

The

SLIGO

CHALLENGE

Registration Edition

Sligo Challenger Pathfinder Club

2026-2027

Welcome to the Sligo Challengers Pathfinder Club!

The “Pathfinder” organization is a worldwide institution sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We’re part of a global family with over 40,000 clubs in 120 countries, bringing together more than 2 million Pathfinders, TLT’s and Staff.

Children between 10 and 15 years old in the 5th through 10th grade have the opportunity to be a Pathfinder and learn Christian values, develop self-discipline, acquire hobbies, skills, and teamwork.

Pathfinders are on an exciting journey to learn about God through fun-filled meetings and camping trips, making lifelong friends, developing Christian values, engaging in community service and discovering God’s amazing creations.

Sligo Challengers accomplish this through meetings, camping trips, honor acquisition in crafts, hobbies, 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, and Arts and Crafts.

Parents, you'll be amazed at how your children grow in confidence, skills, and faith. Pathfinders, get ready for an adventure that will shape your life in wonderful ways! The aim of the Pathfinder experience is embodied in its Pledge and Law, which are outlined below. Our hope is that through activities and the study of Jesus Christ, your child will be prepared to become an outstanding Christian leader for today!

We can't wait to start this journey with you. Welcome to the Sligo Challenger family!

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
8. Go on God’s errands

Contact Information

Director

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Pathfinder Dues are for:

- Insurance & Transportation
- Honors & Patches
- Investiture Achievement Award
- Resource Materials & Supplies
- Activities
- Conference & Club Shirts
- Equipment
- 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 Trips

Help the Director

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

Activities require a significant amount of time to prepare for staff. We need your help to maintain the program's success. Tasks may include food shopping, organizing equipment, loading and unloading club and Pathfinder gear.

We also might need supervision of activities such as cooking, driving, and teaching honors. If you can help, please contact me, you can expect to receive a call.

Director

Financial Information

Dues and Payment Schedule

Club dues are for the overall Pathfinder Program (See left sidebar for details). Dues of \$270 are for the entire Pathfinder Year and are due by the last meeting in September. If you would like to split your payment, we will accept 2 separate payments of \$145, one by the first meeting 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.

Dues Payment in Full:	\$270
Dues Split payment:	\$290

This club strives to keep cost for the parents low for all activities. Additional cost for the activities outside of club dues can range from \$10 - \$60 for an outing or field trip or activity. Payments of additional activity fees not included in the dues will be required before the activity or trip.

Multi-Child Discount

We 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. Each Pathfinder must have a tan shirt, black pants, sash, scarf, and slide. These items can be purchased directly from Advent Source (<https://www.adventsource.org>), except for the pants, which can be bought locally. Additionally, Pathfinders need black polishable dress shoes with soft rubber soles and black socks. You'll also need to purchase the World Patch and Pathfinder Triangle from Advent Source. We will provide the other required patches.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available for families who need it. Please ask the director for an application which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If approved, Parents will be responsible for half the dues and any optional trips, activities or expenses. Parents are also responsible for the full uniform costs. Families that receive financial aid must participate in all fundraisers.

Fundraising

Fundraising is often the only way for many clubs to pay their expenses, and the time they spend on it cuts into their activities. The Sligo Challengers club is not a fundraising club. Our club is mainly supported by church subsidies, personal donations, and membership dues. This approach allows us to spend more time on Pathfinder activities rather than fundraising efforts. However, we may still do some fundraising to help reduce extra costs. We always welcome and appreciate parent involvement!

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
410-872-1742

201 M St NE
Washington DC
202-543-2040

L.L. Bean

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

Bass Pro Shop/Outdoor Store

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

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

For The Parents

The Pathfinder experience requires significant commitment. Our dedicated staff invests countless hours to ensure an effective and enriching program. We believe that being a Pathfinder is a crucial part of your child's Christian journey. To support this, we kindly request your cooperation with the following as part of the *Sligo Challenger Pathfinder Club*:

1. **Meeting Attendance:** *Pathfinder meetings are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.* Prompt drop off by 9:20 a.m. and pick up by 12:35 pm is EXPTED! Only authorized adults listed may pick up Pathfinders. Notify the director of changes to pickup/drop-off arrangements.
2. **Communication:** We value open communication for a successful program. For questions or concerns, contact your child's counselor first, then a deputy director or director if needed. Registrations questions including fees contact our Administrative Staff.
3. **Parent/Guardian Involvement:** Is key to your child's success! Stay involved by checking classwork progress and partnering with their counselor.
4. **Parent/Guardian Participation:** All are **encouraged** to contribute at least 10 hours to the club per semester. Your help is needed in areas such as fundraising, camping preparation, chaperoning field trips, teaching honors, and providing transportation. To learn more about how you can assist, please reach out to the Director.

Parents are welcome to attend activities such as camping trips and community service but must obtain approval from the Director beforehand. Parents are required to pay for meals, fees and must enroll in Sterling Volunteers if staying overnight at all club activities.

5. **Pathfinder Attendance:** Pathfinders **must maintain 85% attendance for all meetings** (including virtual) to be eligible for Investiture. Attendance at the Fall and Spring camping trips to Boonsboro is required for Investiture completion. For absences, notify the Director by phone or email. Pathfinders are responsible for making up missed work. Excessive absences may affect Investiture eligibility.
6. **Parent Attendance:** Parents are expected to attend and support the club for the following events: *Pathfinder Induction, Pathfinder Sabbath, and Investiture.*
7. **Pathfinder Gear:** Please review and pack all necessary camping gear for activities. Being well-prepared for various weather conditions will ensure Pathfinders have a fantastic time! If you have any questions about specific items or need advice, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's counselor or directors.
8. **Pathfinder Uniform:** The Pathfinder uniform is an important part of our identity and represents our values.. Check the schedule to ensure your Pathfinder is dressed appropriately for each event whether it is dress, field or street. Participation in certain events may require the proper uniform. We're here to help if you have any questions about uniform requirements or where to obtain them. We encourage everyone to wear the correct uniform to all Pathfinder activities as it fosters a sense of unity and pride
9. **Meals and Menu:** We serve **vegetarian** meals at all activities. If possible vegan options may be offered. If your child has other dietary needs, it may be necessary for parents to provide for those. Please inform the director before any trips so we are aware.
10. **Notes on Phones:** Pathfinders are encouraged to use phones for taking pictures, accessing their Bibles, and contacting parents. However, if a phone becomes a distraction during activities or compromises safety, we'll ask the Pathfinder to put it away. If the distraction persists, staff may confiscate the phone and notify the parent.

For The Pathfinder

Welcome to the Sligo Challengers Pathfinder Club! Being a Pathfinder offers a unique way to learn new skills, have fun, and discover Jesus' love for all of us. Your parents and our staff make significant commitments to provide this program for you and as a Pathfinder, you must also make a commitment in the following ways:

1. **Commitment:** Pathfinders must fully commit to learning and growth through classwork and activities. Dedication to all Pathfinder responsibilities is essential; lack of commitment may result in membership reconsideration.
2. **Attendance:** Attendance and participation are required for all club activities. If your attendance falls below 85% you won't be eligible for class advancement, field, or camping trips. Attendance is required the meeting prior to the Camporee to be eligible to go. If you cannot attend any activity, your parents need to provide a written excuse and contact the Director. You will be responsible for making up any work during your absence.
3. **Pathfinder Uniform:** The Pathfinder Uniform represents who you are and what we stand for. Wearing the correct uniform for each event is essential for all club activities. It is your responsibility to know what to wear and ensure your uniform is ready, neat, clean, pressed, and in good condition with all necessary patches. Check the calendar for uniform requirements for each event.
4. **Classwork:** As a Pathfinder, you'll need to manage your time well. You have school, other activities, and Pathfinders. It is up to you to handle all these things. Your counselor is there to help if you need some help please ask. Sometimes school assignments can be used for Pathfinder classwork assignments or vice versa. If you need help, ask your counselor and they can help you make a schedule to help you complete all your required work.
5. **Pathfinder Feedback:** Being a Pathfinder is all about you! We want you to grow in your faith and have fun along the way. We would like to know: Are you enjoying your Pathfinder experience? What activities do you like the most? Is there anything you would like to change or improve? If you have ideas to make Pathfinders even better, please share them with your counselor and Directors. Remember, Pathfinders is about growing, learning, and having fun together. Let's make it the best experience possible!
6. **Investiture Achievement:** All class work documentation for Investiture Achievement and Honors must be **submitted at least one month (or two meetings)** before Investiture.
7. **Pathfinder Pledge & Law:** 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
- ☐ Sweatpants (1 pair nothing tight)
- ☐ Shirts (2) & Turtleneck or Hoodie
- ☐ Field Uniform Shirt (Club & Conference)
- ☐ Light Sweater (wool is good)
- ☐ Jacket/Windbreaker & Rain Gear
- ☐ Hat (Must have one, pull over if cold)
- ☐ Socks (6 pair)
- ☐ Underwear (6 pair)
- ☐ Sneakers or Boots
- ☐ Shower Shoes or Flip Flops
- ☐ Gloves/Mittens for cool weather
- ☐ Dress Uniform/Belt/Shoes/Black Socks
- ☐ Dress Shoes (Black)

Layering is essential for warmth, functionality, and dryness. Wear synthetic fabrics next to your skin, add a wool middle layer, and top it off with a windbreaker. Don't forget a hat! This combination will keep you dry and warm.

Sleeping Gear:

- ☐ Sleeping bag (0-degree recommended)
- ☐ Pillow (can stuff pillowcase with cloths)
- ☐ Ground pad/Thermarest
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Sunscreen/Insect Repellent, Chap Stick
- ☐ Bible/Lesson (on smart device is OK)

All items **must** fit in 2 soft-sided, round, zippered, weather-resistant duffle bags no larger than 16x16x32 inches (approximately 100L capacity). NO wheels or Hard side extending handles! No Trash bags will be allowed as a type of bag. Clearly label each bag with the Pathfinder's name using a luggage tag or webbing tied to the handle. no duct tape, please as it tends to fall off or ruin the bag. Pack all liquid items in a leak proof or zip-loc bag or both. Place Pathfinder Uniform in a garment bag on a hanger. **Please note that 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

Note: Electronic devices such as phones, tablets, and other gadgets are only permitted during travel to and from the campsite.