

August 20, 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Michiana Fil-Am Followers Pathfinders Club!

This note will briefly explain some of the goals and objectives of this year's Club, the expenses, and the structure of the Club.

Goals and Objectives

Our Goal this year is to be a "200 Club", which is the name given to all Clubs in the Michigan Conference that follow the point system (which we will do) and accomplish certain objectives. The "200 Club" point system has been tweaked a bit this year and will be explained to the Staff this weekend at the "Leadershop" at Camp Au Sable. When we find out how it will work this year, we will pass that on to you.

Our Objectives every year include completing three areas of enrichment: class-work, advanced class-work, and at least one honor in each of the 12 Masters Awards areas.

Each unit (grade level) has a class ("Friend", "Companion", "Explorer", etc). Each of these classes also has an advanced portion to it. These are both designed to improve the Pathfinder and help them to be of greater service to God and their Community. If successfully completed, the Pathfinder is invested in these classes at the end of the Pathfinder year (close to the end of the school year, this year it will be held on May 11) and they can then improve their dress uniform (Type A) with them.

As you may also be aware, Pathfinders complete honors. At Investiture these honors are given and the Pathfinder then sews them on their sash. These (as well as the classes and advanced classes) are not to "show off" but to illustrate (at a glance) how the Pathfinder has been trained and what they can now do in God's service. Another element of the honors-work is the Masters Awards.

There are twelve Masters Awards that cover twelve areas of study. A Pathfinder must earn seven honors in any of these twelve areas to be considered a Master of that area of study. Since there are very precise instructions as to which honors qualify for these Masters Awards, we will only teach honors that qualify. As a result, there are honors that we will never teach. You will be emailed a list of these honors that you may work with your Pathfinder at home to earn (if you so choose).

Expenses

In the past, our Club has not asked for a membership fee or for Club dues. However, the world is becoming more expensive and the Michiana Fil-Am church simply cannot afford to offer this ministry for free any longer. We regret this, but it is a cold reality that we have to live with.

This said, we are trying our best to keep the cost at a manageable level. Therefore we are only asking for \$50 for the entire year as the membership fee. As a means of comparison, we understand that Pioneer Memorial is asking \$80 each semester (\$160 for the entire year).

The \$50 covers the Type B uniform shirt (also called "Field Uniform"), the cost of the Camporee (Sept 14-16), the cost of the Fair (May 17-19), and the cost of Investiture items. Please note that this does not cover the expense of food or transportation to these events or the cost of supplies for the honors and activities that we will undertake this year, but we will try to raise this in a variety of ways.

Our Pathfinders will be fundraising to raise money to help cover some of these costs as well as start raising funds for next year's International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. One way we will be doing this is to ask Pathfinders to bring \$1 to each Club meeting (not drilling, just the Club meetings) as their Club dues. But there will be exciting fundraising events that we will earmark either for Club expenses or for Oshkosh throughout the year that will also help.

Structure of the Club

As already stated, the Club is divided into units by grade level. Within those units they will elect a "Captain" and a "Scribe". Each unit will be taught and guided by Counselors.

As a Club, the girls will all be under the supervision of their Counselors (first) and then by the Deputy Director of Girls, which this year is Arnie Lou Baker. The boys will all be under the supervision of their Counselors (first) and then by the Deputy Director of Boys, which this year is Erwin Flores. Over the entire Club is the Club Director, this year Scottie Baker is serving in this position.

All questions should first be directed to your Pathfinder's Unit Counselor. In turn, any information that needs to be passed to you and your Pathfinder will come from your Pathfinder's Unit Counselor. It is hoped that this system will help the flow of communication and avoid some of the difficulties that we have seen in the past.

Questions

Some questions may not have to be directed to the Counselor (such as pin placement, patch placement, etc). Director Scottie is working on a website that will help answer these sorts of questions that you are free to visit.

<http://sdadventistyouth.org/>

If you still have trouble finding something (or maybe something has not been posted to the website yet), please communicate with your Pathfinder's Unit Counselor who can in turn ask the Deputy Directors if they do not know.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Thank you for working with our Staff to make it a success. And as always, we welcome your prayers.

In God's Service,

Director Scottie and the Fil-Am Followers Staff