

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA PATHFINDER TEEN COUNSELOR PROGRAM

I. HISTORY and PURPOSE

A few years after Pathfinding became established it was apparent that something special would have to be done to keep the older Pathfinders (14-19 years of age) active in the Pathfinder clubs. Many churches across America established separate teen clubs and some conferences began encouraging this. But in the Southeastern California Conference, there was a strong feeling that Pathfinding would be weakened by separating the teens, so a plan was devised to enrich the teen activities while keeping them in the regular clubs. The program consists of three main parts:

1. Special conference activities for all qualified teen counselors
2. Giving staff responsibilities to teens and training them to fulfill leadership roles
3. Encouraging local clubs to provide more advanced classes and responsibilities for older Pathfinders

II. DEFINITION

- A. Acting teen counselors (TCs) are those Pathfinders who are in grade 8 or above and are being used in staff or junior staff roles, but have not fulfilled all the requirements for investiture as TCs. They may be treated as teen counselors but may not go on Conference reward trips such as the river trip and may not wear the uniform or insignia.
- B. Invested teen counselors are those who have fulfilled ALL the requirements for their age group and have been accepted by the club staff as TCs, and wear the black and white Teen uniform.

III. UNDERSTANDING TEENS: (For the Club Director)

- A. Adolescent needs:
 1. Discover personal identity - "Who am I?"
 2. Gain independence - emotionally - financially
 3. Decide on vocation
 4. Develop appropriate relationships with the opposite sex
 5. Integrate personality into adult responsibility
- B. Goals for Youth Teen Counselor Program:
 1. Help teenager find his/her personal identity
 2. Develop leadership skills
 3. Develop teaching skills
 4. Instill a sense of responsibility and dependability
 5. Provide occasions for adult/teenager communication

6. Provide occasions for positive peer interaction
 7. Help develop positive attitudes toward:
 - a. Christ
 - b. Religion
 - c. Church
 - d. Self
 - e. Others
- C. How to Keep Teens Involved:
1. Recognize their needs
 2. Allow increasing voice in planning for the club
 3. Give increasing responsibility in leadership roles
 4. Establish mature communicating channels
 5. Treat them as adults, giving full respect, understanding and empathy
 6. Whenever possible show and verbalize appreciation and commendation
- D. Suggested Teen Counselors Duties:
1. Club Meetings:
 - a. Lead unit or assist adult staff in charge of unit
 - b. Teach or assist in teaching crafts
 - c. Teach drill and marching
 - d. Help with opening exercises
 - i. Color guard
 - ii. Worship formation
 - e. On occasion have a Teen night where the teen counselors are in charge of the entire club
 2. Outings:
 - a. Help plan and facilitate Saturday night programs
 - b. Help with Friday and Sabbath services
 - c. Plan music and devotionals
 3. Staff Meetings:
 - a. Include TCs by giving them full voting privileges
 - b. Encourage input and respect their opinions
 - c. Have them help tdefine club rules
 4. Rewards:
 - a. Special outings such as backpack trip, river trip, etc.
 - b. Pleasure of a job well done and being appreciated
 - c. Personal growth

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Give a teen application to all Pathfinders grade 8 and above. Do not make copies of the one in this book. Use the duplicate form obtained from the Youth Ministries department of the Conference office.)
- B. Assist potential teens in fulfilling all requirements as soon as possible.

- C. Collect the applications when all the requirements have been completed and present completed applications at a club staff meeting.
- D. Club staff vote to approve or disapprove each application.
- E. After approval, send the application to your area coordinator for their signature. ALL signatures MUST be present on application for application to be VALID, otherwise, application will be VOID.

V. TEEN COUNSELOR REQUIREMENTS (All requirements must be met)

- A. Be 14-19 years of age or in the eighth grade or above.
- B. Must have completed one AY age appropriate class (Explorer or above) and be working on the next age appropriate class.
- C. Must be a Pathfinder Club member in good standing for at least three months, and also have a 75% attendance record over this same period.
- D. Must complete and submit a Teen Counselor Application to the Senior Staff for action at a staff meeting, and be accepted.
- E. If approved, must serve a thirty (30) day probationary period before being eligible to receive the Teen Counselor sleeve strip .
- F. Be registered with the Teen Coordinators.
- G. Should possess leadership qualities.
- H. Must be helping with a local Pathfinder Club.
- I. Should be courteous, obedient, cheerful, considerate, honest, sincere, reverent, diligent, and a Christian in control of one's self.
- J. Should be enthusiastic and promote Pathfinder activities.
- K. Continue to advance in AY and Advanced AY Classes.
- L. The term of office will coincide with the Conference Pathfinder year and must be reconsidered and confirmed by the senior staff serving that current year.

VI. TEEN COUNSELOR DUTIES

- A. Know and perform the duties of the Captain and Scribe.
- B. Help the Captain and Scribe to function properly in their duties.
- C. May be asked to be a Unit Counselor, and would be responsible for their Unit at:

- a. Club meetings
 - b. Inspections
 - c. Camporee and Fair
 - d. Outings
 - e. Outside activities
- D. Help with the AY Honor and AY Classes when requested.
- F. Upon request, attend the staff meetings.
- G. Help in planning programs and outings.
- H. Be a good example, in conduct and dress, for their fellow Pathfinders.
- I. Obey Club rules and regulations.
- J. Place the best interest of the Unit first and own personal convenience last.
- K. Be meticulous in the care of their uniform and in all details of personal neatness.
- L. Wear the Teen Counselor uniform proudly and honorably.
- M. Meet all regular Club appointments punctually or advise their Unit Counselor and/or Director in advance of inability to do so.
- N. Develop outdoor living skills.
- O. Make time to develop a personal knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ, the Chief Master Guide, to help them discover the joy of service.

TEEN COUNSELOR MISSION TRIP

At this time the coordinator team voted to suspend the Pathfinder Teen mission trips until further notice.