

# **GOLDEN EAGLES**

Berrien Springs Spanish Church



## Pathfinder Handbook

Dear Pathfinder and Parents:

Welcome to the Golden Eagles Pathfinders club. We are excited that you have chosen to participate in this club. The success of this club will depend on you and your willingness to participate.

The Golden Eagles Pathfinder Club is a popular youth-friendly ministry where 5th through 10th graders can discover the hands-on excitement of participating in Christ-centered activities. Pathfinders will learn approximately many specialized skills in areas such as arts and crafts, aquatics, nature, household arts, recreation, spiritual development, health, and vocational training that help build our relationship to God and His creation.

As a member of this club, you will be able to explore what God has done for us, and get closer to Him and each other. You'll enjoy a wide range of activities including marching, camping, hobbies, community/civic service projects, trips and more.

As leaders and staff, we make a commitment to you to provide the best possible Pathfinder Club. As a valued member of this club, you also need to make a commitment: a commitment to attend all meetings, activities and outings. Each time you miss a meeting, you miss out on the activities and the other Pathfinders are moving ahead.

Parents please do your part to make sure your child arrives on time, and that you are here to pick up your child(s) on time.

Respectfully,

Leaders & Staff  
Golden Eagles Pathfinder Club

These are some of the exciting activities our club participates in:

- Induction Ceremony: A ceremony to welcome new members into the club.
- Conference Camporee & Campouts: Camping with other Pathfinder Clubs from the Michigan Conference at Camp Au Sable.
- Pathfinder Sabbath: Pathfinders plan and present the worship service at the Berrien Springs Spanish Church.
- Pathfinder Fair: End of the year event in which clubs from across Michigan Conference gather at Camp Au Sable and highlight what each club has done over the year.
- Investiture Service: End of the year "graduation" ceremony to recognize Pathfinders for their achievements, classwork and honors.
- Honors: Various honors will be taught and earned during the year.
- Drill Team: Learn all the basics of drill and participate in a competition at the fair. Pathfinders can participate in either the basic or fancy drill team according to their level of commitment.
- Additional campouts each Pathfinder year. We will also enjoy one or two campouts as a club.
- The Drum Corps: You can sign up to be on our drum corps team.
- PBE Team: Pathfinder Bible Experience (Bible competition) Compete at the local, Conference, Union and Division levels. Team(s) work on studying and memorizing a book or books

### **Membership Requirements:**

To join the Pathfinder Club, the applicant must be at one of our enrollment meetings with at least one of his/her parents or guardians and complete the following steps.

1. Be in fifth through twelfth grades.
2. Submit an *Application*, and *Code of Conduct* signed by the applicant and their parent or guardian.
3. Submit a *Health History, Consent to Treatment & Health Insurance* form and copy of insurance card.
4. Pay application/registration fee of \$50.00
5. Be faithful in attendance. Missing any four out of twelve consecutive meetings and/or required functions may result in dismissal.
6. Be faithful in paying club dues of \$1.00 at each meeting.
7. Be in the appropriate uniform, instructions, and orders from the Pathfinder Club staff.
8. Participate in community projects and outreach programs.
9. Obey regulations, instructions, and orders from the Pathfinder Staff.
10. Learn and keep the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.

### **Registration Dates**

Registration is open in September and October.

### **Attendance**

If the Pathfinder is absent from any three meetings without an excuse, they may be asked to withdraw from the club.

If absent, the dues from the missed meeting must be paid at the next regular meeting.

An excused absence is one that involves sickness, death in the family, or required school activity. Pathfinders must inform the director by email to have their absences excused and they will be responsible for missed work.

A Pathfinder who is asked to withdraw from the club may reapply the following year. Acceptance will be determined by the club director in consultation with the staff and the Pathfinder's parents. If a Pathfinder is asked to withdraw; there will be no refund of the registrations fee or club dues.

### **Units**

All Pathfinders will be assigned to a unit of no more than eight Pathfinders of their grade and gender and an adult staff member. Each unit will select its own Captain and Scribe who will have responsibilities during the opening exercises of each meeting.

### **Finances**

A registration fee of \$10 per Pathfinder is to be paid at registration. Non-Berrien Springs Spanish (BSS) church members fee is \$15. This does not include the cost of the additional campouts and some other optional events, which may require a small fee to help offset expenses. The exact cost will be announced before each event.

Each Pathfinder must have one current t-shirt and a dress uniform (approx. \$60-\$75). You can also look for hand-me down uniforms from other Pathfinders. If finances are a problem, please see the Director to make arrangements to see how each Pathfinder could get the appropriate support.

### **Dues**

Club dues are \$1.00/meeting. Payment of dues is required for meetings for which the Pathfinder is absent.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parental involvement is a very important factor in the Pathfinder program. Though non-staff parents do not attend meetings, you may need to assist your child in fulfilling their investiture requirements.

If a parent has a special skill that they can teach during our meetings, it would be greatly appreciated. Parents can also help as counselors and support staff.

### **Off Campus Events**

Each event more than 10 miles away requires a permission slip to be signed by a parental/legal guardian. Transportation to off campus events may be with some parents. Drivers will be adults 21 years old or above and approved by the Berrien Springs Spanish Church.

### **Electronics Policy**

No personal electronics are allowed at our club meetings, events, or campouts. This includes iPods, iPads, MP3 players, gaming systems, or other such devices. Cell phones may only be used to call home. Pathfinders not observing this policy will have their electronics confiscated for the remainder of the meeting, event or activity.

### **Behavior - 3 Warnings Policy**

If unacceptable behavior takes place, a first warning will be given. After the second warning, all Good Behavior points for that meeting will be lost. After the third warning being given, the Pathfinder will sent to the Director. The Director will determine whether or not to call the parents to come and pick up the Pathfinder and take him/her home. If, after the second warning, the Pathfinder turns their behavior around, their counselor may return up to 4 of the Good Behavior points for the event.

The third time during the Pathfinder year that a third warning has been given the Director and club staff may ask the Pathfinder to withdraw from the club.

### **Points:**

Points are awarded to each Pathfinder at each event:

- Attendance: 2 (1 point if late)
  - Dues: 2
  - Uniform: 2 (1 point partial uniform)
  - Participation: 2
  - Behavior: 5
- Total Possible: 13

### **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 friend to man.

### **Pathfinder Law**

The Pathfinder Law is for me to:  
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.

### **Pathfinder Song**

Oh we are the Pathfinders strong  
The servants of God are we  
Faithful as we march along,  
In kindness, truth and Purity.  
A message to tell to the world.  
A truth that will set us free.  
King Jesus the Savior is coming back for you and me.

**Pathfinder Aim:** The Advent message to all the world in this generation.

**Motto:** The love of Christ constrains us all.

**Club Motto:** Golden Eagles: Soaring to Heaven to meet Jesus

### **Pathfinder Uniform Information**

Class A (Dress Uniform):

- Pathfinder Shirt (Tan), black dress slacks/skirt, Pathfinder belt, closed-toe black shoes with low or no heel, Pathfinder scarf (yellow) & slide, sash

Class B (Field Uniform):

- Club T-shirt, modest blue jeans, closed-toe shoes with low or no heel.

Each Pathfinder and staff member is expected to wear modest attire, consistent with the Christian principles held by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Hair should be neatly groomed and styled. The uniform is a symbol of Pathfinders and reflects our mission to be soldiers for Jesus; as such the uniform should be worn with dignity and pride.

### **Dress Code for Non-Uniform Events**

Please refrain from wearing low-riding or sagging pants, tights pants, short skirts, tight skirts, immodest shorts, low cut tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, midriff-baring tops, or T-shirts with crude language or other inappropriate content. Clothes should be clean and in good repair. Swimwear should be modest; one piece or equivalent swimwear appropriate for women. JEWELRY is not to be worn, with the exception of Medic-Alert items and wedding bands (if married).

Pathfinders not following these standards will be asked to change. If you have a question if an item of clothing is appropriate to wear for Pathfinders please address it to the unit counselor, Deputy Director or the Director, as appropriate.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. Pathfinders agree to abide by the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.
2. Respect and the Golden Rule characterize our actions. Talking back to staff or any adult at any time is not acceptable. Absolutely NO BULLYING, put-downs, profanity or other inappropriate behavior will be tolerated at any time.
3. We will not tolerate any verbal and physically aggressive behaviors in any of our activities.
4. Pathfinders will be on time and in proper uniform to all club meetings, events and other club functions.
5. When called to fall-in, Pathfinders will line up immediately and come to attention with their unit.
6. During club meetings or events, unit members should stay together and with their counselors at all times. No one is to be off by themselves.
7. Pathfinders are expected to participate in every activity and maintain good conduct at all times.
8. We will provide consequences for any stealing or dishonest behaviors.
9. Any Pathfinder who continually engages in inappropriate behavior after being asked to stop may be asked to leave on the recommendation of the staff. (See Three Warning Policy).