Oshkosh Camporee Update and Safety tips

PATHFINDER SAFETY
Adventist Risk Management, Inc. | Weekly Newsletter

Providing Risk Management Solutions for the Seventh-day Adventist® Church

PATHFINDER SAFETY

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The 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin is officially underway. There are expected to be 45,000 Pathfinders and leaders attending. What an amazing opportunity for young people to grow. They will interact with different cultures, engaging in challenging activities and hopefully experience God in a new way.

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Safety Webinar
August 24 2:30 pm ET

Church Media Risks
By David Fournier, Manager of Marketing and Communications at Adventist Risk Management, Inc

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As churches and church organizations look for ways to communicate with membership and reach out to their communities, media can be an effective tool to connect with members and customers. With these opportunities come some inherent risks. In order to succeed with media we need to be prepared to understand and address risks such as cyber security and protecting your organization's reputation.
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The 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin is officially underway. There are expected to be 45,000 Pathfinders and leaders attending. What an amazing opportunity for young people to grow. They will interact with different cultures, engaging in challenging activities and hopefully experience God in a new way. Coming to a camporee of this scale also gives young people a vision of their church.

Adventist Risk Management is one of the sponsors of the camporee. We are here, onsite working in two capacities. The first team is a safety team that works with camporee administration and staff as part of the planning process to ensure that the camporee is conducted in a safe manner. As part of their responsibilities this team also assists campers and groups with safety guidance throughout the campus. If you see the Adventist Risk Management team in their blue vests please say hello and partner with them to make this camporee safe for everyone.

The second team is located in the vendor booths in Hangar A, booth 1155. At the booth you can learn about The Seven Campaign to end child abuse. Learn how you can make a difference in your church, school or community. You can find a brand new Practical Guide to Pathfinder Safety brochure for Pathfinder leaders (come get a copy, they are free), information about the Camp Safety Honor and this year we are promoting safety for Pathfinders with a series of wristbands!

RESOURCES

Download a copy of the new Practical Guide to Pathfinder Safety.
Download the Camp Safety Honor flyer.
A PRACTICAL GUIDE
TO PATHFINDER SAFETY
This booklet contains practical safety information for Pathfinder and Adventurer club leaders and staff. In the following pages, you will find helpful advice regarding accident prevention, vehicle and facility safety, and managing outdoor activities. Observing these guidelines will go a long way toward reducing harmful accidents and mishaps.

As a club leader or staff member, it is your responsibility to be prepared for both the expected and unexpected, regardless of the event. Following basic safety guidelines helps every participant in your club to stay safe and have a great time. Remember, the benefits of prevention will always outweigh the consequences of negligence.

Many of us have fond memories of our years spent in Pathfinders. Now that it’s our turn to lead Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, we want to ensure that each young person has the same great experience. Pathfinder activities are meant to be fun!
Risk Management Basics

Club leaders, staff and volunteers demonstrate care for children by managing risks that threaten safety, assets, and resources.

This care is demonstrated by:

- Providing appropriate safety equipment and requiring its use at all times by all participants.
- Properly planning and supervising all Pathfinder/Adventurer activities.
- Being concerned for the child's safety.
- Ensuring that facilities are properly maintained, hazardous situations identified and corrective measures are taken to prevent injury or accidents.
Church administrators, Pathfinder/Adventurer staff, volunteers and club members should collaborate well in advance to ensure the safety of all activities. By working together, they can counsel together to identify potential risks and suggest the best measures to prevent accidents. To help club leaders with their safety planning, Adventist Risk Management has developed a Field Trip and Outing Planner Checklist. Available at www.adventistrisk.org.

It has been said, “the genesis of many accidents begins in the boardroom”. If we fail to carefully plan all club activities we increase the risk potential for accidents. All offsite activities planned by the Pathfinder/Adventurer club should be presented to the church board for review and approval. If club leaders and the church board see that appropriate safety measures cannot be implemented for a particular activity, they should simply say no or postpone the event until such a time that it can be held safely.

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall: but in a multitude of counselors there is safety.”
Proverbs 11:14
Proper club leadership involves both quality and quantity of supervision. As an adult, whether you are the club leader, staff member or volunteer – children and teenagers will look to you to set the example.

In regards to quality, club leaders must be knowledgeable in the activities they plan for the club. A mere interest in an activity does not make one qualified. Some activities are very basic and can be safely supervised by most leaders. Other activities require advanced skill levels. Identify the necessary skill requirements or certifications and then compare them with the abilities of available adult staff.

Pathfinder leaders must also plan for an appropriate amount of supervision. This will vary based on the activity and the age level of participants. The club leader and one additional staff member may be all a small group activity requires. Appropriate supervision for a large group hike may require additional adult staffing. Determining the number of staff you need for supervision is also based on the age of the children you are working with. More staff will be needed for a group of younger children. Responsible teenage Pathfinderers (TLTs) may help to assist with the supervision of younger club members. However, all children and teenagers must be supervised by adult staff members during all activities.

Some of the worst accidents occur when club members wander off unsupervised and into hazardous situations. Never leave a child or group of children unsupervised, and always have at least one other adult to help with supervision. In addition, adult staff member or volunteer should never be alone with a child who is not their own. All adults (club leaders, staff members and volunteers) and teenagers assisting with supervision must be trained in appropriate supervision and provided with an orientation on the expected code of conduct. You cannot assume adults know how to appropriately interact with children to affirm behavior or provide proper discipline if needed.

The North American Division has prepared a Volunteer Code of Conduct guideline to assist club leaders in conducting staff orientation, which can be found at www.adventistrisk.org. All club leaders should know and fully cooperate with the child protection policies and screening procedures required by their Conference. Check with your Conference Pathfinder Director for more specific information.
Pre-Activity Planning

Ensuring safety during Pathfinder/Adventurer activities is the highest priority. All club leaders, staff, volunteers and club members must be responsible for safe behavior at all times. Everyone should wear all required safety gear, and abide by the given safety rules at all times.

Prior to the activity, arrange a meeting with all club staff to perform a safety review on the planned activity.

THE PRE-ACTIVITY SAFETY CHECKLIST:

- Adequate supplies and equipment to safely conduct the planned activity.
- Ensure that safety equipment is the right type and size for the activity and all participants, including adults. Remember, club staff must set an example by always wearing the appropriate safety equipment.
- Inspect all equipment—trailers, motor vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, helmets, life jackets, etc. Each item must be in good working condition and properly prepared before it is used.
- Track potential weather forecasted conditions and prepare accordingly. In some locations, weather can change quickly.
- Have a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio, with fresh replacement batteries.
- Retrieve first aid supplies and establish an emergency action plan for the activity.
- Collect Permission Slips for all club members from parents or Guardians.
- Collect signed medical treatment release forms from each participant under the age of 18. (Sample medical release forms available at adventistrisk.org)
- Prepare a communication plan that includes procedures for adverse weather conditions, emergency situations, contacting law enforcement agencies, parents/guardians and church officials if needed.
- Verify all club members have completed any prerequisites for participating in the planned activity.
- Conduct an orientation session with parents and club members prior to the event to review safety rules and the expected conduct of all participants during the activity.
- Complete a thorough contingency plan that can impact any or all of the above elements.
Pathfinder/Adventurer leaders, staff, volunteers and club members must understand that any unsafe act or condition must be reported to the club leader.

All participants have the right not to participate in activities where safety practices are questioned. Everyone should understand that unsafe practices will not be tolerated. Discontinue any activity if conditions or circumstances make it unsafe, and do not resume the activity until the issue is corrected. Club leaders, staff and club members should be trained how to correct unsafe conditions whenever possible, within established safety guidelines.

Always allow ample time for Pathfinder activities to take place. Inadequate time for setup, equipment inspections, safety instructions, or other key elements can lead people to take shortcuts, which, in turn, lead to accidents. Upon arrival at the activity site, check for debris, fire hazards, poison ivy, poison oak, steep cliffs, dead tree limbs overhead, water hazards, and high-speed traffic near campsites.

During all activities the club leader and staff should carry the emergency telephone numbers for the area and contact numbers back to the church pastor/administrator and parents. If you are backpacking or camping in a remote area, what will be your plan for contacting emergency services if cell phone service is not available? If you are hiking into an area, do you know another route out of the area? How will you leave if the way you came in becomes impassable?

Without exception, require appropriate safety gear be used by all participants at all times. During water sports, all participants, aside from basic swimming, must wear personal floatation gear. Swimming should be held in lifeguarded areas, whenever possible, and participants must swim in designated areas only. Individuals who refuse to follow established safety rules and practices are not allowed to participate in the activity.

Facility Safety Checklist:

- Conditions that could cause slips, trips, or falls—torn carpets, defective flooring, bad steps, missing handrails, snow, ice, debris, electrical cords across floors, etc.
- Electrical hazards such as overloaded outlets or circuits, exposed electrical wires, broken outlet and switch covers, open light sockets, missing or defective ground-fault protection at sinks and exterior outlets, unauthorized use of extension cords, “piggy-backing” of power strips, etc.
- Replace or repair broken windows or mirrors.
- Replace burned out light bulbs, both indoors and outdoors.
- Identify blocked and/or locked exit doors. All exit doors must provide un-restricted egress from the building.
- In most emergency situations, it’s essential to plan prompt evacuation of the area. Conduct training drills regularly, ensuring that everyone knows two routes for evacuation from the location with an established designated assembly area to report after they are safely out of the building.

Safety on Location

Each location where club meetings are held should be routinely inspected to identify any potential hazards. Promptly remove or repair any potential hazards.
Transportation Safety

Unfortunately, injuries, deaths, and property losses occur far too frequently from vehicle collisions, rollovers, and moving violations. Falls from the back of open-bed trucks and trailers have also caused numerous injuries and fatalities. All club leaders must carefully plan for the transportation needs to safely transport club members and equipment to all offsite activities.

Keep it Safe
The joy of being a Pathfinder or Adventurer can be a life changing experience. As a club leader you set the example that can make a difference in the life of these children. Your task is to help keep them safe, so they can discover and learn life lessons as they build their relationship with our Creator and Savior. Thank you for your service in giving of your time and talents in Pathfinder/Adventurer ministry!

Transportation Safety Checklist:
- All drivers shall conduct a vehicle safety inspection on a daily basis. Adventist Risk Management has a checklist you can use to conduct this inspection. Available at www.adventistrisk.org.
- No one under 21 years of age should be allowed to drive a vehicle with Pathfinders/Adventurers as passengers.
- Care should be taken in the selection of drivers who have safe driving habits and record.
- Proper supervision requires two adults in each vehicle. It is the driver’s responsibility to focus their attention on traffic and highway conditions. The second adult should be responsible for navigation and supervision of passengers.
- Ensure that seatbelt use is mandatory for the driver and all passengers.
- Do not allow anyone to ride outside the vehicle or in the back of an open-bed truck or trailer.
- Do not overload vehicles with people and equipment. The number of passengers must be limited to the number of seatbelts in the vehicle. Observe vehicle load ratings for tires to prevent loss of control, blown tires, and other accidents.
- Do not use 15-passenger vans.
- Do not overload roof racks, as they can reduce the stability of the vehicle.
- Allow only appropriately licensed adults to operate a motor vehicle, boat or snowmobile.
- If motor homes are used, adhere to the seating capacity of the vehicle and supervision requirements.
- Without exception, require appropriate safety gear for bicycles, go-carts, ATVs, snowmobiles, motorcycles and other off-road vehicles.
- Conduct hayrides off public roads or highways and use extra care to prevent participants from riding on the wheel wells of trailers. Do not allow participants to jump off the trailer while the vehicle is in motion. Install running lights and reflectors to increase visibility to motorists.

www.adventistrisk.org | www.pathfindersonline.org | www.adventurer-club.org
Authors: Deena-Bartel-Wagner and Arthur F. Blind | Design: Daniel Añez
Camping is one of the most enjoyable activity we can provide to our young people, specially our pathfinders.

Anytime we take a group out camping, we have to be extremely careful because parents entrust us with their kids life. The life and health of these young people can never be replaced.

These young people are the future of the church. Pathfinder staff and older Pathfinders must protect the younger Pathfinders from harm and also incorporate fun and spiritual growth into the activities. The leadership should know how to maintain necessary health, safety and sanitary conditions without neglecting opportunities for fun and high adventure.

Outdoor benefits prove rather ineffectual if the Pathfinder returns home with a cold, earache, bad sunburn, poison ivy, upset stomach, cut foot, or sprained ankle. A camping experience can destroy forever a Pathfinder’s interest in the outdoors, the church, or even a relationship with God just as easily and as effectively as it can foster and build them up. Look at an overnight camp not as a test of endurance but as a test of unique living situations in which campers, counselors, and staff can, through skill, knowledge, and teamwork adapt to primitive conditions sanely, safely, healthfully, and in the spirit of fun and adventure.

The Pathfinder Camp Safety Honor was developed by Adventist Risk Management in 2008 and introduced at the 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The purpose of this honor is not to teach Pathfinders their basic camping skills – it is to train them in how to recognize unsafe acts and conditions that can occur when camping. “Safety Through Skill” should be our motto whenever Pathfinders are camping.

**HONOR REQUIREMENTS**

1. Successful completion of Camping Skills I-IV.
2. What is meant by “Pathfinders are a sacred trust” and how does camp safety support that aspect of ministry in the church?
3. Why is it important to find out what the local laws are before starting a camp fire and where would you get that information?
4. Identify 3 reasons why a camp fire should never be left unattended.
5. List 10 rules for fire safety to consider when camping.
6. Identify the temperature the following foods should be kept at and explain why this is important when camping.
   a. Hot foods
   b. Cold foods
7. List 5 things you can do to prevent animals from coming into your camp site.
8. What safety precautions should you consider when building a latrine?
9. Make a list of items that should be in a “first aid kit”? Inspect your Pathfinder club camping first aid kit and make recommendations of any missing items if applicable.
10. List 5 things to consider when practicing good hygiene at a camp site where there is no running water (i.e. showers, flush toilets, sinks or faucets).
11. Demonstrate 3 ways you can purify water when camping.
12. Identify 2 types of fuel used for camp cooking and explain what precautions should be used when using them.
13. Discuss 5 guidelines for personal safety and self protection when camping.
14. List 5 guidelines for safely handling camping knives, axes and hatchets.
15. Conduct 5 camp site inspections using the Pathfinder Camp Safety Inspection form.

**HONOR PREREQUISITES**

Successful Completion of Pathfinder Honors:

- Camping Skills I
- Camping Skills II
- Camping Skills III
- Camping Skills IV

**PATHFINDER CAMP SAFETY IS A SKILL LEVEL III HONOR**

**SUGGESTED TEACHING OUTLINE**

Plan to teach the Pathfinder Camp Safety Honor over several weeks, preferably 6 to 8 weeks prior to a campout or Conference Camporee.

- **Go over one or two safety elements in each training session so they learn the principles.**
- **Provide actual medical supplies to give the Pathfinders experience in building their own First Aid kits.**
- **Have the Pathfinder demonstrate they can safely handle knives, axes and hatchets.**
- **Set up a “bad campsite” before the final teaching session so Pathfinders can practice using the Camp Inspection form.**
- **Conduct a final review and test knowledge.**
OBJECTIVE

To help Pathfinders recognize unsafe conditions that could cause serious injury to others or physical damage and provide them with the skills necessary to take corrective action to prevent camping related accidents.

10 KEY TRAINING AREAS

Understanding Fire Safety
Proper Storage of Food
Understanding Camp Cooking Fuels
Precautions in building a latrine
What to have in a First Aid Kit
3 Ways to Purify Water
Good Camp Hygiene Practices
Personal Safety when Camping
Safe Handling of Camping tools
Conducting a Camp Inspection

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Pathfinder Safety Honor Training Kit
Pathfinder Safety Honor Training PowerPoint
Pathfinder Campsite Safety Inspection form
Trainers Guideline
Introductory True & False Quiz
Answer Key to the Honor Requirements
Honors Final Quiz
A Practical Guide to Pathfinder Safety Brochure
Available at: www.Adventistrisk.org
Learning to Be Prepared for the Unexpected

HELPFUL VIDEO RESOURCES

MonkeySee.com
How to Go Camping
Campfire Cooking
Protecting Food
Finding & Purifying Water
Going to the Bathroom in the woods

Expert Village.com
Camping Safety
How to put out a Fire
Never Leaving a Campfire Unattended

Numerous camping safety topics available free online!