

The **SLIGO** CHALLENGE

Registration Edition

Sligo Challenger Pathfinder Club

2023-2024

Welcome to the Sligo Challenger Pathfinder Club.

The “Pathfinder” organization is a worldwide institution sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There are over 40,000 clubs in 120 countries, with a membership exceeding 1,000,000 Pathfinders, TLT’s and Staff

As a Pathfinder in the 5th grade or 10 years old through the 10th grade or 15 years old have the opportunity to learn Christian values, develop self-discipline, make friends, acquire hobbies, skills, learn teamwork, and come to love all of God’s creations including mankind.

Sligo Challengers accomplish this through meetings, camping trips, honor acquisition in crafts, hobbies, community service and progressive classwork. Classwork being a planned curriculum of learning in six levels: Friend, Companion, Explorer, Ranger, Voyager, and Guide. Honors are available in over 200 areas of study including Nature, Recreation, Vocational, Outreach Ministries, Outdoor Industries, Household Arts, Arts and Crafts and Antique specialities.

The aim of the Pathfinder experience is quantified by it’s Pledge and Law below. It is our hope that through the activities and study of our Lord will prepare your child as an outstanding Christian leader for Today as the future of our young people IS NOW!

Contact Information

Director

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The 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.

The Pathfinder Law:

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

Mail Order Companies

If you are interested in purchasing quality clothing and equipment for a reasonable price contact one of these companies.

Campmor

Box 997-H
Paramus, NJ 07653-0997
1-800-226-7667 www.campmor.com

R.E.I.

P.O. Box 88125
Seattle, WA 98188-0125
1-800-426-4840 www.rei.com

Cabella's

One Cabella Drive
Sydney Nebraska 69160
1-800-558-9410 www.cabelas.com

L.L. Bean

Freeport, ME 04033
1-800-221-4221 www.llbean.com

Local Camping Stores

R.E.I.

6100 Dobbin Rd	201 M St NE
Columbia, MD 21045	Washington DC
410-872-1742	202-543-2040

L.L. Bean

8095 Tyson's Corner Center
McLean, VA 22102
1800-552-9876 www.llbean.com

Bass Pro Shop

7000 Arundel Mills Cricle
Hanover, MD 21076
410-689-2500 www.basspro.com

Other stores like Dick's, Target, Wal-Mart & Amazon also have a selection of camping gear that maybe suitable.

Check with a club staff member for recommendations.

For The Parents

The Pathfinder experience involves a large commitment on the part of all those involved. The Pathfinder staff will dedicate numerous hours to ensure an effective and productive Pathfinder program. It is our belief that being a Pathfinder is an integral part of the Christian experience for your child and to facilitate that we ask your cooperation in the following as part of the *Sligo Challenger* Pathfinder Club:

- ① Pathfinder Meetings begin promptly at **9:30 a.m.** Please make necessary arrangements to have your child at the Pathfinder meeting no later than 9:25 Pathfinder meetings end at **12:30 p.m.** Please make necessary arrangements to pick up your child no later than 12:35 p.m. Only authorized adults noted on application form may pick up your Pathfinder.
- ② Being involved with a Pathfinder club is a team effort and the parents are one of the most important members of the team. On a regular basis, check the progress your child is making on his/her class work, or even better, become part of that learning process by working closely with their counselor.
- ③ **All parents are encouraged** to commit to at least 10 hours of participation per semester. The following are just some of the areas of need: Fund-raising, Camporee Preparation, Field Trip Chaperone, Honor Instruction and Transportation. Please contact the Director for more details.
- ④ Your Pathfinder should participate in all planned activities. Many of these events are directly related to the completion of their classwork and are required for Investiture such as Boonsboro and Pool Activity (Basic Water Safety Testing). Your child **is required to attend 85%** of the meetings (Including Virtual) to be considered for Investiture and Activity attendance such as camping trips. If your Pathfinder cannot attend an activity a written excuse and contact with the Director by the parents is required either by phone or email. The absence may be excused but it is the Pathfinder's responsibility to make up any work missed with the assistance of the parent but still could result in the Pathfinder not being Invested.

All Investiture Achievement and Honor documentation must be received **no later than one month (at least 2 meetings)** prior to Investiture.
- ⑤ Parents are welcome to attend Pathfinder activities but are required to obtain approval from the Director prior to the event and are required to pay for meals and fees. Parents **are also expected** at the following events, **Pathfinder: Induction, Sabbath, and Investiture.**
- ⑥ Check all camping gear and assist in packing proper items for camping trips. Our staff will be glad to help you determine what is essential for a specific trip. See *Camping Gear Checklist* and call the counselor for specifics.
- ⑦ The correct Uniform is required at all Pathfinder Activities. The uniform signifies who we are, what we stand for, and is a great witness. Please observe the schedule and ensure your Pathfinder is in the correct uniform for the event. We would hate to send someone home to get the correct uniform.
- ⑧ Our menu for all activities will be **vegetarian**. Where possible a vegan option may be offered, however parents are required to provide for all other special dietary needs beyond the basic vegetarian selection.
- ⑨ Communication is key to successful Pathfinder programs. Feel free to contact any of the staff to answer your questions starting with the counselor, then deputy director, director or Administrative Staff if related to registration/fees.

For the Pathfinder

Welcome to the *Sligo Challenger* Pathfinder Club. Being a Pathfinder is a different way to learn new things, have fun and discover Jesus' love for all of us. Your parents and the staff have made great commitments to provide this program for you. To participate as a Pathfinder you must also make a commitment in the following ways:

- ① Your desire to be in Pathfinders should be genuine. Honest effort must be put into your class work and other Pathfinder activities. If true commitment is not evident in your class work and other activities you will be asked to drop your membership.
- ② Attendance and participation is required for all club activities. If your attendance record falls below 85% (Including Virtual Meetings) you will not be eligible for class advancement, field and camping trips. Attendance is required the meeting prior to the camporee to be eligible to go. If you cannot attend, a written excuse is required and contact with the Director by the parents is necessary. You will be responsible for making up any work during your absence.
- ③ The Pathfinder Uniform signifies who you are and what we stand for, the correct uniform for the right event is essential for all club activities. It is your responsibility to know what to wear for all activities and make sure your uniform is ready to wear, neat, clean, pressed, with all necessary patches, and in good condition. It would be a shame to send you home because you are in the wrong uniform. Uniforms are listed on the calendar for each event.
- ④ Pathfinders must balance time very carefully. With school work, extra curricular activities and Pathfinder Class work it is your responsibility to juggle all these successfully. Your counselor can help you if you ask. Sometimes school assignments can be used for Pathfinder class work and vice versa. Your counselor might also be able to help you with a time schedule that if used will help you complete all your required work.
- ⑤ Being a Pathfinder is for you. Pathfinders is about your growth with Jesus Christ and his love for each one of us.. Pathfinders is about having fun. So... it is your responsibility to always have fun and if you are not the staff would like to know how to make things more interesting and fun for you. Please tell us. If possible we will make changes to increase your satisfaction with our club.
- ⑥ Above all Live by the Pathfinder Pledge, Law, and uphold all club rules. By following these standards your reward will be great, not only on earth but in heaven.

Camping Gear Checklist

Clothing:

- Pants (2 pair) jeans
- Sweat pants (nothing tight)
- Shirts (2) & Turtle Neck
- Light Sweater (wool is good)
- Jacket/Coat/Windbreaker & Rain Gear
- Hat (Must have one, pull over if cold)
- Socks (6 pair) & 1 pair Black Socks
- Underwear (6 pair)
- Dress Shoes/Sneakers or Boots
- Shower Shoes/Flip Flops/Clogs
- Gloves/Mittens for cool weather
- Dress & Field Uniform with Belt

Layering is essential for warmth, functionality, and dryness. Synthetic fabrics close to skin, a wool middle layer, windbreaker on the outside, with a hat will keep you dry and very warm.

Sleeping Gear:

- Sleeping bag (0 degree bag recommended)
- Pillow (can stuff pillow case with cloths)
- Ground pad/Thermarest
- Thermal or Light Blanket

General:

- Water Bottle (reusable)
- Toothbrush & paste
- Soap/Shampoo/Washcloth/Towel
- Comb or Brush
- Watch/Sunglasses/Pocket Knife
- Headlight preferred** or Small Flashlight
- Toilet Paper (1/4 of roll) or Tissue
- Sun screen/Insect Repellant, Chap Stick
- Bible/Lesson Study (smart device is OK)

All items **must** fit in 2 soft sided round zippered weather resistant duffle bags no bigger than 16x16x32in. Approximately 100L (**No Wheels**) and identified with Pathfinder's name clearly visible. (Use luggage tag or webbing tied to the handle, **NO Duct Tape!**) All liquid items **must** be in plastic bottles and then placed in a zip top plastic liquid tight plastic bag. The **Pathfinder club is not responsible for lost or damaged items.**

Do Not Bring:

- X** Candy/Soda/Junk food
- X** Skates/Skateboards/Sports Equipment
- X** Matches/Lighters
- X** Any Knife larger than 2 inches
- X** Electronics, Ipads, Cell/Smart phones are only allowed on the way to and from events..

Pathfinder Dues are for:

- ☞ Training
- ☞ Insurance
- ☞ Honors & Patches
- ☞ Investiture Achievement
- ☞ Club Resource Materials
- ☞ Activities
- ☞ T-Shirt
- ☞ Supplies
- ☞ Equipment
- ☞ Communications
- ☞ Needy Pathfinder Fund
- ☞ Transportation
- ☞ Club Camping trip Fall/Spring
- ☞ Potomac Conference Camporee
- ☞ Potomac Conference Fair

Not Included but not limited to:

- ✗ Unit Based Trips or Activities
- ✗ TLT Training or Field Trips

Help the Club Director

Our club has a very active program which requires involvement of many people for success.

Activities require a tremendous amount of time to prepare for and staff. I need your help to continue the success of the program.

Some of the tasks may include: food shopping, cleaning organizing, loading & unloading club equipment. Supervising activities such as cooking, driving on trips and teaching honors.

If you can help please contact me and expect to receive a call.

Darrell Milam

Financial Information

Dues and Payment Schedule

Club dues are for the overall Pathfinder Program (See left side bar for details) Dues of \$260 are for the entire Pathfinder Year and is due by the last meeting in September. If it is desired to split payment we will accept 2 separate payments of \$140 the first in September and the second no later than last meeting in November.

Note: Dues are **Non-Refundable** and may change year to year depending on the included activities provided or attended and inflation of goods and costs for activities.

Dues Payment in Full :	\$260
Dues Split payment:	\$280

It is the desire of this club to keep cost for the parents at the bare minimum for all activities. Additional cost for the activities outside of club dues can range from \$10 for an afternoon outing/activity or field trip from \$40 - \$60 for unit based weekend camping trip.

Payment of additional activity fees not included in the dues will be required before the activity/trip to allow the Pathfinder to participate.

Multi-Child Discount

We will provide a discount for families with multiple Pathfinders in the club. A \$5 discount per Pathfinder up to 3 for full and split payments. This discount cannot be used with any other discount.

Uniform Expense

Parents are responsible for purchasing the Pathfinder uniform. Pathfinders must have the tan shirt, black pants, sash, scarf & slide. These items can be purchased from Advent *Source* directly with exception to the pants. Pants can be purchased locally. Each Pathfinder also needs black polishable dress shoes with soft rubber soles and black socks. You will also need to purchase the World Patch and Pathfinder Triangle from Advent Source. The other required Patches we will provide.

Financial Aid

Families that cannot afford the cost of an active program, and yet have a desire to have their children participate may be eligible for financial aid. Applications are available from the director and require extensive financial information of a very personal nature. Not all applications will be approved. Applicant families are still responsible for at least 1/2 of the dues and any optional trips, activities or expenses. Parents are responsible for the entire uniform expense. Families that receive financial aid must attend all fund raising events.

Past Due Accounts

Past due accounts **will not** allow Pathfinders to attend any activity or trip until all accounts have been brought up to date.

Fund Raising

Many club's entire budget is dependent on fund-raising, however programming suffers do to time spent on fund-raising. The Sligo Challenger Pathfinder Club is about being a Pathfinder not fund-raising so our club is sustained by subsidies from the church, private donations and the dues. Fund-raising, if done, will reduce many extra costs. **Parent participation is welcome and desired.**