Amount of adult assistance

B. Supervision and Staff

1. Staff/Pathfinder Ratio--The following is a guide to use in determining supervision necessary for various activities:

High Risk Activity=1 staff to 4 Pathfinders

Mild Risk Activity=1 staff to 8 Pathfinders

Low Risk Activity=1 staff to 15 Pathfinders

Of course, the closer the ratio between the staff and Pathfinders the better. For example, high risk would be mountain climbing, mild risk would be camping, and low risk would be classroom learning situation.

2. Qualified Supervision
 - a. Each director and counselor or other staff member should have a specific knowledge of their particular area of endeavor.
 - b. The club may bring in teachers from outside the club when their element of expertise is needed, and at the same time, our Christian standards need to be reviewed with these people.
 - c. The club should invite adults from the local church to help meet staff ratio standards.
 - d. Verified Volunteers/Shield the Vulnerable is the mandatory background screening program for all local church volunteers ages 18 and up (Pathfinder Director, counselor, teacher and adult supervisor). All churches are required to participate by having all volunteers working with children up to the age of 18 complete the online training and background screening before they are allowed to work with children.

C. Vehicles

1. Prohibited: 15 passenger vans can NOT be used, borrowed, owned, or leased.
2. Personal vehicles used for transportation of Pathfinders and supplies shall be currently insured with a minimum of \$100,000-\$300,000, liability and Medical/Personal injury protection cannot be less than \$10,000.
3. The number of riders shall not exceed the seating capacity of the vehicles.
4. Open trucks shall not be used for transporting Pathfinders or staff.
5. The use of trailers and moving vans are prohibited for use in transporting Pathfinders or staff.
6. Each vehicle shall have adult supervision.
7. Driver should complete a Driver Questionnaire form and have acceptable driving record. Drivers must be at least 21 years of age. (Register Clubs @ Website: <http://floridaconference.com/driver-questionnaire-checklist-path/>) must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record.

D. Annual Inspections

1. Meeting premises
 - a. An annual inspection should be conducted by the Pathfinder director for the physical conditions of the Pathfinder meeting premises.
 - b. Reports of these inspections shall be presented to the church board with corrective action noted.
 - c. If corrective action is not assumed to insure a safe area, the club director shall notify the Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Department.
2. Owned Properties--An equipment inventory should be maintained of all equipment, materials, substances, vehicles, boats, and chairs.
3. Documentation on File--Documentation of #1 (Meeting premises) and #2 (Owned properties) should be maintained on file at the local club with copies submitted to the church board and made part of the board minutes.

E. Equipment Use

1. Pathfinder equipment may be loaned out with care. It should be understood that the borrower will be responsible for any damage.
2. All Pathfinder equipment should be inspected before and after each use by all parties involved.
3. It is suggested that a written policy governing use of Pathfinder equipment be written and then be approved by the church board so that it becomes an official church policy (sample follows).

F. Pathfinder Activities

1. Camp sites and other activity areas should be thoroughly inspected with the following in mind and appropriate action taken:
 - a. Fire danger
 - b. Flash floods
 - c. Land slides
 - d. Dead falls (limbs, etc.)
 - e. Rocks
 - f. Sanitation
 - g. Night-time security
 - h. Temperature conditions
2. Fire Building
 - a. Designated areas for fire building shall be marked.
 - b. Fire shall be built at least 12 feet away from tents and/or combustible materials.
 - c. Fires shall serve a specific purpose.
 - d. Fires should be built only under the close supervision of qualified staff.
 - e. Wood chopping shall be performed only by staff or Pathfinders under close supervision of qualified staff.
 - f. Power saws shall be operated only by staff over 16 years of age.
 - g. A bucket of water, a shovel, and a #5 ABC fire extinguisher shall be maintained at each campsite.

3. Swimming
 - a. Swimming areas shall be thoroughly inspected for broken glass, swift currents and underwater snags.
 - b. The swimming areas may be designated by the use of plastic floats and heavy twine or other clarified markers.
 - c. At least one staff member with a current lifesaving certification should serve a primary task of lifeguard for approximately every eight people that are swimming, depending on the water's turbidity.
4. Sanitation
 - a. Proper food storage procedures shall be adhered to strictly.
 - b. The source of fresh water shall be checked thoroughly.
 - c. Food handling and preparation shall be carried out with close supervision.
5. Meals
 - a. The standard of serving vegetarian meals shall be adhered to without exception on all club activities.
 - b. The consuming of caffeine drinks should not be allowed during club functions.
6. Gas Stoves
 - a. Operation shall be carried out only by staff or supervised Pathfinders.
 - b. Stove fuel shall be stored away from heat and flames
 - c. When used, combustible items should not be stored in tents.
7. Night Watch
 - a. A rotation night watch shall be carried out by only staff, or older Pathfinders with staff.
 - b. The night watch shall operate with the following in mind: fire, intruders, animals, checking food storage, inclement weather.

G. First Aid

1. An adequate First Aid Kit shall be available at all times.
2. Each club should have at least one adult with a current First Aid and CPR for every 20 members.
3. An annual course should be presented to the club staff on First Aid/CPR training.

H. Fidelity Control

1. A proper accounting shall be made of the collection of Pathfinder dues and other money.
2. Verification of money count may be made by another counselor with a procedure of rotating this assignment.
3. Proper deposits should be made as soon as possible.
4. It is recommended that the club treasurer be discouraged from taking funds to his home unless there's no other reasonable alternative.

I. Risk Management Audit and Education

1. Each year the club is to review with the counselors and membership the vital importance of risk management.

2. Each quarter one hour of club meeting time should be used to review the importance of risk management. This could include:
 - a. Guest speaker
 - b. Safety film
 - c. Staff member presenting a safety talk
 - d. Fire drills
3. Methods of education of risk management may include:
 - a. Letters to parents
 - b. Announcements in church bulletins
 - c. Announcements on bulletin boards
 - d. Special meetings
4. Risk Management practices should be encompassed in the rules of the club and adhered to by all participating in Pathfinder-sponsored activities.

IV. Losses

A. Emergency Procedures

Each Pathfinder Club should have in place emergency procedures for the following that have been discussed and practiced with all staff:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Sudden illness</i> | 6. <i>Bomb threat</i> |
| 2. <i>Injuries</i> | 7. <i>Civil unrest</i> |
| 3. <i>Fire</i> | 8. <i>Inclement weather</i> |
| 4. <i>Flood</i> | 9. <i>Active Shooter</i> |
| 5. <i>Robbery</i> | 10. <i>Missing member</i>
<i>(on campout or field trip)</i> |

B. Loss Procedure

When losses do occur, be courteous and show concern, but at no time make a statement or an admission of responsibility or liability.

C. Reporting Losses

Any incident with a potential for present or future personal injury, property damage or liability loss shall be reported within 24 hours to the Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Department and Risk Management Department or the first business day following the weekend.

D. Loss Review

The Pathfinder director, working in conjunction with the Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer Department, shall review periodically all losses in order to determine the corrective actions which should be taken in order to insure that these losses do not occur again.

PATHFINDER INSURANCE

(Applies to all Pathfinder Clubs Divisions)

Forms are on the website <https://adventistrisk.org/>

The Club Safety Officer: It is recommended that each Pathfinder Club have an appointed Safety Officer for the duration of the club year. The Safety Officer should be the person to oversee that all the insurance and safety issues are dealt with properly. They would also make sure each Pathfinder has current medical forms on file; permission forms for off premises activities, and updated parental contact information. Some of the areas they would oversee would be as follows:

DISASTER / EMERGENCY PLAN

Each Club should have a written disaster plan in place that deals with handling and responding to emergency situations that could occur during club meetings and events. This would include everything from training of staff in First Aid/CPR, to a hostage situation or lockdown. Each staff should know what their particular responsibility is during various scenarios, and the whole club should practice drills of various situations so everyone knows their part and they are prepared.

GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Pathfinder Clubs are covered under the Florida Conference's General Liability Insurance Policy when registered with the Florida Pathfinder/Adventurer Department. This coverage provides \$1,000,000 of coverage for bodily injury, property damage, or personal injury to a third party for which our entities may be held legally liable.

Often when leasing or renting a non-denominational facility the contract requires that we provide them with a "Certificate of General Liability Insurance" which proves that we have insurance. There is no charge for the certificate; however, you must request the certificate from the Conference's Risk Management Department at least two weeks ahead of time to allow time for processing your request.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

Each Club has coverage for excess medical expenses that might occur to a Pathfinder while participating in an authorized and Board Approved Pathfinder Club event within the United States. This event can be either at the church or away from the premises. This coverage provides up to \$10,000 per occurrence on an excess basis. A claim form should be completed as soon as possible after the injury takes place, and filed with the Conference's Risk Management Department.

MISSION TRIPS

If your club is going to participate in any Mission Trips, please contact the Conference's Risk Management Department for information on insurance that is available and is required.

PATHFINDER INSURANCE, Cont'd

(Applies to all Pathfinder Clubs Divisions)

TRANSPORTATION | INSURANCE

Denominationally owned vehicles must be insured through the Florida Conference's blanket policy written through Adventist Risk Management. This provides the mandatory liability limit of \$1,000,000 along with several optional coverage's available. Fifteen passenger vans are prohibited from use.

The driver of any vehicle transporting Pathfinders to or from a Pathfinder activity must be at least 21 years of age, with an acceptable driving record of not more than two traffic citations and no at-fault accidents while driving any vehicle. All drivers must be approved by the Director in advance of the activity.

Drivers using their own vehicles to transport Pathfinders must show proof of insurance on their vehicle with a minimum of \$100,000/ \$300,000 liability limit. All drivers must complete a Volunteer Driver Questionnaire. Medical/Personal Injury Protection cannot be less than \$10,000. Should an accident occur when a volunteer is driving their own vehicle, their insurance is responsible. Those filling out The Volunteer Driver forms <https://floridaconference.com/pathfinders/forms> should give a copy to be kept on file by the Director of each club.

If renting a vehicle to transport Pathfinders, insurance can be purchased for the rental period. Arrangements must be made in advance through the Conference's Risk Management Department at the Florida Conference (407) 644-5000. All rented vehicles must have a minimum of \$1,000,000 of liability on them. Fifteen passenger vans are prohibited.

The Pre-Trip Inspection form should be used before each trip to ensure the vehicles are in safe operating condition.

FIELD TRIP AND OUTING PLANNER

Many injuries and losses during field trips or outings result from failures in planning for the activity. This Planner provides a tool for helping to determine some of the equipment, supervisory, transportation and other elements that might be needed for an upcoming church or school field trip or outing. As a mind jogger it can help activity leaders establish safety elements not included on this list. School administrators and church boards can also use the Planner for approval (or disapproval) of the proposed field trip or outing.

Onsite / Offsite Activities Guidelines

Most activities will take place onsite and can also be applied Offsite (Camping).
The facility where the meetings are held should have:

- Adequate lighting inside and outside the premises.
- Windows in doors of any rooms that are being used for activities. All windows should be uncovered while activities occurring.
- Adults should be assigned to monitor the facilities checking on activities in each location. These safeguards will protect both against abuse and false allegations. Staff Actions and Behavior Staff members should be trained in what is appropriate for interaction with Pathfinders.
- Suggestive language and teasing should be avoided, between any two Pathfinders.
- Never tutor or instruct a Pathfinder privately on an individual basis. Either involve other Pathfinders or have another staff member present.
- Be aware of emotional attachments that can occur. Discourage these. If it becomes a serious matter, the director should reassign the staff member to work with another group.
- Promote Pathfinders to grow emotionally. Don't encourage them to be dependent on any one staff member.
- Avoid any type of touching or play that could be misinterpreted or used as grounds for accusations. This is extremely important in activities such as playing in swimming pools and other contact sports.
- If a Pathfinder needs first aid or medical care, always have at least two adults present when treatment is being performed.
- Always have at least two adults in a vehicle when attending off-site events.
- At off-site events, adults should never be alone with a single Pathfinder.
- If the club is attending an off-site or overnight activity, the church board should approve these trips in advance. Remember, adults and Pathfinders must never share a tent or a bed. All overnight activities must have the appropriate number of male and female staff members.
- Adult staff should never discuss personal problems or concerns with Pathfinders.
- Staff should be trained in the appropriate manner to comfort and reassure a Pathfinder. There are times when this is both necessary and appropriate. It should be limited to those situations.
- Physical and verbal abuse is never appropriate, between a staff and a Pathfinder.
- Don't assume that once Pathfinder staff attends training there is no need to repeat it. There should be ongoing training and development in child protection, health and safety, team building, conflict resolution, and skills in working with Pathfinder Ministries.

The Pathfinder Camping Code

1. I will camp only where camping is allowed.
2. I will keep my campsite clean at all times, and I will leave it cleaner than when I found it.
3. I will never leave my campfire unattended, and when I leave I will be sure that it is entirely out.
4. I will never use my knife or ax to cut, mar or scar live trees.
5. I will never pick wild flowers without permission.
6. I will never cut trails while hiking.
7. I will never pollute a lake or stream.
8. I will always respect the privacy of other campers.
9. I will always be polite and courteous.
10. I will respect all signs, authority, rules and private property.
11. I will always conduct myself as a Pathfinder and a Christian.
12. I will always leave a campsite knowing that I am welcome to return.

Florida Conference of SDA
PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER DEPARTMENT

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Private/leased aircraft
- Tackle football
- Bungee jumping
- Motorcycles, all terrain or motorized vehicles
- Rock climbing, repelling, climbing walls, ropes courses
- Parasailing
- Roller skating, rollerblading, skate boarding
- Hay rides
- Trampoline, teeter boards, springboards, mini-tramp, weatherboard, or any other rebounding device unless specific coverage has been purchased in advance
- All terrain or motorized vehicles, Motorcycles & dirt bikes
- Fireworks
- Firearms
- Snow skiing
- Use of 15 passenger vans

If you have any questions regarding these activities, please contact your local Club Director or Florida Conference Risk Management Department.

Risk Management Department
Rhonda Harper, Director
407-644-5000



Adventist Risk
Management® Inc.

15-PASSENGER VANS DANGEROUS AND DEADLY

*Fifteen-passenger vans should not be used
to transport our members or children.*
Do not use 15-passenger vans any longer.

Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership actively prohibits the use of 15-passenger vans across the North American Division (NAD). Unfortunately, many Adventist churches and schools continue to use, buy, or rent these dangerous vehicles.

WHY ARE 15-PASSENGER VANS DANGEROUS?

Fifteen-passenger vans were originally designed for transporting cargo, not passengers. The design of these vehicles places more weight towards the front of the vehicle, making 15-passenger vans unbalanced and extremely likely to rollover when loaded.

Other 15-passenger van risks that make rollover accidents more likely are:

- A high center of gravity, increased with passenger seating
- Instability in crosswinds
- Seating configurations that place excessive weight on one side
- Under-inflated tires, resulting in tire failure or blowouts that cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

FATALITY FACTS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that:

- An average of **65 Americans die each year in crashes while riding in 15-passenger vans.**
- Nearly **60 percent of fatalities in these crashes were in vehicles that rolled over.**
- About **50 percent of the fatalities** occurred in vans **loaded to capacity (10+ occupants)** that rolled over.
- About **59 percent of the fatally injured** van occupants in rollovers were **not restrained.**

The Adventist Church has had several accidents in which people, including children, have lost their lives in 15-passenger



vans. These losses of life are tragic and would have been prevented if a 15-passenger van was not used.

WHAT TO DO WITH VANS YOUR MINISTRY ALREADY OWNS

Sell them and replace them with structurally safer and more stable alternatives such as 15-passenger buses with dual rear wheels and buses. Our members, visitors and volunteers deserve our best efforts of care. We must not compromise.

The short-term financial savings can be tempting when looking to purchase or rent one of these dangerous vans, but more important than any cost saving is preventing the loss of life. We must not be the church that is known to compromise the safety of its members and visitors. We can and must do so much better.

Take action today: Remove any 15-passenger vans from your fleet and discontinue use of all 15-passenger vans.

***"We must remove these dangerous vans from our use.** Not only is the financial burden too great to ignore, but also we cannot afford to distract one soul from being reached for the kingdom. **We cannot lose another life.** Friends, it is time to **fully remove 15 passenger vans from use** by Seventh-day Adventist organizations."* —Dan Jackson, North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church president



15-PASSENGER VAN MYTHS BUSTED

MYTH: If I take out a row of seats from the 15-passenger van, it is then an approved form of transportation.

FACT: Removing a row of seats does not make it an approved form of transportation. The vehicle is still the same type of van with the same inherent flaws.

MYTH: If I use a van that is privately owned, my church won't be held liable.

FACT: Using a privately owned 15-passenger van or even renting a 15-passenger van for a church activity does not remove the liability from the church.

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PAC Constitution (Excerpt)

Article II: Statement of History and Purpose

Section A: Authority - The existence of the Florida Pathfinder/Adventurer Advisory Committee is the direct result of the Florida Pathfinder council system that was approved by the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive committee as recorded in Florida Conference Executive Committee minutes 73-122. In 1973 it was then voted to sponsor and support a Pathfinder council made up of Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder leaders with many years' experience working with Pathfinder youth.. The Florida Pathfinder Council, in legal session, voted in June of 1994 to proceed with the concept of the Administrative Committee. This was done for many reasons; chief among them was to better manage the rapidly growing Florida Pathfinder program. In December of 2000, the Executive Committee of the Florida Conference voted the Pathfinder Advisory Committee as a subcommittee of the Executive Committee with members serving a three year term and elected by the first Executive Committee following the triennial constituency meeting.

Section B: History - The first meeting of the Florida Pathfinder Executive Council was called by Elder Norm Middag, Florida Conference M.V. Leader. It was held at Camp Kulaqua during the month of July in the year 1973. At that time the 12 new members drew lots for one, two and three year terms of service, thus beginning the process of membership. The council also chose a chairman and secretary. In later legislation they added a vice-chairman to take the position of the chairman when the latter's duty was complete. The chairman's role was limited to one year. That first July, the Council then drafted a Constitution to be later presented to the Florida Conference of SDA for their executive approval. In July 1976, the Council approved and voted the Florida Pathfinder Handbook as a guide for directors and Pathfinder leaders.

1. In 1980, a Pathfinder Area Coordinator system was added to the Florida Pathfinder program. Five volunteer area coordinators were appointed to serve as field workers for the Pathfinder clubs. Their duties were to help form new clubs, coordinate activities of existing clubs and provide assistance to local pastors and leaders. Coordinators visit the clubs in their areas enough to become familiar with local club programs.
2. In recent years the value of a Pathfinder Council to the Pathfinder work has been proven many times over. Other than its value as an advisory body to the Florida Pathfinder Director, council members have formed clubs throughout this state. This spirit of unity has spread over the borders of the Florida Conference into other conferences. It has helped provide the continuing leadership for our expanded mission program.
3. In 1990, the Florida Pathfinder Council voted to authorize the existence of an Administrative Committee which was to consist of area and program coordinators, council chairperson, associate lay director, finance chairperson and the Conference director who would also chair the committee. This committee only had the power to refer items to the council, not to vote in policies.

Article II: Statement of History and Purpose (continued)

4. In 1994 the Florida Pathfinder Council voted, in session that because of the tremendous growth and accelerated integrating of various ethnic and cultural groups, to implement the Pathfinder Administrative Committee as the governing body of the Pathfinder Club program in the Florida Conference. The Council felt it was also necessary to put more emphasis on the area councils and less emphasis on top level management. Through the years the Florida Council has served gallantly the Florida Pathfinder Club programs. The Council felt there should be at least four area councils to implement this program. The Conference Pathfinder director is to attend at least one area council meeting in each area per year and more if feasible.
5. In December of 2000, the Florida Conference Executive Committee, in order to give the Pathfinder Advisory Committee credence, voted to reorganize PAC and elect the members at the first Exec Committee following the Quadrennial session. Members would be elected on position, function and area responsibilities. The Executive Committee also appointed the Executive Secretary of the Florida Conference as the Chairperson for the committee. PAC will operate as a subcommittee of the Florida Conference Executive Committee and follow the guidelines of the Florida Conference bylaws and constitution. PAC will also abide by Robert's Rules of Law.
6. In 2006, at the request of the Florida Conference Administration, the Pathfinder and Adventurer Department merged with the Youth/YA Department to create a single Youth Ministries Department under one director with two Associates. A new volunteer structure was also created to better care for local church club directors/youth leaders. The volunteers were State Administrators, Area Administrators, Zone Administrators, and Cluster Coordinators.
7. In December 2016, at the request of the Conference Executive Committee, the Pathfinder/Adventurer Ministries were separated once again and became an independent department with a director/associate. The volunteer structure stayed the same. The PAD divided the state into four areas: North, Central, West, and South.