

Class 1PAD

History, Philosophy, and Purpose of the AY Program

(45 minutes)

Objective: To develop an awareness of the purpose and uniqueness of Pathfinder ministry, and to review the history of Pathfinding.

History of Pathfinding

The Early Years: Well before we were officially an organized church, our pioneers realized the need of providing our youth with materials and programs that would meet their specific needs. James White was the first editor of the Youth Instructor which began in 1852. Luther Warren and Harry Fenner, teenagers at the time, began the first young peoples society in 1879. Then in 1890, the church began the first publication of the *Little Friend*. Between 1900 and 1907, several churches and schools successfully experimented with junior societies. In 1907, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, official church action was taken recognizing these efforts and recommending the concept to the church at large. A "Standard of Attainment" manual was developed which was the forerunner of the "Progressive Classes." By 1911, several boys' clubs, such as the Takoma Indians and the Woodland Clan, started to form in Maryland. In 1919, the Mission Scouts, directed by A. W. Spaulding, formed in Tennessee and adopted a Pledge and Law, the basis of our present Pledge and Law.

The Formative Years: In 1920, Harriet Holt joined the General Conference as a Junior Youth specialist. During the next two years, the Junior Missionary Volunteer Society (JMV) and the JMV Progressive classes were formed. These included Friend, Companion, and Comrade (now Guide). In 1930, the Adventurer classes (Busy Bee through Helping Hand) were added. The first sixteen Adventist Youth honors made their debut in 1928. Summer camps also began during this time. The first camp was held in Town Line, Michigan, in 1926. In 1927, Wisconsin joined the fun, and by 1928, Illinois and other conferences joined as the idea spread across the country. Early leaders of the camps included A. W. Spaulding, G. H. Smith, G. R. Fattie, R. MacKenzie, W. Holbrook, and E. W. Dunbar.

The Pathfinder Years: While the name Pathfinder was used earlier for various local clubs, the first conference-sponsored club bearing the name was organized in 1946 at Riverside, California. The club director was Francis Hunt, and the conference youth director was John H. Hancock, who designed the Pathfinder emblem. In 1949, the General Conference accepted the Pathfinder Club concept and organization. The Pathfinder flag was designed two years later by Henry Bergh, who also wrote the Pathfinder song in 1952. The first Pathfinder Camporee was held in 1954 in Southeastern California, and the first Division Camporee was held in Sweden for the North Europe-West Africa Division in 1971. The first North American Camporee was held in August of 1985, high in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

The Adventurer Program: The Adventurer program was created to assist parents in their important responsibilities as a child's primary teacher and evangelizers as a sister program to the Pathfinders for children in grades 1 – 4. (6 – 9 year olds) The program aims to strengthen the parent/child

relationship and further the child's development in spiritual, physical, mental, and social areas.

In 1972 the Washington Conference sponsored a club for children called "Beavers," the forerunner of Adventurers, under the direction of Carolee Riegel. The North-eastern Conference is reported to have had a children's club concept program by 1975. By 1980, many conferences were sponsoring a club for children in this age group. In fact our church had one of the pilot programs, directed by Marilyn Sperka. In 1988, the North American Division Church Ministries Department invited interested conferences and child specialists to study and evaluate the Adventurer Club concept.

A committee met in 1989 to update the Adventurer curriculum, develop Adventurer awards, and write guidelines for the Adventurer Club organization. The committee involved children's Sabbath School leaders, educational personnel, conference and union Children' Ministries coordinators, and child and family specialists. Chaired by Norman Middag, the committee membership included Debra Brill, Terry Dodge, Sarah Fanton, Merrill Fleming, Joyce Fortner, Donna Habenicht, Jasmine Hoyt, Noelene Johnsson, Kathie Klocko, Barbara Manspeaker, Kathy Martin, Dixie Plata, Julia Raglin, Toini Shobe-Harrison, Emily Tillman, Claude Thomas, Ruth Walker, Al Williamson, and Bob Wong. The Adventurer curriculum, was written by Teresa Reeve.

The Discovery Program: The history of the Discovery program is still being written. The Eager Beaver class was introduced several years ago, for Kindergartners, and was only recently adopted by the North American Division. While this program was being considered, several conferences began a Little Lambs program for preschoolers. During this time, our church wrote its own Discovery program, using the Little Lambs name for our 3 year-olds and inserting an original class called Curious Cubs for the 4 year-olds. The Baby Birds class, for the 1 & 2 year olds, is also an original class. This is still a dynamic program, growing and changing as new ideas are added.

Pathfinder Club Emblem

Red:(Sacrifice) a.) Reminds us of Christ. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

b.) "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God." (Romans 12:1)

3 Sides:(completeness) a.) Completeness of the Godhead – Father, Son, Holy Spirit (See Matthew 28:19-20)

b.) Tripod of education – **Mental** (Crafts and honors), **Physical** (Campouts, work bees), **Spiritual** (Missionary activities, witnessing).

Gold:(Excellence) a.) "I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich." (Revelation 3:18)

b.) Standard of measurement. The Pathfinder Club has high standards to help build strong character for the kingdom of heaven.

Shield:(Protection) a.) In the Scripture, God is often called the shield of His people. "Do not be afraid . . . I am your shield, your great reward." (Genesis 15:1)

b.) "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."
(Ephesians 6:16)

White: (Purity) a.) "He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white."
(Revelation 3:5)

b.) We desire to have the purity and righteousness of Christ's life in our lives.

Blue: (Loyalty) a.) It is the purpose of the Pathfinder Club to help teach us to be loyal to our parents, to our Church, and to our God in heaven.

Sword: (Bible) a.) The sword is used in warfare. A battle is always won by offense. We are in a battle against sin and our weapon is the word of God.

b.) The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. (See Ephesians 6:17; John 17:14-16; 18:36)

Adventist Youth is a Ministry

Pathfinder Mission Statement: The Pathfinder Ministry is an educational laboratory for the home, the school, and church.

- a.) The Pathfinder Club will encourage its members to belong to the church, confess their Christian faith, and take an active part in fellowship, worship, outreach, and service.
- b.) The Pathfinder Club will involve its members as full partners in all aspects of the church's ministry to its members, to the community, and to the world.
- c.) The Pathfinder Club will challenge its members in the mission and ministry of Christ through the church so that God's Word becomes meaningful and fruitful in their lives.

Adventurer Mission Statement: The North American Division Adventurer program serves an intercultural community of children in grades 1-4 and their parents and care-givers through a holistic ministry.

- a.) The purpose of the program is to support parents and care-givers in leading and encouraging their children in a growing, joyful love relationship with Jesus Christ.
- b.) It offers instructional curriculum, family enrichment, supplementary resources, and volunteer training from within the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy.
- c.) The Adventurer program should work to fulfill the gospel commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and depends on the support of a congregation strong in mission and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Pathfinder Purpose: The Pathfinder club, a church-centered recreational-spiritual program, is designed for both boys and girls, in grades 5 to 10. The program offers action, adventure, challenge, and group activities that produce team spirit and loyalty to the church. One of the Pathfinder Club's basic purposes is to fulfill the 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. Leaders and staff must be members in good and regular standing of the church. The ideals and objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church must be made attractive through an activity program, which appeals to this restless age. Therefore, 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 and into outdoor adventure, and to accomplish the goals listed below.

- a.) Help Pathfinders to understand that the church loves, cares for and appreciates them and needs them in its total program.
- b.) Show Pathfinders what God has planned for their lives.
- c.) Train Pathfinders for missionary service.
- d.) Work for the salvation of each individual Pathfinder.
- e.) Develop the Pathfinder's appreciation for nature and a concern for the environment.
- f.) Teach Pathfinders specific skills and hobbies that will make their life meaningful and will occupy their time profitably.
- g.) Help keep Pathfinders physically fit.
- h.) Give opportunities for the development of leadership.
- i.) Develop a balanced physical, mental, social, and spiritual life.

Adventurer Purpose:

The Adventurer Club provides fun and creative ways for children:

- a.) To develop a Christ-like character.
- b.) To experience the joy and satisfaction of doing things well.
- c.) To express their love for Jesus in a natural way.
- d.) To learn good sportsmanship and strengthen their ability to get along with others;
- e.) To discover their God-given abilities and to know how to use them to benefit self and serve others.
- f.) To improve their understanding of what makes families strong.

Philosophy

The training and saving of our children and youth 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, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when his is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) This is more than a cliché -- it is Bible promise.

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 four 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 50% of Adventist children in Grades 1-8 are attending church school or are being homeschooled, and in some conferences the percentage is less. The church is challenged to nurture these children from

Adventist homes who are attending public school. The AY Clubs have the potential to meet the spiritual needs of the children attending public school, and the social needs of the homeschooler.

The Complete AY Curriculum

AY Classes

Discovery Club: Baby Birds*, Little Lambs, Curious Cubs*, Eager Beavers
Adventurer Club: Busy Bee, Sunbeam, Builder, Helping Hand
Pathfinder Club: Friend, Companion, Explorer, Ranger,
Voyager, Pioneer**, Navigator**, Guide
Teen Training: Teen Leadership Training (TLT) Levels 1, 2, 3, 4
Adult Training: Master Guide
Advanced Training Adventurer Leadership Growth (ALG)
Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA),
Pathfinder Instructor Award (PIA)

*Classes unique to Rolling Hills

**Florida Classes only, not NAD

Our Program

The Discovery Club is for children from 1 – 5 and meets once a month. The Baby Birds program is a self-contained program for 1 and 2 year-olds in the Cradleroll room. Children who are under 1 may attend as a guest. The Little Lambs (3 year-olds), Curious Cubs (4 year-olds) and Eager Beavers (5 year olds) meet in the Kindergarten room. These programs are unique to our church. However, Eager Beavers and Little Lambs are names used by the NAD program.

The Adventurer Club meets twice a month and has four classes. Busy Bee (1st Grade), Sunbeam (2nd Grade), Builder (3rd Grade) and Helping Hand (4th Grade). These programs have 4 tracks: My God, My Family, My World, and My Self.

The Pathfinder Club meets three or four times a month and has 6 classes for young people in 5th through 10th grade.

Resources: See Quotes below:

“I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you.”
(*John 3:15*)

“The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christ like loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor.” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 80)

“Those who endeavor to maintain Christian Life by passively accepting the blessing that comes through the means of grace, and doing nothing for Christ, are simply trying to live by eating without working. And in the spiritual as in the natural world, this always results in degeneration and decay. A man who would refuse to exercise his God-given powers not only fails to grow up into Christ, but he loses the strength that he already had.” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 81)

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world.” (*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, p. 555)

“Our business in this world. . . is to see what virtues we can teach our children and our families to possess, that they shall have an influence upon other families, and thus we can be an educating power, although we never enter into the desk. A well-ordered, a well-disciplined family in the sight of God is more precious than fine gold, even that the golden wedge of Ophir.” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 32)