

4

Survival, Salvation, or Both?

Campouts are THE memory maker for most Pathfinders. That's because they provide natural opportunities for disaster. Children love to remember and talk about shared disasters, successfully overcome, or at least survived!

Camping is also one of the best relationship builders, because of the time spent together and the new setting in which the community finds itself.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...

—MATTHEW 4:1 NIV

Planning decisions

Before you start actual planning for the years campouts, you need to develop or review your mission statement. Make sure you make use of the opportunities that a campout gives, to implement your mission statement. Check your goals for the Pathfinder year and develop campout plans that will help you reach those goals. Before each campout, review the mission statement and goals to make sure they are fresh in your mind.

Listed below are some of the questions you will need to find answers for when planning the campouts for the coming year. They are in no way comprehensive, but if you answer them all, you should be well on the way...

1. What is the primary and secondary reason for holding campouts in our club?

2. How can we “Theme” our campouts so they are more effective?

3. How many campouts will we have? Monthly? Quarterly?

4. Are these dates cleared with our staff? Are we planning far enough in advance that our staff can request time off work if they need to take off? (Some employers require all vacation time to be requested a year in advance, or to all be requested at one time for the coming year.)

5. If we schedule a campout on a holiday weekend, how will it alter our attendance, travel plans, etc.?

Types of Campouts

- Campground
- In church (or school, or home)
- Cabin
- Condo
- Hotel/Motel
- Staycation (they stay at home)
- Road trip (tent, RV, motel)
- Backpacking
- Survival
- Canoe camping
- Snow camping
- Cold weather/winter camping
- Hot weather camping
- Boat/Sailboat camping
- Bicycle camping
- _____
- _____

ZOOM!

Poll Questions

1. What activity do returning Pathfinders talk about most?

- Investiture Achievement
- Honors
- PBE
- Worships
- Campouts
- Oshkosh

2. Other than Camporee, how many times a year does your club camp?

- 0
- 1
- 2 or 3
- 4+

Camping contrasts

- Community vs. isolation
- Relaxation vs. hurried living
- Cooperation vs. competition
- Nature vs. technology
- Awe & wonder vs. mass production

6. When and who will we present our camping schedule to the church board?

7. When do we need to contact the campsite to determine site availability, cost, constraints, registration deadlines, vehicle limitations, facility availability?

8. Who will make those inquiries and when will they report to the staff?

9. Who will plan the general schedule for the campout and see that it is followed?

ZOOM!

Group Question #1

Share your favorite memory of a campout.

10. How far in advance will we issue permission slips? Will notarization be required on those permission slips? Will we issue a generic slip that covers the entire year, or specific slips for each event, or both?

11. Do the permission slips include all pertinent information, including contact phone numbers at the campsite, staff cell numbers, and delayed return instructions for parents?

12. Do we have signed, updated medical consent forms on hand for each attending Pathfinder?

13. What fees will be charged for campouts? When are they due? Will it cover travel? Will it cover all food? Will it cover campground fees? Will it cover entrance fees to events or sites?

ZOOM!

Group Question #2

Share your favorite vacation spot and tell why your Pathfinders would love it too.

14. What fees will be charged to staff for campouts? When are they due? Will it cover travel? Will it cover all food? Will it cover campground fees? Will it cover entrance fees to events or sites? What about staff children (young)?

15. Is there any special equipment or clothing the Pathfinders should bring? Do we have a dress code? Swim wear? Baggage limits?

16. What uniforms will we require on each trip? How should they be packed by the individuals and by the club for transport?

17. What part of Investiture Achievement will be covered on the campout? Who will teach, and what resources will they need?

18. What honors can we teach on the campout? Who will teach, and what resources will they need?

19. Can we provide any community service on the campout, if yes, what?

20. Will anyone do a pre-trip to the site to check out facilities, attractions, and opportunities in the area? If so, who?

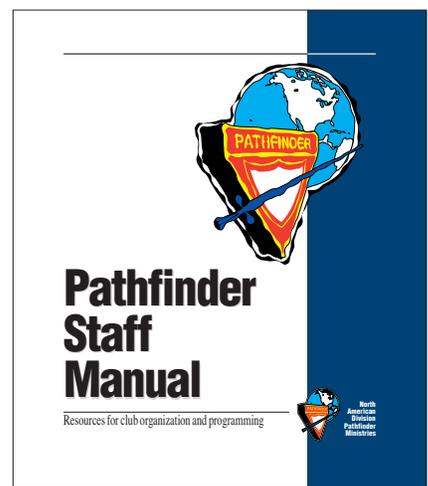
21. Are there any security issues to consider? Will we need to keep someone at the campsite at all times? What about dangerous plants, animals, infestations, etc.?

22. Are we participating in any event that might need additional insurance coverage? Who will check and make those arrangements?

23. Who will drive? Do they have proper insurance? How many can they carry? When can they leave? Do we pay gas? Mileage? Only if they carry a certain number of children?

Camping Teaches Christianity

- **Creation** - Affirms that God is the source of all that is possible.
GEN. 1:27
- **Freedom & fall** - We can choose to broken or to trust.
JOHN 8:32 & ISAIAH 53:6
- **Grace** - Shifts our focus. Helps us accept others where they are, just as God accepts us.
EPH. 4:7
- **Covenant Community** - We learn to be responsible to each other.
GEN. 31:44
- **Confession & reconciliation** - We fail and are forgiven.
COR. 5:18
- **Faith & love** - Life is fresh and real, so it deepens love and faith.
GAL. 5:13
- **Hope** - Sometimes none of the above happens, but we look forward to a future with God.
ROM. 15:13



Great Resource

Lots of planning tips and sample schedules, menus, etc. are given in the *Pathfinder Staff Manual*, available from AdventSource. 1-800-328-0525. \$19.95. 184 pages. 8.5" x 11".

Individual Camping Gear

Clothing:

- Underwear
- Pants
- Shirts
- Shorts
- Jacket
- Hat
- Coat
- Gloves
- Socks
- Poncho
- Belt
- Shoes
- Boots

Sleeping gear:

- Sleeping bag
- Ground pad
- Blanket
- Pillow
- Sleep wear

General:

- Mess kit (plate, bowl & cup)
- Eating utensils (knife, fork & spoon)
- Canteen
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrush & paste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Towel
- Wash cloth
- Bible
- Lesson quarterly
- Flashlight
- Whistle
- Sunglasses
- Watch
- Insect repellent
- Sun screen lotion

Optional:

- Binoculars
- Nature books
- Plastic ground pad
- Pocket knife
- Matches
- Cell Phone

Do not bring:

- Electronic games
- Weapons
- Stuffed animals, toys etc.
- Skateboards, bikes etc., unless prior permission granted by staff.

24. Are written directions, and contact numbers provided to each and every driver?

25. Will we need to eat a meal on the way? Will we eat while on the move or will we stop? Will each camper bring their own meal? Will we provide a group meal? Will we eat out?

26. If we eat in vehicles, what rules will each driver enforce?

27. If we stop to eat, who decides where? Are their limitations on what they can order? Will they pay individually or will the club pay?

28. How will we set up camp? What sequence? What layout? Who supervises what? Will there be an inspection?

29. Can we have campfires? Wood transport restrictions? Supervision?

30. When will we hold group worships? Who will be in charge of them? Can we complete some IA activities by having the campers prepare the worships? Will we have music?

31. What decorum is expected during Sabbath hours?

32. Will each unit study their Sabbath School lesson separately on Friday night, etc.? Who will lead out? Do we need to provide copies of the lesson for counselors?

33. Will we hold Sabbath School on Sabbath? If so, who will lead?
- _____
- _____
34. Will we have church for ourselves, or will we attend a local church? If we do it ourselves, who will lead and what will be do? If we attend a local church, will we provide part of the service? If they invite us to stay for dinner, can we provide some food?
- _____
- _____
35. Does everyone have to participate in every event?
- _____
36. Who plans the menu and purchases the food? What food allergies do we need to prep for?
- _____
37. Will we use individual mess kits or clubware? Plastic or paper?
- _____
- _____
38. Who will do the cooking, and KP?
- _____
39. Will we cook individually, by unit, or by club?
- _____
40. How will we provide for hand washing, teeth brushing, dish washing? How will we dispose of trash and gray water?
- _____
- _____
41. How will we keep food at the correct temperature? Safe from animals? Safe from Pathfinders?
- _____
- _____
42. What will we do with left over food, after a meal, and after the trip? Can we store it? Divide it?
- _____
- _____
43. What time is bedtime? Who enforces it? Are staff included?
- _____
- _____

Club Camping Gear

Emergency Gear:

- First aid kit
- Permission/medical consent slips
- Medical/health forms
- Fire extinguisher & NOAA radio

Meeting Gear:

- Flags & stands (National, State, PF, & Christian)
- Banner, guidons & stands
- Worship materials

Lodging:

- Tents
- Plastic ground cover to go under each tent
- Tarp to go over each tent if they are not water proof.
- Rubber mallet
- Extra tent stakes & repair kit
- Extra parachute cord
- Meeting tarp or shelter
- Broom, dust pan and brush

Kitchen:

- Propane Stove
- Propane Lamps
- Propane gas tanks, hoses, & regulators
- Cooking pots
- Frying pan or griddle
- Wire wisk
- Sharp knives
- Spatulas
- Wooden spoons
- Can opener
- Water/soup dipper
- Cutting board
- Plastic storage containers
- Zip-lock bags
- Trash bags & ties
- Wash basins & pot scrubber
- Soap and dishwashing soap
- Water container
- Coolers & drink cooler
- Mixing bowls
- Spices (salt etc.)
- Matches/grill starter
- Measuring cup
- Cooking oil
- FOOD!

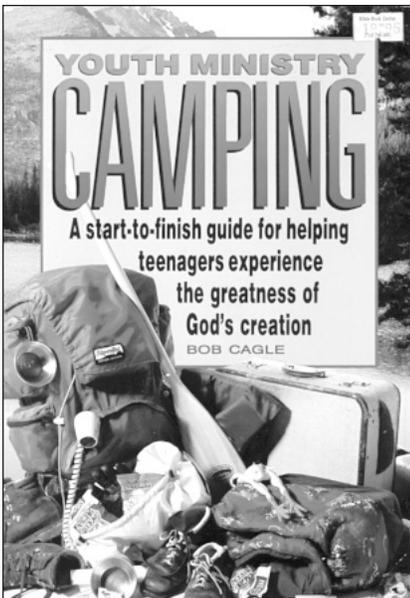
Optional:

- Class materials
- AV equipment
- Table games (for rainy days)
- Tables and chairs
- Entryway/gate
- White board & markers

Ten Camp Commandments

- Thou shalt be on time.
- Thou shalt participate.
- Thou shalt remain in camp, unless authorized to leave.
- Thou shalt be safety minded.
- Thou shalt respect.
- Thou shalt know others.
- Thou shalt report problems.
- Thou shalt assist.
- Thou shalt remain at the table and at meetings until dismissed.
- Thou shalt be in the dark and silent after “lights out.”

by Bob Cagle



Great Resource

Youth Ministry Camping, by Bob Cagle, from Group Publishing. ISBN 0-931529-37-9. \$19.95. 350 pages. Size: 7" x 10".

44. Are non-Pathfinders welcome? Family members? Parents?

45. Will TLT's have any special duties or privileges? If yes, what?

46. What are the behavioral expectations? Are we clear with our rules? What are our disciplinary policies and procedures?

47. Who is our designated medical person? Where will we keep our first aid kit, our permission slips, and our medical consent forms? Where is the nearest medical facility?

48. How are we tenting? By unit or in individual tents? Will staff sleep in the tents with Pathfinders? (Never 1:1)

49. If staying in motels or cabins, who will we organize sleep arrangements? Will staff sleep in the cabins or rooms with Pathfinders? (Never 1:1)

50. Who will ride where? By unit? Same seats? Proper supervision?

51. How is free time going to be supervised? When, and under what circumstances, can a Pathfinder leave the campsite?

52. What games do we have planned? When will we play? How will teams be organized? Who is in charge?

53. What if any “entertainment” can be brought from home? Cell phones? Game systems? Cards?

54. What will be our policy on cell phone use by Pathfinders?

55. What emergency plans do we have for lost vehicles, lost campers, injured persons, severe weather, activities that are cancelled, etc.?

56. Are we visiting any museums or other attractions? Who will check no availability, site group polices, rates, hours?

57. What precautions can we take to avoid bed bug infestation?

58. What backup plans do we have for activities that are cancelled (museum closed), rainy weather, extra hot weather?

59. What system do we have to notify club parents of emergencies, late returns, disciplinary problems? Phone tree, answering machine, valid contact numbers for all parents for the dates of the event?

60. Have we arranged to have the church “remember us” while we are gone? Who is taking care of it? What do we want them to do?

61. What cleanup will need to be done after we return? Who will unload? What happens to wet tents? Broken gear? Lost and found items?

62. How will we share with our church, schools, and parents what happened on our campout?

Covid-19 Questions

What changes from normal policy and procedures will we need to make to protect Pathfinders and staff from infection during....

63. Travel?

64. Sleep time?

65. Meal time?

66. Each different activity?

Rough Campout Budget Worksheet

This budget worksheet does not cover all possible permutations, such as requirements to travel or lodge by unit, additional family members attending, attendees coming late, or leaving early, tolls, etc.

Basic Data

Number of girls attending _____
 Number of boys attending _____
 Number of female staff attending _____
 Number of male staff attending _____
Total attending _____

Vehicle 1 Name or Description _____ holds _____ including driver, gets _____ mpg
 Vehicle 2 Name or Description _____ holds _____ including driver, gets _____ mpg
 Vehicle 3 Name or Description _____ holds _____ including driver, gets _____ mpg
 Vehicle 4 Name or Description _____ holds _____ including driver, gets _____ mpg
 Vehicle 5 Name or Description _____ holds _____ including driver, gets _____ mpg
 Vehicle 6 Name or Description _____ holds _____ including driver, gets _____ mpg
Total vehicle seats available _____ (should be just enough to hold all attendees)

Tent/Cabin/Room 1 holds _____
 Tent/Cabin/Room 2 holds _____
 Tent/Cabin/Room 3 holds _____
 Tent/Cabin/Room 4 holds _____
 Tent/Cabin/Room 5 holds _____
 Tent/Cabin/Room 6 holds _____
Total lodging spaces available _____

Use Google Maps to route out your trip and get a total expected travel distance for the round trip. Add 10% cushion.

Estimated Distance _____ **Estimate price of a gallon of fuel \$** _____

Expenses

Vehicle 1: Distance _____ ÷ MPG _____ x Fuel Price \$ _____ = Fuel expense for the vehicle \$ _____
 Vehicle 2: Distance _____ ÷ MPG _____ x Fuel Price \$ _____ = Fuel expense for the vehicle \$ _____
 Vehicle 3: Distance _____ ÷ MPG _____ x Fuel Price \$ _____ = Fuel expense for the vehicle \$ _____
 Vehicle 4: Distance _____ ÷ MPG _____ x Fuel Price \$ _____ = Fuel expense for the vehicle \$ _____
 Vehicle 5: Distance _____ ÷ MPG _____ x Fuel Price \$ _____ = Fuel expense for the vehicle \$ _____
 Vehicle 6: Distance _____ ÷ MPG _____ x Fuel Price \$ _____ = Fuel expense for the vehicle \$ _____
Total Fuel expense for the trip \$ _____

Tent/Cabin/Room rate _____ x Number of rooms needed _____ x number of nights _____ = **Lodging expense \$** _____

Number of Times meals served _____ x Number of attendees _____ x Price per meal \$ _____ = **Meal expense \$** _____

Activity 1: Desc. _____ cost \$ _____ x Number of attendees _____ = **Activity expense \$** _____
 Activity 2: Desc. _____ cost \$ _____ x Number of attendees _____ = **Activity expense \$** _____
 Activity 3: Desc. _____ cost \$ _____ x Number of attendees _____ = **Activity expense \$** _____

Total expenses \$ _____

Cost per attendee

Total expenses \$ _____ ÷ Number of attendees _____ = **Cost per attendee \$** _____

PERMISSION SLIP

Emergency numbers: Glen 240-625-2000, Sidney 240-625-2000

MarLu Ridge camping

By popular demand we will be returning to MarLu Ridge for this campout. It is cabin camping. The cabin is located above the Potomac River, between Jefferson and Point of Rocks. Expect cold temps of 40°-42° in the daytime, 28°-30° night time. Currently no rain in the forecast, but that could change in 10 days. Bring gear for *Capture the Flag* on Saturday night. We may make several away trips on Saturday for hikes or outings. Perhaps near Harpers Ferry, Sugarloaf, or somewhere else. No supper will be served on Friday and no lunch will be served on Sunday.

Remember You will need a sleeping bag and pillow. You will want a towel and wash cloth, a warm coat, a hat, and gloves. **Phone use etc will only be allowed during hikes so the camera function can be used and as emergency contact.** Come prepared to be in the moment and with the people who are physically present. Bring decent walking/hiking shoes. You will need a day pack and refillable water bottles for Saturday hikes.

Parent or legal guardian instructions Please sign and return the lower half of this form when you drop off your child. Keep the upper portion for your records. Your child will not be allowed to participate unless this form has been received by the Willow Brook Pathfinder Club administration.

Date(s) Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 — Sunday, March 1, 2020

Meeting 7:00 PM on Friday at the Willow Brook Church parking lot.

Return NOON on Sunday at the Willow Brook Church parking lot.

Cost per person Lodging \$18, Meals \$12 (\$3 x 4), Transport \$5, **Total = \$35.00**

Place Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp, Jefferson, MD



----- Cut here. Retain upper portion. Return the lower portion to the club administration. -----



Willow Brook Pathfinder Permission Slip

I hereby grant permission for my child or legal ward to attend the following Pathfinder event, supervised by their designated staff:

Event MarLuRidge campout **Date** Feb. 28-March 1, 2020

In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader in charge to hospitalize, secure proper anesthesia, or to order injection or surgery for my son/daughter. A photostat of this document shall be valid as the original.

Child's name _____ **Date** _____

Parent's signature _____

Emergency contact phone numbers during event _____

On the back, share any important medical information such as allergies, activities denied by physician, and medications currently being taken by the child.

OFFICE USE: Amount Paid _____ Cash Check # _____ Notes _____

Camping gear checklist

Recommended numbers assume you are already wearing a full set of clothing and does not include that clothing in the count.

Packing instructions

We encourage you to pack each days outfit, including: underwear, socks, pants and shirt in a large ziplock bag. This allows you to force the air out for tighter packing, makes dressing faster, and protects against possible bed bug transfer and water damage if the gear gets rained on. When you take the clothes out, the dirty clothes you wore the day before go in the now empty ziplock. Pack in a duffel bag, not in a suitcase, so that the bag can be washed on return. Leave toys and non-essential items at home!

Clothing

Underwear	2x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pants	2x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shorts	0x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shirts/Tops short sleeve	0x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shirts/Tops long sleeve	2x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jacket or Hoodie	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socks	3x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raincoat	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belt	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking Shoes	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>

Heavy Coat	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gloves	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter Hat	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eye protection for CtF	1x	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sleeping Gear

Sleeping bag	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pillow	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sleep wear	<input type="checkbox"/>

General

Reusable water bottle with a belt clip etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small case or ziplock for toiletries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toothbrush & paste	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soap	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shampoo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Towel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash cloth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Bible	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flashlight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal medications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camera and extra batteries	<input type="checkbox"/>
A book	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small day pack for hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do not bring

- Video players
- Toys and recreational equipment
- Stuffed animals

Note

- We are going to be fairly restrictive on use of phones this year. Usage on this trip will be limited to time on hikes.



Glen Milam, Director
Darlene Milam, Treasurer
22150 Pondsville Road
Smithsburg, Maryland 21783
glenmilam@myactv.net