



# Pathfinder Safety Guide

## What Should Your Pathfinder Club Know About Risk Management?

As a leader or staff member for your Pathfinder Club, it is your responsibility to create a safe environment for your club members and be prepared for any incidents your club may face throughout the year. By following basic safety guidelines and implementing risk management practices, you will be able to minimize incidents and be prepared for emergencies. Here are a few risk management practices you can begin implementing with your club today

### Activity Planning

Every Pathfinder club will have various activities throughout the year including camping trips, community service events, and regular meetings. It is crucial to be prepared during each of these activities for any issue that may arise.

For any community service, overnight trip, or day-trip, permission must be obtained from the parents or guardians of each club member. Create permission slips and ask club members to return the signed permission slips before a trip departure. Include medical waivers with permission slips so that you can provide access to the necessary medical care to a child if needed during an activity. If your club plans to

photograph or record club members during these activities, parents must sign a release form allowing the photos to be taken and distributed if that is the intended purpose.

Contact your local conference for assistance in creating the right verbiage for the release form and medical waiver.

### Travel Issues

Each Pathfinder trip will carry its own potential risks, and it is essential to both follow prevention tactics and have protection in place. We may not be able to control the outcome of each trip, but we can do our part as leaders to avert preventable incidents from occurring.



Depending on the size of your Pathfinder club, it may be necessary to look into larger vehicles to transport your club members. When researching what kind of vehicle to use, make sure there are no recalls for your chosen vehicle and that it has recently been serviced. Do not use 15-passenger vans. If renting a bus, always rent from a reputable company and make sure the vehicle is in good working order before driving it off the lot.

Travel insurance should also be secured before your trip. Contact your local conference to make sure you have the right coverage needed for your trip or if additional coverage is needed for the types of activities that will occur. Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) offers insurance coverage for both continental and international Pathfinder clubs attending the Chosen International Camporee. Visit [AdventistRisk.org/Insurance](http://AdventistRisk.org/Insurance) for more information.



Child Protection Plan Guide for churches to use. Find it in the **Pathfinder Safety Resources Page** under the “**Child Protection**” tab at [AdventistRisk.org](http://AdventistRisk.org).

## Health and Safety Guidelines

ARM encourages Pathfinder Club leaders to receive basic training in certain areas in case of a medical or health emergency with a club member. Set aside a time for your club leaders to receive training in basic first aid, CPR, and concussion awareness and prevention. Consider also training your leaders to use automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and other health safety equipment. In a moment of crisis, this kind of basic training can save a life or provide relief until the injured can be taken to a medical facility.

Your club may also provide opportunities for members to be involved in sports games or activities. Make sure your leaders know what to do if an injury occurs, how to treat minor injuries such as light sprains and pulled muscles, and when to seek medical attention. You may also want to talk with your club members on what the most common sports injuries are and how they can stay safe while playing.



As a leader, you hold a substantial responsibility both in leading your club counselors and keeping club members safe while they are in your care. ARM understands the importance of this responsibility and wants to make sure you have the tools and resources you need to provide a safe environment for your club members. **For more information on Pathfinder Safety, visit [AdventistRisk.org/Safety-Resources](http://AdventistRisk.org/Safety-Resources) and click on the Pathfinder Safety tab.**



## Implementing a Child Protection Plan

Your church and your Pathfinder club should also provide a space safe for children and minimize the risk of child sexual abuse and violence against children. Creating a child protection plan will ensure that there are specific

guidelines in place to preclude these incidents from occurring and that leaders are in place to train volunteers and administer local church guidelines.

If your church does not have a child protection plan in place, reach out to your local church board to begin the process of creating a plan. ARM has created a sample

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