



Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

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The Animal School

Once upon a time the animals decided they must do something heroic to meet the problems of "a new world," so they organized a school.

They adopted an activity curriculum consisting of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.

The duck was excellent in swimming, in fact better than his instructor, but he only made passing grades flying and was very poor in running. This was kept up until his web feet were badly worn, and he was only average in swimming. But average was acceptable in school, so nobody worried about that except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of the class in running, but has a nervous breakdown because of so much make-up work in swimming.

The squirrel was excellent in climbing until he developed frustration in the flying class where his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of the treetop down. He also developed "charlie horses" from over-exertion, and then got a "C" in climbing and "D" in running.

The eagle was a problem child and was disciplined severely. In the climbing class he beat all the

others to the top of the tree, but he insisted on using his own way to get there.

At the end of the year, an abnormal eel that could swim exceedingly well and also run, climb and fly a little had the highest average was the valedictorian.

The prairie dogs stayed out of school and fought the tax levy because the administration would not add digging and burrowing to the curriculum. They apprenticed their child to a badger and later joined the groundhogs to start a successful private school.

--School Outlook Volume III, March 9

Pathways News

May will be the last month until September that the *Pathfinder Pathways* will be mailed out, however it will still be published on-line. If you would like to get an email notice when it has been published, send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to GCCPathways@yahoo.com

Outreach Activity Ideas

The NAD website has an article on Outreach ideas called *Love by the Month*. Here's the idea for April. Give the gift of spring cleaning or house repairs to an elderly friend or neighbor.

Coordinator's Corral

Get to know the Coordinators!

Lyle and Ann Petry



Lyle and Ann Petry are North Georgia Coordinators. They have both been coordinators since 1995. Lyle has been in Pathfinders since he was old enough to know what Pathfinders was. Ann was in Pathfinders for one year while in grade school. They have both been counselors, directors and instructors since becoming staff.

They've been married for 30 years and have three children, Jessica, Michael and Jimmy. When they are not busy with Pathfinders Lyle is a self-employed carpenter and builder and Ann is a server in a local restaurant.

For hobbies they enjoy backpacking, hiking, bird watching, mountain biking, and geocaching. Sounds a lot like Pathfinders even when they are not at Pathfinders. They also have several interesting collections such as foreign currency, hat pins, music boxes and moose "stuff".

If you need someone to help teach with nature honors and outdoor skills, Lyle and Ann are someone you can call. They enjoy instructing and helping others become Pathfinder leaders. Their expertise is mostly in "green honors". But they are willing to help in anyway they're needed.

Camp Cooking

Baked Goopy Bananas

2 bananas, 1 lg. or 2 sm. chocolate bars, 1 handful marshmallows Leave peel on banana but split almost through lengthwise. Break chocolate and put in split. Sprinkle marshmallows. Wrap in aluminum foil and bake in coals for 10 minutes.

Safety Tip

Make sure your fires are always attended. Be sure you have an area for a fire that cannot spread laterally or vertically – grill or stone surface is ideal. Your open fires and fuel-burning appliances must be far enough away from the tent to prevent ignition from sparks, flames, and heat. When putting the fire out, drown it with water, making sure all embers, coals and sticks are wet. Embers buried deep within the pile have tendency to reignite later.

Honor Toolbox



Animal Tracking

Is your club going on a campout near water, maybe the ocean, river or swampy area? This is a great place to work on the animal tracking honor. Animals need water so it should be easy to find some mammal or bird tracks. Have different Pathfinders help demonstrate things, this is especially fun at the beach. They can demonstrate making tracks in the sand by running, walking, different sizes of people, and direction of travel.

One requirement that would not be a good idea to complete while on a campout is to set up a feeding station, and then look at the tracks. This could encourage wild animals to become dependent on humans for food. Instead have the Pathfinders look along the waters edge for tracks in the animals natural environment.

Children's Letters to God

Dear God,

Did you really mean "do unto others as they do unto you"? Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother!

- Darla

Camping 101 – Cooking by Units



The club director has just told you that on the next campout you will be cooking by units – Help!

Camping by units can be a lot of fun and a great learning experience. Some clubs do most of their cooking that way. This would be similar to cooking with a family.

There are some questions that you need to have answers for.

- What will you be using to cook with? Fire, one-burner stoves, or a two-burner stove.
- Does the club supply cooking utensils or will you and the Pathfinders need to supply them?
- How much experience does everyone have when it comes to doing their own cooking?

Put together a small loose leaf notebook for your unit. Before deciding on the menu for the upcoming campout, have everyone brainstorm every possible breakfast, lunch and supper menu combinations that they can. Write them in the notebook to have for future reference (some of the more off the wall ideas may need to disappear). If you have any camp cooking books bring them and let the Pathfinders look through them. Have them pick out a few recipes to try. Make sure that you wait to use the more complicated recipes until the Pathfinders are experienced at cooking.

After a campout go through the list with the unit and delete things that didn't work, and add ideas that everyone thought might be good.

There are several mistakes that many counselors make when cooking by units.

Mistake #1 – Counselor does everything. This should be a learning experience for the Pathfinders. Your goal as a counselor is to help them learn how to do things and then eventually be able to teach others.

Mistake #2 – Counselor does nothing, maybe doesn't even eat with their Pathfinders. While we want the Pathfinders to do most of the

cooking, for those that have never cooked for themselves before this scenario could be a recipe for disaster.

If the experience is a disaster this will be very discouraging and turn the kinds off from cooking. Everything does not have to turn out absolutely perfect. But if things go wrong make sure not to blame anyone.

A number of factors will determine how the food is purchased. Here are a few options:

- Counselor buys the food and divides the cost between the unit members.
- Each Pathfinder brings an entire meal
- The ingredients are divided between the unit members.
- Be sure not to embarrass any Pathfinders that may have a difficult time financially.

Think of creative ways for them to bring the least expensive meals.

While planning the menu remember to keep in mind how long you may have to prepare your meals. Cooking by units is a great way to have the Pathfinders learn new ways to cook, but if time is limited keep the menu to quick and familiar.



Counselor's Corner

The end of the Pathfinder year is near. Now is the time to do an end of year wrap up. Some of you may be very organized and have kept up with everything all year long, but for the rest of us now is the time to make sure your unit's records are up to date.

Here are some ideas: Make sure to have a list of all the honors that your unit or individual Pathfinders have earned this year. Remember to include the honors that some of the Pathfinders may have earned on their own.

Depending on how your club does things honors may be given out through out the year or all at once at the end of the year during investiture.

List the class work that each Pathfinder has completed. Some may have finished the basic class work, while others may have completed both the basic and the advanced class work. Also if your Pathfinders have completed part of the advanced class work, make sure to have a record of what they have completed so they can finish it up later.

If you or the club doesn't already have one, make a master list of all the honors each Pathfinder has earned all together. Depending on how your club is organized you may give the list to the director, secretary or keep them to give to next year's counselor.

Computer Connection

During your end of year wrap up it would be a good time to make sure you have everyone's most current address, phone # and email addresses (parents and Pathfinders).

Put all this information on the computer in whatever software you are most comfortable with. Using a database such as Microsoft Access or a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel. This will make it very easy to update as needed.

Having the list will come in handy when letting everyone know about upcoming summer activities. Also you will be able to easily tell almost everyone when it's time to register for Pathfinders next year.

If possible have one staff member be responsible for sending out email reminders.

Nature Nugget

Shadow-Tracing

Use this activity to trace shadows using the sun as the light source. Pathfinders will look at natural objects and other things around with a different perspective.

Materials – Newsprint, cardboard, charcoal and pencils.

Directions – give a sheet of newsprint and a piece of cardboard to each person. Pathfinders

can draw either with charcoals or pencils. Say: "Find a shadow that appeals to you. Then place your newsprint (with the cardboard underneath) so the shadow falls on it, and trace the shadow the charcoal or a pencil. Before of after lunch is a good time because the sun is high and shadows are straight down."

Natural configurations of plants such as ferns, flowers and weeds are everywhere in the height of summer.

-Youth Ministry Camping

I'm Tired

Yes, I'm tired. For several years I've been blaming it on middle-age, iron poor blood, lack of vitamins, air pollution, water pollution, saccharin, obesity, dieting, under-arm odor, yellow wax build-up, and a dozen other maladies that make you wonder if life is really worth living.

But now I find out, tain't that. I'm tired because I'm overworked. The population of this country is 200 million. Eighty-four million are retired. That leaves 116 million to do the work. There are 75 million in school, which leaves 41 million to do the work. Of this total, there are 22 million employed by the government.

That leaves 19 mission to do the work. Four million are in the armed forces, which leaves 15 million to do the work. Take from that total the 14,800,000 people who work for the state and city governments and that leaves 200,000 to do the work. There are 188,000 in hospitals, so that leaves 12,000 to do the work, Now, there are 11,998 people in prisons. That leaves just 2 people to do the work. You and me. And you're standing there reading this. No wonder I'm tired.

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