

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Thank you for choosing a Pathfinder experience. Below are frequently asked questions. You can find answers to other FAQs on our website: www.pathfinder-ed.org.

Who is Pathfinder?

Pathfinder is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to deliver fun, challenging adventures that help people learn about themselves, others and the environment. Pathfinder's primary objective is to teach personal, social, and environmental responsibility through activity-based learning. We provide programs for youth and adults with an emphasis on community. Working together to identify and achieve common goals, participants gain new skills in resolving conflicts and effective collaboration while developing leadership skills and enhancing communication. Because our curriculum is exciting and hands-on, participants feel energized about learning and have fun in the process.

Is this an educational or a recreational program?

Both! The program has been customized to meet goals set by your school or organization. These may include: community building, healthy decision-making and problem-solving, leadership development, outdoor challenge, science enrichment, or a combination. Our activities are outdoors, challenging and fun.

What kind of activities can we expect?

Pathfinder offers over 40 curriculum choices that vary by age and location. Your group leader has discussed options with Pathfinder staff. Some of these options include: team building games, low challenge course, canoeing, high ropes, tree-climbing, outdoor living skills and orienteering.

Pathfinder activities have a minimum of lecture. Instead, they focus on experience-based learning. Participants actively engage in exploring, discovering, creating, thinking and doing an activity. The experience is then debriefed with the guidance of Pathfinder facilitators to draw parallels between what was learned and how this may apply in real life.

What does a typical day look like?

Each full day of programming typically contains breakfast at 8:30 am, a three hour morning session, lunch at 12:30 pm, a three hour afternoon session, a brief Free Time with sports or other recreation, dinner at 6:00 pm and a two to three hour evening session. Pathfinder programming is usually completed by 9:30 pm and lights-out is determined by chaperones.

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Is it safe?

At Pathfinder, safety is our highest priority. We are the only organization in Florida accredited by the Association for Experiential Education. Pathfinder facilitators undergo extensive training for all activities and also are certified in First Aid, CPR, and AED.

Each group is supervised by at least one Pathfinder facilitator with a maximum ratio of 1:25 participants. A chaperone from the school/organization also accompanies these groups. Classes such as challenge course, high ropes and canoeing have additional safety protocols and operate at a ratio of 1:10 or fewer. Pathfinder facilitators carry a complete roster of the participants in their care which contains pertinent medical information.

What behavior is expected of participants on a Pathfinder trip?

Your Pathfinder trip is considered a field trip. As such, participants are expected to abide by all regular school/group rules unless instructed otherwise. In addition, all participants are expected to follow the Pathfinder safety instructions and policies.

What about medications?

All medications should be sent in their original packaging and will be dispensed by your chaperones.

What about special dietary requests?

Vegetarian options are available at every meal. Special arrangements can be made for specific needs. Please include this information with your 30 day checklist and on the *Liability Waiver and Medical Information Form*. We are happy to accommodate your needs.

What are sleeping arrangements like?

Accommodations vary. Participants generally stay in single-sex dorms or cabins with a chaperone from your school or program on every hall or in the same dormitory complex.

What do I need to bring?

Consult the Pathfinder *Bring-Along List* for a complete list of clothes, bedding, etc.

What about electronic devices?

Electronic devices such as cell phones, ipods, DS systems, etc. can be brought at the discretion of the trip leader for the bus ride and cabin time. Electronic devices are not allowed during Pathfinder programming and should be left in a safe location or with a chaperone.

What paperwork do I need to complete?

All attendees must complete Pathfinder's *Liability Waiver and Medical Information Form*.