



Avondale Pathfinder Club 2026 Information Pack

Welcome to the Avondale Pathfinder Club for 2026

Pathfinders is an organisation run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Throughout the year Pathfinders will be exposed to many different activities and challenges. While mixing with others in a Christian environment and enjoying God's creation, Pathfinders are encouraged to develop a relationship with Jesus. Conference Expeditions, Camporees, Pathfinder Fairs and Campouts are activities which teach Pathfinders the importance of teamwork and perseverance. Pathfinders are given the opportunity to contribute to their community through service projects.

Look up the following website to learn more about [Pathfinders](https://pathfinder.org.au/). <https://pathfinder.org.au/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the individuals on the leadership team. Looking forward to a great year!

Brad Magus - Club Director

Brad Magus

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MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. YEAR LEVEL AT SCHOOL

Pathfinder club members must be in Year 5 at school prior to joining Avondale Pathfinder Club. Individuals up to the age of 16 are accepted into the club.

The following levels are offered in 2026:

- Friends (Grade 5)
- Explorers (Grade 6)
- Companions (Grade 7)
- Rangers (Grade 8)
- Voyagers (Grade 9)
- Guides (Grade 10)
- Master Guides or Black Berets (Grade 11)

2. FEES

Club membership fees are due at Registration. **The cost is \$XX per child.** For those experiencing financial difficulty, it is possible to make a special arrangement for club fees with the Club Director. All discussions will be confidential.

Please note that there will be additional fees for club activities/camps and Conference run events. These fees will be advertised to Pathfinders and parents via the Club Newsletters and Operoo at the appropriate time.

3. UNIFORM

Pathfinder members are required to have a full dress uniform as well as a field uniform that fits them properly. Please refer to the *Club Uniform Guide* attached for further information on what the uniform includes (more information at the end of this Information Guide).



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Please refer to the Club Calendar to determine whether the full dress uniform or field uniform needs to be worn. **At all Club Meeting Nights Pathfinders MUST wear non marking enclosed shoes.**



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4. CLUB MEETING NIGHTS

Pathfinder Hall Meetings Nights will commence at **5:30pm** unless advised otherwise—please be on time. Meetings finish at **8:30pm**.

Points are awarded to Pathfinders and Units for attendance at the various club functions, this is then used to determine what end of year grading Pathfinders receive at Investiture e.g.

Participation, Invested or Advanced.

5. ATTENDANCE

Pathfinders are to be regular attendees of Pathfinder meetings, campouts and other activities. If an individual is absent it is the responsibility of the child and their parents to contact their Group Leader to catch up if needed. It is NOT the unit leader's responsibility to chase the child or their parents.

6. ADULT HELPERS

Safety of our children is our top priority. Our club depends on adults to volunteer to assist with teaching, leading, supervising, transporting and being involved with our Pathfinders. So, as part of best practice adult and children interaction, we follow the guidance of Adsafe, a body that operates within the SDA Church Administration that ensures children within our care are safe. Therefore, ALL adults involved in our club require the following certifications:

- NSW Working with Children Check - WWCC <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>
- Create Adsafe Account
- Adsafe Safe Places training - <https://elearning.adsafe.org.au/>
- Adsafe Code of Conduct - <https://www.adsafe.org.au/safeguarding/code-of-conduct>

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. SPECIAL NOTE FOR NEW MEMBERS

All new members will be on a **2-month** probation period, prior to being accepted into full membership. The yearly Club fees are required to be paid before the first club night, if for any reason, you or your child wishes to withdraw from the Club in this period there may be a partial refund of the Club fees. After this period has expired (**01/04/2026**) no fees will be refunded.

There will be 2 opportunities to join the club throughout the year. At the start of the year with Mar 8 the registration deadline. After Mar 8, the next opportunity to join our club is our mid-year intake June 1 (however Pathfinders in our mid-year intake will receive a participation award only, and will not be eligible for full investiture awards).

2. OUR COMMUNICATION TO YOU

Regular emails via Operoo, which will include details about upcoming activities, will be sent to parents and Pathfinders regularly. There will also be updates on Facebook, so please join the private group named Avondale Pathfinders.

3. YOUR COMMUNICATION TO US

If further clarification is needed, the priority form of communication is by emailing the director at **pfdirector@ampac.org.au**. Please be assured that staff also are happy to speak to you at Club Night or directly.



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4. CALENDAR EVENTS

Being a Pathfinder means commitment to the Pathfinder club, from both parents and Pathfinders. Please be aware of upcoming Pathfinder events and make them your first priority. The Pathfinder Calendar is circulated to registered club members and is also available on the Club website www.ampac.org.au. The Pathfinder Calendar is subject to change.

5. ATTITUDES

Pathfinders are to be respectful to staff and other Pathfinders. They are expected to listen and follow instructions given them by Club staff. Repetition of unacceptable behaviour will lead to discussions with parents in an effort to resolve the problem. Discipline will be left to the parent to implement. However, if the problem behaviour continues, the Pathfinder may be asked to leave the Club. Included in this Information Pack is the *Pathfinder Protocols* which further outlines the behaviour expected by each member of the Club.

6. POINTS SYSTEM

Points will be awarded to Pathfinders for attendance at club events, punctuality & behaviour. The points system (PS) is a way for Pathfinders and parents to monitor the progress of each pathfinder to determine whether a pathfinder is awarded **Participation, Invested or Invested Advanced** at the end of year awards called Investiture. Points are allocated as following. 5 points for a club night, Swimming, ADRA or other event and 10 points for a camp.

7. CLUB EQUIPMENT

The Pathfinder Club has extensive outdoor activities equipment available for Pathfinder use. Tents and personal camping gear are the responsibility of each member to purchase. An information session for all new members is provided at the start of the year to inform parents what to purchase.

Pathfinders are expected to use the Club equipment in a responsible manner. Any misuse/abuse of club equipment, which results in damage, will be expected to be paid for by Pathfinders or parents. Parents **must** ensure that their child returns any club equipment they have permission to take home, no later than the next Pathfinder meeting.

8. TRANSPORT

Transport to and from Pathfinder events are the responsibility of the parent, although for events like camps, transport will often be arranged by attending staff. It is important that Pathfinders promptly notify staff if not attending these activities, so seating in vehicles can be organised.

9. HONOURS

Honours will be completed during the program conducted in each unit. This program involves activity-based learning style where possible.

Specialty Honour work may be taught by staff or other members of the church/community with an interest in a particular craft or skill. The club fees will cover most materials, but occasionally some extra fees may be required if more expensive materials are needed. *Honour patches* are included in the fees.



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PATHFINDER PLEDGE & LAW

Loving the Lord my God I will: Daily seek His presence
Show friendship to others
Keep the Pathfinder Law
And honour my country

The Pathfinder Law is for me to: Look for the good in others
Aim to do my best
Love and respect my family
Be thankful for what I have
Preserve God's creation
Take care of my health
Be involved in my church
And go where He sends

PATHFINDER PROTOCOLS

Pathfinders is a social activity where the right attitudes can be developed and strengthened. The guidelines below are simple and practical and will make your stay in Pathfinders safe, fun and enjoyable for all.

1. RESPECT FOR GOD

Pathfinders recognise God as the Creator and Redeemer, therefore:

- We obey His Laws of love, including the 10 Commandments.
- We enjoy His Sabbath day with appropriate activities.
- We show reverence in His presence.
- We participate in worships.
- We practice the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) - doing to others, as we would want them to do to us.

2. RESPECT FOR PEOPLE

Pathfinders recognise all people as unique and special, therefore:

- We treat people with dignity. Offensive and foul language, name-calling or abuse is not appropriate.
- We don't threaten others or ruin their Pathfinder experience. Skateboards, scooter, technology, music-making devices are not to be brought to any Pathfinder event.
- We recognise knives as dangerous if misused, and we only use pocketknives or camping knives on camps with care and under supervision.
- We do not chew gum as it is offensive to many people and it often finds its way into unwanted places.
- We respect other people's personal space and their belongings. We keep out of all bags/packs that belong to other people. We also do not enter other people's tents.
- We recognise that the Club staff are concerned for our welfare and so we let our Counsellor know where we are at all times, and get their permission prior to leaving the campsite or Hall. We always hike with our group and Counsellor.

3. RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENT

Pathfinders recognise nature as God's gift to us, therefore:

- We do not deface or destroy the environment.
- We always leave our campsite cleaner and tidier than when we arrived.
- We take ALL rubbish home or place it in a rubbish bin. We do not drop rubbish along the hiking trail, especially aluminium foil, plastics and orange peel (which takes months to decay).
- When we go to the toilet in the bush ON CAMPS, we bury the waste and cover it up.
- We recognise that throwing stones can be dangerous, and so we only throw stones under close supervision and permission from Club staff. We never throw stones at, or near, another person.
- We do not roll rocks/boulders over cliffs under any circumstances, as they may hurt someone below.
- We light campfires in an established fireplace or a safe cleared area.
- We do not pitch tents closer than about 20m to a fire as sparks can damage the tent.
- We only put wood or paper on the fire. No plastic, metal, wrappers or cans.
- We do not play with fire, or poke and prod a fire with sticks.
- We always ensure the fire is out before leaving a campsite.

4. RESPECT FOR EQUIPMENT

We recognise that the Pathfinder equipment is lent to us from the Avondale Seventh-day Adventist Church, therefore:

- We care for the Pathfinder equipment as well as, or better, than we care for our own equipment. We recognise that we are responsible for any damage we cause and may be asked to pay for repairs, or a replacement.
- We ask before borrowing or using other people's equipment. When borrowing something, we return it promptly and in good condition.



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CLUB UNIFORM GUIDE

Pathfinders should look smart especially while in uniform. Please take care of your uniform.

1. FIELD UNIFORM

The Avondale Pathfinder Club consists of a yellow high visibility T-shirt with the Club emblem on it. It is to be worn with neat and tidy clothing appropriate for the occasion. Field shirts may be purchased (\$35) via Operoo .Please note that the Field Uniform can only be obtained through the Avondale Pathfinder Club. Non-marking joggers to be worn for all Pathfinder club nights in the Multi-Purpose Centre.

2. DRESS UNIFORM

The Pathfinder dress uniform is to be worn for events like Pathfinder Camporee, Pathfinder Fair, Investiture, ANZAC Day March, ADRA Appeal and for other official designated Pathfinder events. The Dress uniform includes black leather shoes.

The traditional and new Pathfinder official uniforms are available from the Better Books and Food Centre in Cooranbong. Both the old and new uniforms are acceptable.

A small number of second-hand uniform items may be available for purchase at Registration, but only on a first-come, first-served basis.

<https://adventistbookcentre.com.au/pathfinder-polo-shirts.html>



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CLUB AWARDS GUIDE

Senior Pathfinder Award of Excellence

The Pathfinder Award of Excellence is the highest award given to one Senior Pathfinder who has shown in all their Pathfinder activities a **spirit of participation, cooperation, initiative and responsibility**. While this award is granted only once in the lifetime of a pathfinder, it does provide recognition for individual development and the ability to achieve an outstanding level of proficiency. The individual should be able to work well in group activities and **be willing to give of oneself in order to help other pathfinders**. This is vital in learning cooperation and team spirit, which are necessary ingredients of a well-balanced Christian.

Junior Award

This award is given to one male and one female Junior Pathfinder, who has demonstrated **maturity, developing leadership skills, and a growing relationship with God** during the pathfinder year. The unit leaders believe that the recipient of this award has fulfilled the criteria. The person has shown great potential to becoming a strong leader now and in the future of this club.

The Wishart Award

Wishart Award -This is a special award for teens only. A teen Pathfinder's attitude, attendance and behaviour are observed during the year. If a member of the teen section of the club has met the standards set, they will receive this award. A teen Pathfinder needs to have a **good attitude and have a very high attendance and participation** to receive this award.

The Barbara Ackland Kindness Award

This award is open to any pathfinder in the club and looks to encourage kind acts towards others. The award is in memory of Barbara Ackland who was a member of the Avondale Memorial Church, someone who exemplified kindness in her words and actions.