

Pathfinder Club Membership Requirements, Policies, and Other Important Stuff

The Philosophy of Pathfinders

The purpose of having a Pathfinder Club is to lead its members into a growing, redemptive relationship with Christ, to build its members into responsible, mature individuals and to involve its members in active selfless service. All Pathfinder leaders are Christians, working hand in hand with parents, teachers, and pastors to provide optimum opportunities for Christian development. The Pathfinder club is an extension of the home, school and church. It is a laboratory where growth and learning flourish. The membership involves youth in grades 5-10 and grades 11-12 (if participating in the teen leadership training program), who have a desire for group activities ranging from community to world mission projects, nature activities, and outdoor and camping activities. Investiture Achievement class curriculum and Adventist Youth Honors are part of the total experience. Above all, Pathfinders gives youth an environment in which to actively expand their personal experience with Christ.

Parents/Guardians: Please read.

Requirements for Pathfinder Club Membership

1. Membership requires the applicant to be in the 5th - 10th grade to become a member. Or the 11th-12th grade if they qualify to be in the Teen Leadership Training program (TLT).
2. Members must agree before joining to participate and cooperate in Club activities. These include regular club meetings and events with devotionals, honor meetings, Investiture Achievement meetings, drill and marching, Share Your Faith projects, outreach programs, community projects, fundraising activities, and Conference-sponsored events.
3. **Members must pay an application fee of \$50 due at the time of registration or work out a payment plan with director/treasurer.** At times parents will be asked to supply money and time to support their child's membership and participation in special events. Family discount 2 members = \$80 due and 3+ Members = \$100 due. In addition, each member must purchase a full dress uniform. Uniform information is detailed on a separate form.
4. Members must maintain a 70% point total to be considered a member in good standing of the club. The point system is detailed on a separate sheet. Falling below this level will result in the member being placed on probation for 8 weeks after which if the total points must again be at or above the 70% level to remain a member.
5. Members will be given the opportunity to participate in special group activities within the club based on experience, level, and ability. Members must achieve or maintain higher levels of points in order to participate in special group activities that require 80% or higher and IA class work must be up to date. These activities include but are not limited to TLT membership and Drill Team. Members and parents can specify on the application which activities they would be interested in participating in. With this indication, members and parents must also be willing to attend special meetings with these groups in order to practice and plan activities or the member will be removed from the group.
6. Members must have and wear for specified meetings and formal events a complete Pathfinder Dress Uniform. **The member must buy a dress shirt, black dress pants (boys/girls) or skirt (girls), pathfinder belt, sash, scarf, slide, and tie (if applicable).** Payment is given to the club and the club will place a group order near the beginning of the pathfinder year. Members will be allowed to trade shirt, pants, and sash in for larger sizes as needed. He/she will be issued a field uniform t-shirt to be worn with clean, presentable blue jeans and tennis shoes (no sandals). Members are required to wear their field uniform, once issued, at all regular club meetings unless otherwise specified. Members will be informed with regard to what dress is required for special events and activities.

7. Members must agree to learn and know from memory the Pathfinder Pledge and Law listed below and agree to live by them.

The Pathfinder Pledge

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

The Pathfinder Law

Keep the morning watch.
Do my honest part.
Care for my body.
Keep a level eye.
Be courteous and obedient.
Walk softly in the sanctuary.
Keep a song in my heart.
Go on God's errands.

8. Pathfinders and parents must fill out an application form, a medical release form, and pay club registration fee. All other fees are to be paid as scheduled at the time of the event.
9. The Pathfinder calendar year officially runs from August through May. Occasionally we may have a special outing or fundraising event in the summer months (June/July). A calendar will be given to each Pathfinder at the time of registration. **Please note that some events (date/time) on the calendar may be changed due to weather or other circumstances. If a meeting is canceled we will do our best to notify parents as soon as possible.**

If you have an account on Facebook, please follow our page to see announcements and information posted there. **The Niles Four Flags Facebook page is:**
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Niles-Four-Flags-Pathfinder-Club/81584798170>

We also send out text messages via Flocknote.

10. Please note that attendance at all Club activities is an important component of membership. Excused absences (due to member illness, family emergency, or family vacation), when explained in a note from the parent, may be credited up to 80% of available point total for that activity.
11. In the event that before the 4th meeting a member does not want to continue in the club, a refund will be given for the portion of the registration fee that has not been used for the purchase of the field uniform. Dues and any other event fees are forfeited.
12. Members are not to leave the meetings or events without being checked out by a staff member. Parents/guardians and/or a designated individual needs to sign-out members before leaving. Likewise, members who walk need to check out before leaving.

Point System Information

The pathfinder club has different types of meetings, activities, and events. Each meeting/event is worth a certain number of points depending on what type of event it is. By joining the Niles Four Flags Pathfinder Club, members have agreed to participate and cooperate in club activities.

Members must maintain a 70% point total to be considered a member in good standing of the club. The point system is detailed below. Falling below this level will result in the member being placed on probation for 8 weeks after which the total points must again be at or above the 70% level to remain a member.

Members will be given the opportunity to participate in special group activities within the club based on experience, level, and ability. Members must achieve 80% or higher total of points in order to participate in special group activities and IA class work must be up to date. These activities include but are not limited to TLT membership, Outreach Team, and Drill Team. Members and parents must also be willing to attend special meetings with these groups in order to practice and plan activities or the member will be removed from the group.

Please note that attendance at all Club activities is an important component of membership. Excused absences (due to member illness, family emergency, or family vacation), when explained in a note from the parent, may be credited up to 80% of available point total for that activity.

The Point System:

	1. Special Meetings	2. Club Meetings	3. Activity Meetings
Attendance	100	50	30
Proper Uniform	60	30	20
Bible	20	20	0
IA Journal	0	10	0
Participation	40	10	10
Total Points possible for each meeting type	220	120	60

- 1. Special Meetings/Events Points:** Special meetings include, but are not limited to, Field Work (aka Share Your Faith events), Conference events, fund raisers, and campouts. These events usually require members to wear their full dress uniform unless otherwise stated.
- 2. Club Meeting Points:** These points are for the Sunday club meeting schedule. Pathfinders are expected to wear their field uniform (club t-shirt with clean blue jeans and tennis shoes). Knee length shorts are allowed from May through September. They need to bring their Bible and their Investiture Achievement (IA) Journal to the scheduled meeting.
- 3. Activity Meeting Points:** This group of points is generally for activity meetings throughout the year. The activity is usually a fun event and pathfinder members wear their field uniform. Some activity meetings may be optional, required for certain grades for IA achievement, or may be worth bonus points. Pathfinder club members will know in advance any details pertaining to the meeting/event.

Safety and Security Policy

The Niles Four Flags Pathfinder Club implements a Safety and Security Policy. Parents/designated adult will need to sign-out their child(ren) before any pathfinder child will be released to leave.

If your child(ren) are getting picked up by a person other than the child's legal parent/guardian, the parent or guardian must send a written and signed note with their child to be turned in at the beginning of the club meeting to a pathfinder staff member. It must be a written note that can be filed.

We are implementing this policy for the following reasons:

1. **Safety and Security:** Our Sunday meetings usually will be held outdoors. We are requiring members to be signed-out at the end of the meeting so we know that they have been picked-up by the appropriate person.
2. **Communication:** Signing-out your pathfinder child(ren) also serves as a valuable time to communicate with the club staff by asking questions, picking up a current monthly calendar/info sheet, or signing/turning in any permission slips that may be due that month. Parents/guardians are also welcome to come early to hear any announcements during our club's circle up time.

If you have questions, please speak with the club director.