



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Adsafe

South Pacific

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Position: **Pathfinder Club Counsellor**

Organisation: **Local Church**

Revised: 27 October 2023

Pathfinder Clubs provide a church based, Christ-centred outlet for the spirit of adventure and exploration, in the context of spiritual development and soul winning. Pathfinder Clubs are primarily designed for young people aged 10-15 years of age.

The Pathfinder Ministry Team has the primary responsibility to:

- *Provide opportunities for Pathfinders to accept God's invitation of personal salvation.*
- *Help Pathfinders understand that God loves them, cares for them and appreciates them.*
- *Encourage Pathfinders to discover their own God-given potential.*
- *Create lasting relationships with children as role models, mentors and friends.*
- *Develop unity and a team spirit within the group.*
- *Develop a healthy appreciation of God's creation.*
- *Teach specific skills and hobbies that will better equip Pathfinders in life.*
- *Teach the importance of health and fitness.*
- *Foster holistic development – physical, social, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic and spiritual – of each Pathfinder.*
- *Guide and guard against improper influences and behaviours from internal and external sources.*

The Role:

The Role of the Pathfinder Counsellor would typically include the following:

Planning & Programming

- Design, in coordination with the Pathfinder Director, a plan to complete all class level requirements during the Pathfinder year.
- Create a record of the plan, detailing the activities to accomplish the class level requirements and awards.
- Be involved in planning any camps and field trips needed to fulfil class requirements.

Management

- Be responsible for supervising and leading a class group (Unit) in one of the various Pathfinder class levels.
- Provide the voice and lead personality in any group activity.
- Foster the development of friendships and a cooperative spirit in the Unit.
- Set a good example in neatness, punctuality, uniform, and model Christian behaviour.
- Source supplies as necessary for group activities, and ensure that they are ready in advance of the Club meeting/activity/event.
- Set up and clean up for the group activity with the assistance of Unit members.
- Provide supervision, or arrange for supervision of the group to be undertaken at all times.
- Respect and implement the agreed child safety rules endorsed the Club.
- Complete the Adsafe child safety requirements (see below).
- Assess achievement of goals in preparation for Investiture.
- Assist the Director as necessary in planning and participating in Investiture.
- Resolve any issues that arise, and advise the Director if necessary.
- Attend planned staff meetings.
- Be respectful of cultural differences or special needs and factor these into the program or activity.
- Attend Conference leadership training events such as Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA).
- Work with and mentor Junior Unit Counsellors.

Connection & Communication

- Become acquainted with each member of the group, along with their caregiver/s.
- Display friendliness to the young people and caregiver/s.
- Encourage and teach/instruct group members.
- Communicate with caregiver/s as necessary.
- Ensure that caregiver/s are copied into all communication distributed to Pathfinders by the Club or the Counsellor.

Participant Safety Measures

- Ensure that all facilities and equipment used by the Unit are safe.
- Ensure that all adult (18+ years) personnel including designated adult parent/caregiver helpers involved with the Unit complete Adsafe child-safety requirements prior to the first Club activity with which they are involved. See below for the Adsafe requirements and Adsafe contact details.
- If a parent/caregiver wishes to attend an overnight Pathfinder activity and they are not listed as an official helper, they are still required to complete Adsafe requirements.
- Your Pathfinder Club can determine whether counsellors or helpers who are aged under 18 should sign the Pathfinder Code of Conduct*. If you are aged under 18 you should act in accordance with the Club decision. Signed Pathfinder Codes of Conduct should be stored locally in a secure location.
- Be aware of, and act in accordance with recommended procedures should a child disclose to you that they are feeling unsafe or have been the subject of abuse and/or neglect.
- Ensure young people are adequately supervised at all times.
- Acquaint all adults associated with the program of safety measures such as the "two-adult" rule and any other agreed relevant safety measures.
- Be familiar with relevant health-related and custodial information for each Pathfinder in the Unit.
- Instruct Unit members on the use of sunscreen, appropriate clothing and footwear, and adequate fluid and food intake as appropriate.

Attributes of the Pathfinder Counsellor:

- Love God supremely and demonstrates this in her/his life by modelling what he/ she expects the Pathfinders to become.
- Possess a passion for young people and their wholistic development.
- Relate well to parents/caregivers and involve them in various aspects of the club.
- Serve with enthusiasm, emphasizing the positive and supporting the program with energy.
- Enjoy being outdoors.
- Know the essential characteristics of children.
- Versatile and willing to learn and teach new things.
- Organised and able to maintain order.
- Maintain good relationships with fellow workers.
- Ability to empower and mentor others.
- Resourceful and creative.
- Honest and trustworthy.

Term of Office

The Pathfinder Counsellor is elected by the local Church Nominating Committee, often on the recommendation of the Pathfinder Director. The term of office would be one year but for continuity, the Nominating Committee may decide to elect for a period greater than one year. The Pathfinder Counsellor is responsible to the Pathfinder Director.

Adsafe Requirements

The Pathfinder Counsellor should have:

- A cleared, current Working With Children Check or equivalent.
- Completed the Adsafes Awareness Training.
- Signed the Adsafes Code of Conduct.

* An optional Pathfinder Code of Conduct is available for young leaders or helpers aged under 18. It is located on the Adsafes website at: www.adsafe.org.au/safeguarding/code-of-conduct

Adsafe Contacts:

Phone:	1800 220 468 (Australia) 0800 442 458 (New Zealand)
Email:	training@adsafe.org.au
Business hours:	8:30 – 5:00 Monday to Thursday 8:30 – 12:30 Friday

Updated by Adsafes October 2023, using information from the Pathfinder website at: www.pathfinder.org.au and acknowledging the work of past Church Departmental Directors.