

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **NAME**

The program for the holistic ministry to the ten to fifteen year olds (year 5-10 or equivalent) within the Seventh-day Adventist church, and is sponsored by the Department of Church Ministries, is called Pathfinders.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **PURPOSE**

The objectives of the Pathfinder Club are to:

1. Help the Pathfinder to understand that God loves them, cares for them and appreciates them.
2. Encourage Pathfinders to discover their own God-given potential.
3. Inspire Pathfinders to give personal expression of their love for God.
4. Make the number-one priority of the club program the personal salvation of every Pathfinder.
5. Build into a Pathfinder's life a health appreciation and love for God's creation.
6. Teach Pathfinders specific skills and hobbies that will make their lives more meaningful and will occupy their time with profitable accomplishments and interests.
7. Encourage the Pathfinder to keep as physically fit as possible.
8. Give opportunity to develop and enlist leadership.
9. Seek to foster the harmonious development of the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual life of the Pathfinder.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **ORGANISATION**

The youth director of the local conference is the director of all pathfinder activities conducted within a conference area. The youth director's counsel may be solicited in regard to any club activity. When planning major programs, the youth director should be advised and maybe invited to participate. In regional areas a district director may be appointed by the conference to act on behalf of the conference youth director, and is therefore directly responsible to the youth director.

The director of the club should be an adult who is passionately interested in young people ministry and who sympathetically understands the problems of young people. Where possible, the director should have a Pathfinder Leadership Award (or be working toward obtain it), be resourceful and enthusiastic, and must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All activities of the club will be under each club director's supervision and it is the director's responsibility to call, organise and arrange for each club meeting.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **ELECTION of OFFICERS and OTHER STAFF MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the club will a club director, two or more deputy directors, club secretary and treasurer, and a chaplain (these may be deputy directors). The staff will include counsellors, junior counsellors and instructors as needed.

**Section 2.** Club directors are appointed by the nominating committee of the sponsoring church or churches.

**Section 3.** The deputy directors are appointed by the directors, approved by the church boards.

**Section 4.** The secretary, treasurer and chaplain are appointed by the discretion of the directors (may be deputy directors)

**Section 5.** The counsellors, junior counsellors and instructors are to be appointed or replaced by the Pathfinder Executive Committee.

**Section 6.** The pathfinder staff consists of those mentioned in sections 1 to 5 of this article.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **DUTIES of OFFICERS and STAFF**

**Section 1.** Director – All activities of the club are under the supervision of the director. The chairperson of all committees will be appointed by the director after consultation with the deputy directors or executive committee.

**Section 2.** Deputy Directors – Assist the director and take charge whenever the director is absent. May be designated to care for the following duties: honours and creative skills, music, equipment, nature, chaplain, transportation, special events, etc.

**Section 4.** Secretary – Renders monthly reports to the local conference office. Is responsible for all club correspondence. Takes meeting notes. Is responsible for personnel records and for any other records necessary to the smooth running of the club.

**Section 5.** Treasurer – Takes charge of the expenses paid out and collects and cares for all income, such as membership fees, fund-raising projects etc. and is to present financial reports upon the request of the executive officers or staff and will transmit the accounts and all the undistributed funds to any successors. The club treasurer needs to work in close harmony with the church treasurer.

**Section 6.** Chaplain – This may be a deputy director. Assists the director in maintaining the spiritual tone of the club; knows each pathfinder's relationship with the Lord; serves on committees dealing with worship development for club meetings, camps. Participant in the discipline process.

**Section 7.** Counsellors/Junior Counsellors – a counsellor is a leader of a unit/class who takes charge and leads and teaches the pathfinders through the requirements for their classwork for a successful investiture. The Junior Counsellor assists in the role.

**Section 8.** Instructors – Instructors may be drawn from the staff and may be the counsellor, or be specialists selected from the church or community to teach specific subjects.

## ARTICLE 6

### COMMITTEES

**Section 1.** The Standing committees of a club are:

- a) Executive committee
- b) Staff committee
- c) Discipline committee

**Section 2.** The executive committee consists of the club director, deputy director/s, pastor, secretary, treasure and chaplain. The committee, of which the director is the chairperson, is to be responsible for all joint Pathfinder activities.

**Section 3.** The staff committee consists of the executive committee plus the counsellors, junior counsellors and instructors.

**Section 4.** The discipline committee consists of the director, deputy directors, the counsellor/s involved with the pathfinder/s involved, and a Pathfinder boy or girl chosen by the club.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **QUORUM**

For the transaction of the business by any the committees, 50% plus one of the membership should be in attendance.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Pathfinder meetings are generally held either once or twice monthly, for at least 10 months of the year. The time and duration of the meetings will be decided by the executive committee.

**Section 2.** Staff meetings are to be held once each month as announced.

**Section 3.** Executive committee meetings are to be held at least bimonthly.

**Section 4.** The yearly Pathfinder club program should include the requirements of the reporting system as set down by the local conference youth ministries office.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **MEMBERSHIP and ATTENDANCE**

**Section 1:** Ten to fifteen years is the official age for Pathfinder membership. The first class which is Friend, is designed for the average ten year old and is structured in keeping with their physical and intellectual abilities. Commencing this class before the ideal time of ten years may cause some hardship and will, most likely, detract from the interest in future courses during the important teens years.

**Section 2:** Where the church conducts a junior and teen club, Pathfinders between the years of ten and twelve will join the junior club, and those between thirteen and fifteen will join the teen.

**Section 3:** Membership will be granted when the following specifications are meet:

- a. Acceptance of application
- b. Payment of membership fee
- c. Complete uniform
- d. Willingness to conform to the principles of the Pathfinder Pledge and Law

- e. Willingness to participate in all Pathfinder activities.

**Section 4:** Non-Adventists who conform to the above requirements are encouraged to be admitted to membership.

**Section 5:** The attendance of new members into the Pathfinder club will be at the beginning of each Pathfinder year. If someone joins later it should be made clear that this member may not be eligible for investiture that year.

**Section 6:** An attendance roll is to be marked at all Pathfinder programs.

**Section 7:** The pathfinder is to have at least 75% attendance of all Pathfinder activities.

**Section 8:** A period of three months is allowed as provisional membership to obtain uniform, and make a definite commitment to full membership.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **CLUB UNITS**

**Section 1:** Pathfinders are organised into units or classes of six to eight pathfinders, each with a counsellor as a leader. This division into smaller units permits better order and discipline, and more individual attention can be given to each member.

**Section 2:** Unit Officers

- a. Unit Captain – Each unit within the club, with its counsellor selects one of its members as its captain. The captain is responsible for the unit and should lead it in promptness and cooperation in all club activities and sets an example of good conduct at all times. It is suggested that unit captains be selected every four to six months to give more members in the club opportunities for developing leadership.

**Section 3:** Uniform

- a. Dress uniform – The official Pathfinder uniform is the Union recommended uniform for each club member and officer, and is to be worn only at club meetings and other occasions as directed by the club director.
- b. Field uniform – The official individual club recommended field uniform for each club member is to be worn at all Pathfinder activities as directed by the club director.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **CLUB FINANCE**

**Section 1:** The membership fee established by the executive committee is payable annually, half yearly, quarterly or at each meeting.

**Section 2:** An annual personal insurance and club equipment insurance should be included in the annual budget.

**Section 3:** Financial reports will be rendered to the executive committee.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **POLICY**

The club will be governed by policies laid down by the youth director of the Department of Church Ministries of the local conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** Changes to this constitution may be recommended to the South Pacific Division by a two-thirds vote of a Pathfinder staff committee, after counsel with the local conference youth director.

**Section 2:** Changes to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the South Pacific Division Youth Ministries Committee.