

AVONDALE PATHFINDER CLUB



FRIENDS 2026

DIRECTORS

Brad Magus
James Pascoe

pfdirector@ampac.org.au



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

pfdirector@ampac.org.au

0425203049

James Pascoe – Club Director

0411688504

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. YEAR LEVEL AT SCHOOL

Pathfinder club members must be in Year 5 at school prior to joining Avondale Pathfinder 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)

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2. FEES

Club membership fees are due at Registration. **The first child in a family is \$XX and each additional child is \$XX.** 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).

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.**

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 February 8 the registration deadline. After February 8, the next opportunity to join our club is our mid-year intake May 30 (however Pathfinders in our mid-year intake will receive a participation award only, and will not be eligible for full investiture awards or able to join the Expedition).

2. OUR COMMUNICATION TO YOU

Regular emails via our Pathfinder Management System will include details about upcoming activities and 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 James at pfdirector@ampac.org.au. Please be assured that staff also are happy to speak to you at Club Night or directly. (if urgent).

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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 Facebook. 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.

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.

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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.

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 Avondale Memorial 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 old 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>



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.

CAMPING INFORMATION

CAMPING INFORMATION

Before each camp an information sheet is produced to inform pathfinders and parents of the costs of the camp, Departing and Arrival times. All information is shared via email and put on facebook. You can search for Avondale Memorial Pathfinders and ask to be added to the closed group.

TRAVEL

- ☐ Private Cars
 - Care for other's cars
 - No food or drink in other's cars unless you check first.

BAG

- ☐ Day Packs (use for all camps)
- ☐ Car Camp
 - Luggage bag
 - No bags that don't shut
- ☐ Hiking Camp
 - Hiking Pack (your age in weight + 1kg + Water)

TENT

- ☐ Tent care (pathfinder tents but can use your own tent)
 - Don't eat in tents
 - Pitch away from the fire
- ☐ Tent buddies. 2 or 3
- ☐ Enter others tents only by invitation
- ☐ Boys and girls areas for tents

SLEEPING GEAR

- ☐ Mat
 - Car Camp mat (may be heavier)
 - Hiking Camp mat (lightweight foam or light weight inflatable)
- ☐ Sleeping Bag
 - For winter camps advisable to have at least a -5 bag
 - Advisable to have a light & small bag for Hiking Camps
- ☐ Pillow
 - Car Camp – Bring a pillow
 - Hiking Camp – Roll up your jumper and sleep on it

HYGIENE

- ☐ Doug & Rollie (Trowel & Toilet paper roll)
 - Car camps may have toilet facilities
 - Hiking camps will probably not have toilets.
 - Be prepared to use it
 - All must be buried
 - Keep it in your Day Pack on day trips.

- ☐ Soap

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pfdirector@ampac.org.au



- Use your soap especially after toileting and before eating.
 - Don't use in a waterway (For example in a creek. This is to stop pollution)
- ☐ Teeth
 - Bring a toothbrush and toothpaste and use it. (Makes your smile and breath nicer)
- ☐ Deodorant

EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID

- ☐ Make Medical conditions known
 - Make sure your counsellor / group leader knows your specific problem before you leave on the camp.
- ☐ 1st Aid Officers
 - We have trained 1st Aid Officers on each camp
 - If concerned find out who they are and speak directly to them
- ☐ Equipment
 - Bring your own medication as required
 - Small personal 1st Aid kit
 - Bring a whistle (emergency use only)
 - Matches (for lighting cooker)
 - Raincoat/Poncho
 - Sunscreen
 - Torch/Headlamp
 - Specific Guidelines of what is expected to be brought is included in the Pathfinder newsletter about the camp.
 - UHF radios or Mobile phones may be brought and used as appropriate. Use of these will be advised for each camp.
- ☐ Emergency meal (always bring spare food in case it is burnt or dropped or has dirt in it)

CLOTHES

- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Socks (clean pair for every day)
- ☐ Shoes (comfortable, not brand new)
- ☐ Clean clothes to sleep in
- ☐ Swimmers/Wetsuit/Towel (if water camp)
- ☐ Warm Clothes (ie light wind jacket)
- ☐ Bag of car clothes to be kept in the car you travel in (essential for Hiking Camps so you are clean for the return trip home)
- ☐ Suggestions for Hiking Camp
- ☐ 2 night camp (take one set of clothes in pack)
 - Day one – wear clothes to camp (set 1)
 - Night one – clean to sleep (set 2)
 - Day two – wear clothes (set 1)
 - Night two – clean to sleep (set 2)
 - Day three – wear clothes (set 2) or what is driest or cleanest.

RUBBISH

- ☐ What you bring to camp you take home
- ☐ Use sealable bags and seal them to avoid spillage in your bags.

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WATER

- ☐ Bring 2 litres (even to hiking camps)
- ☐ Extra water to fill up your water bottles throughout the weekend is always provided even on Hiking Camps.

FOOD COOKING

- ☐ Use your own gear (Unless you have organised to share with someone)
- ☐ Bring only the equipment you will use
 - Cooker (know how to use it)
 - Billy/Saucepan
 - Utensils/plate/bowl/cup (don't bring mums good ones)
- ☐ Use a tea towel drawstring bag to put plates and cutlery in. (mum or grandma should be able to help you make one)
- ☐ Eat healthy Food (sugary food gives short bursts of energy and is not ideal)
- ☐ Plan what you will eat for each meal
- ☐ Know how to cook your food
- ☐ Pack your food in meals so that you don't run out before the end of camp
- ☐ Meal Tips
- ☐ Friday Tea (travel delays may make for a late tea)
 - Don't plan to cook this meal
 - Pack in easy to get to (day pack in car is a good idea)
- ☐ Breakfasts
 - Eat a good breakfast (you will need the energy)
 - Cereal is great (use powdered milk for hiking camps)
 - Can cook breakfast if you are up early
- ☐ Lunches (we will usually be on the move at lunch)
 - Don't plan to cook this meal
 - Pre-packaged and ready to grab and eat
 - Suggestions: Dried biscuits/spreads/chips/muesli bars
 - Pack dried food (light weight and good for you) or fresh fruit for car camp
 - Pack some energy food. A few lollies/chocolate.
- ☐ Saturday Tea (Usually at camp with time to cook)
 - Hot cooked food good to regain energy – Noodles, rice, cup-a-soup, vegies or eat out of a can. (remember to take your rubbish home)
- ☐ Don't forget your emergency meal
 - This could be as simple as cup-a-soup and a muesli bar.

DON'T BRING

- ☐ Junk Food
- ☐ Technology
 - You will not have time to use your devices. Leave them at home so that they don't get broken.

EXAMPLE PRE EXPEDITION CHECKLIST

Please ensure you have every item on this checklist by ticking off the square as you pack the items in a bag.

GENERAL

- ☐ A hiking pack to pack all your gear in.
- ☐ A lightweight hiking tent (if you have one) OR use a shared club tent.
- ☐ A water bottle of 2 litres capacity OR two water bottles of 1-1.25 litres capacity.
- ☐ A daypack to carry lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, insect repellent toilet paper and trowel and personal first aid kit (D Grade Only).
- ☐ Head Torch or small torch with good batteries
- ☐ Sleeping Mat
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Insect Repellent
- ☐ Warm Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Sunscreen

CLOTHES (write your name on every item)

- ☐ Field Uniform – T Shirt, Shorts/Pants
- ☐ Change of underwear
- ☐ Tracksuit pants
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Spare set of clothes in waterproof bag
- ☐ Socks – clean pair every day
- ☐ Wet weather jacket/Raincoat
- ☐ Jumper
- ☐ Hiking Boots/Sneakers/Runners

COOKING (write your name on every item)

- ☐ Knife, Fork, Spoon/Spork (light ones)
- ☐ Matches, in waterproof container
- ☐ Tea towel bag (for storing eating & cooking utensils)
- ☐ Pot
- ☐ Cooker & gas

FOOD

- ☐ 2 breakfasts
- ☐ 2 lunches
- ☐ 2 dinners (1 pre made for Friday night)
- ☐ Snacks (eg Trail Mix, Fruit, Muesli Bar)

TOILETRIES

- ☐ Small amount of toothpaste & toothbrush
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Personal deodorant
- ☐ ½ roll of toilet paper (in zip lock bag)(“Rollie”)
- ☐ Small light garden trowel (“Duggie”)

FIRST AID

- ☐ Small First Aid Kit: 10 Band Aids, Triangular Bandage, Crepe Bandage, Pain Killer Tablets (your choice), Large Safety Pin, Small Amount of Antiseptic Cream, Emergency Blanket.
 - ☐ Any Medication you may need personally such as Ventolin, Antihistamine, EpiPen etc.
 - ☐ Whistle – Basic survival item only to be used in emergencies
- Put all these in a sealable zip lock plastic bag. Pack them where you can get them easily.



EXAMPLE EXPEDITION LETTER

EXPEDITION NEWSLETTER No.1

Dear Pathfinders, Parents and Leaders

Conference Expedition, 10th-13th June 2023

This year the Expedition is being held in the Mount Yengo National Park. We will meet at the MPC **Friday 10th of June at 10:30am for departure.**

Upon arrival at the MPC we would like all Pathfinders to proceed to the registration desk to Check In, so departure can be completed efficiently. We will travel to our Conference Expedition Registration Point. From the Registration Point all participants will hike with their packs to a Base Camp site.

The Expedition is a pack hiking camp. This means that everything you bring (including your food) must fit into your backpack and you must be able to carry it! If you can't fit in your pack it doesn't go.

This camp will be cold and below zero overnight and you will need thermals and a winter sleeping bag.

There is one difference on this camp. Please bring a spare change of clothes and deodorant (packed in a bag marked with your name) to leave in the car. This will give you something dry/clean to change into on Monday when you come out of the hike and prior to travelling in the car home.

Bring the gear and food on the following checklist. Remember you have to carry whatever is in your pack, so pack light! Your pack must not weigh in at more than "Your age +1kg. without including your water. Fit everything you can inside your pack. Items on the outside are prone to getting lost, wet or damaged. Bring at least 2 litres of drinking water. Drinking water will be in short supply and will not be available between camp areas. It will be provided each evening at base camps.

There will be a BBQ for lunch at closing of the expedition on Monday

We plan to return to the MPC at 2:30pm on Monday

Parents our base contact for the weekend will be XXXXXX XXXXXXXX on Mobile XXXXX XXXXX. Our ETA at the MPC on Monday the 13th of June will be at 2:30pm. Keep an eye on Facebook for any changes.

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pfdirector@ampac.org.au

EXAMPLE EXPEDITION CHECKLIST

Please ensure you have every item on this checklist by ticking off the square as you pack the items in a bag.

GENERAL

- ☐ A hiking pack to pack all your gear in.
- ☐ A lightweight hiking tent (if you have one) OR use a shared club tent.
- ☐ A water bottle of 2 litres capacity OR two water bottles of 1-1.25 litres capacity.
- ☐ A daypack to carry lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, insect repellent toilet paper and trowel and personal first aid kit (D Grade Only).
- ☐ Head Torch or small torch with good batteries
- ☐ Sleeping Mat
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Insect Repellent
- ☐ Warm Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Pencil/Pen/Highlighter

CLOTHES (write your name on every item)

- ☐ Field Uniform – T Shirt, Shorts/Pants
- ☐ Change of underwear
- ☐ Tracksuit pants
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Spare set of clothes in waterproof bag
- ☐ Thermals
- ☐ Socks – clean pair every day
- ☐ Wet weather jacket/Raincoat
- ☐ Jumper
- ☐ Hiking Boots/Sneakers/Runners
- ☐ Gaitors to protect legs

COOKING (write your name on every item)

- ☐ Knife, Fork, Spoon/Spork (light ones)
- ☐ Matches, in waterproof container
- ☐ Tea towel bag (for storing eating & cooking utensils)
- ☐ Pot
- ☐ Cooker & gas

FOOD

- ☐ 3 breakfasts
- ☐ 3 dinners (1 pre made for Friday night)
- ☐ 1 Emergency Meal
- ☐ 3 lunches
- ☐ Snacks (eg Trail Mix, Fruit, Muesli Bar)
- ☐ Plastic Bag for rubbish

TOILETRIES

- ☐ Small amount of toothpaste & toothbrush
- ☐ Personal deodorant
- ☐ Small light garden trowel ("Duggie")
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ ½ roll of toilet paper (in zip lock bag)("Rollie")

FIRST AID

- ☐ Small First Aid Kit: 10 Band Aids, Triangular Bandage, Crepe Bandage, Pain Killer Tablets (your choice), Large Safety Pin, Small Amount of Antiseptic Cream, Emergency Blanket.
- ☐ Any Medication you may need personally such as Ventolin, Antihistamine, EpiPen etc.
- ☐ Whistle – Basic survival item only to be used in emergencies

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