

ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL



GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
YOUTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT
2006



INTRODUCTION

Why A New Level?

Since its inception, the Seventh-day Adventist Youth Ministry Department has served the youth through three levels; namely, Adventurer Club for 6 - 9 years old; Pathfinder Club for 10 - 15 years old; and Senior Youth/Young Adults for 16 - 31+ years old.

However, divisions noted that the young people who complete the Pathfinder requirements are left without a program that meets their needs. They do not want to leave the pathfinder club, but at the same time they do not feel old enough to associate themselves with the Senior Youth/Young Adults. In the absence of an established program/level for this group several Divisions have been running their own programs, such as Companion in Europe, Medical Brigade in the Inter-America and South American divisions, etc., to fill this vacuum.

At the 2001 World Youth Leadership Convention a very important action was taken, charging the General Conference Youth Department to develop materials for a New Level to meet the need of the youth, ages 16-21, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today you are holding in your hands the outcome of this action.

Please note that the Ambassador Club is not intended to replace the AYS, but instead, will strengthen the current Senior Youth/Young Adult Ministry of our Church. This new level will provide a structured and organized way for 16-21 years olds to become actively involved in their church, both locally and globally. Great appreciation goes to World Divisions that have contributed to the material in this manual.

The official levels of Youth Ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are:

JUNIOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Adventurer Club	6 – 9 years old
Pathfinder Club	10 – 15 years old

SENIOR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Ambassador Club	16 – 21+ years old
Senior Youth/Young Adults	22 – 31+ years old



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SECTION 1

The Club

MEMBERSHIP

Any youth age 16 up through the mid-twenties who choose to live by the principles and guidelines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For definition purposes, the Youth Department defines Junior Youth Ministry as focusing on those under the age of 16 (another way of wording it would be ages 15 and under). Senior Youth are those who are ages 16-19, and Young Adult are those from age 20 to 30+. This club's focus is primarily for those within the Senior Youth category; however, the upper age limit is left more open because in many areas there are young people in their 20's that would very much enjoy the benefits of membership in this club.

IDENTIFYING EMBLEM

Jesus' sacrifice is center to a relationship with Him. The cross on the earth is symbolic of His sacrifice, giving us hope of a new and better tomorrow; both here on earth, through the concepts of servant leadership and an earth made new at His return. The open Book is the foundation for our faith, knowledge, and lifestyle. It is open because it is to be internalized as our constant guide and companion. It must be shared with those who would freely receive it.



AIM AND MOTTO

The Advent Message to All the World in My Generation

My relationship to Jesus Christ is of such a nature that it compels me to share with any who will receive it, the gospel—the good news of His soon return.

The Love of Christ Constrains Me

I am drawn to Him by His exemplary life, the symbolic act of His crucifixion, His conquering resurrection, and His promise of an earth made new in the pattern of the original creation. The closer I find myself to Him, the closer I find myself identifying with the needs of my fellow human beings.

MISSION STATEMENT

The *Ambassador Club* is an organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church dedicated to meeting the spiritual, social, and lifestyle needs of youth ages 16-20's by challenging them to experiencing and sharing a personal relationship with Christ, developing a lifestyle fitting their belief system and vocational interest, and providing them with an adequate venue for wholesome development of lifelong friendships.

PHILOSOPHY

The Seventh-day Adventist church is committed to understanding and training its youth for leadership and service to humanity.

Considering its newness and the well entrenched clubs already existing, perhaps what it is not should be mentioned first. It is not an extension of the Pathfinder Club or as some might envision—Maxi-Pathfinders. It does not follow the same programmatic format as that of Pathfinders nor have other external similarities. It does not use the same emblems, tokens and other devices as used by the Pathfinder Club except as a local club chooses to get involved in Honors or Class levels for which only those emblems directly related would be presented upon completion of given requirements. It is also not an AY Society, nor does it necessarily fulfill the role of an AYS from a Friday night or Sabbath afternoon program perspective. The AYS is defined by its traditional role over the past many decades as an organization that is primarily focused on providing a formal youth program in the church on Sabbaths and attended by youth and other church members of various ages but generally led by youth.

The *Ambassador Club* exists primarily to provide Senior Youth with an organized structured system that will promote active involvement of its membership in their church (local and global) as well as their community while providing them with opportunities to discover their God-given talents and life vocation.

The particular specific focus of a local club may be determined by local leadership in consultation with the youth wishing to participate as long as the overall mission of the organization is not placed in jeopardy. The focus selected may vary during any given programmatic year, may develop over several years based on cycles of training, or may function concurrently for different/overlapping groups meeting their felt needs. Thus a series of cycles may include these among others:

The 7 Foundations of Ambassador Programming

1. Leadership development through such curriculum as the Master Guide and AY Leadership
2. Community outreach development through service and emergency preparedness training
3. Spiritual development through traditional and innovative evangelistic outreach
4. Lifestyle vocational/career development through specialized multi-vocational training
5. Friendship skills development through specifically focused socials and pre-marriage seminars
6. Character and personality development/awareness through outdoor/high adventure programming
7. Life enrichment development through use of the advanced Honor levels as developed in the AY Honor Handbook

Note: See Suggested Programming Section for further details

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives can be, must be, will be achieved as club leaders explore and develop their programs based on the above seven foundations.

1. Help Senior Youth to realize that God and His church love them and appreciate the implementation of their talents for the fulfilling of their mutual gospel commission as established in Matt. 28: 18-20 and Acts 1:8. They will find fulfillment in their life-style as they share their beliefs with those whom God brings to them.
2. Encourage Senior Youth to discover their God-given talents and to use their gifts and abilities to fulfill God's expectations for them.
3. Inspire the Senior Youth to give personal expression of their love for God by uniting them in various outreach activities.

9] AMBASSADOR

4. Make the number one priority of Ambassador programming to be the personal salvation of each and every youth who is a member.

5. Build into the youth's lifestyle an appreciation, understanding and love for God's creation through a safely planned program of adventure and discovery. They will find their fellowship with God to be more meaningful as they have the opportunity to experience that sense of wonder and worship as nature unfolds its deepest spiritual secrets as outlined in Romans 1:19, 20.

6. Teach Senior Youth specific vocational skills and hobbies that will provide them with purpose and employment opportunities.

7. Encourage the youth to develop and maintain physical fitness through an active, energetic, drug free lifestyle.

8. Provide youth with opportunities to develop and demonstrate their leadership abilities. They will strengthen their resolve to develop and maintain appropriate internal discipline and apply their skills of resourcefulness and understanding of the processes of group dynamics.

9. Provide ample opportunities for youth of both sexes to interact in wholesome activities that will lead to and strengthen life-long committed relationships.

S E C T I O N 2

Understanding the Senior Youth

Each age-stage of development in young people have specific psychological needs to be met. The Adventurer Club and Pathfinder Club both have their very unique and specific requirements as are outlined in their Administrative Manuals. This is also true for Middle and Later Adolescence. Middle Adolescence is generally considered to be the ages of 16-17. Late Adolescence begins at the age of 18 (in some countries considered the age of becoming a “legal adult”) on into the early 20’s. (For the purposes of *Ambassador* and this presentation, the upper age limit will be set at 24.)

MIDDLE ADOLESCENCE

Those called “late bloomers” will all of sudden hit a rapid growth spurt, while most others are beginning to slow down their growth rate. In most cases this is the age at the end of which full height is reached. Self-discovery has reached completion and individuality takes over the developmental processes. They become persons in their own right, with their own sense and set of values.

Mental Characteristics

1. They will likely question everything and want proof for anything before accepting.
2. Generally respects what may appear as “scholarship” and often is inclined to accept answers given by persons perceived to be important or popular (opinions of favorite actors or musicians weigh heavily).
3. Ideals are now being shaped and definite plans form as to how to attain them.

Physical Characteristics

1. Sexuality becomes a force to be reckoned with.
2. Height and weight stands at 85% or more of their adulthood.
3. There is a self consciousness of muscle and shape development so physical fitness programs become important to many.

Social Characteristics

1. They like cliques and want to be surrounded by their special friends.
2. Critical and often rather brutally frank about their opinions of others.
3. Very sensitive, often guided by perceived public opinion and what their set of peers think is cool behavior.
4. Money making begins to take on importance causing many to consider dropping out of school.

Spiritual Characteristics

1. Depending on their peer group selection, they may strengthen their spiritual interest and values or lose apparent interest nearly completely.
2. What has not been done till now to provide them with a foundation for spiritual thinking and internal discipline becomes much more difficult to accomplish.
3. They begin the process of determining their own approach to religion and the role that God will play in their lives.
4. Service projects focus on what life is all about.

LATER ADOLESCENCE

Physically this is a time of slow growth; those “late bloomers” catch up with the rest and often pass them up. Personality and character become fixed. Gregariousness now finds its expression, not in gangs or cliques, but in clubs, fraternities, lodges, church, casual “chum” relationships centered on a team sport, etc. Whatever doubts there have been in connection with religion have either been thought through and a satisfying basis for faith found, or there is the casting off of religion as a relic of childhood, with disillusionment resulting in cynicism. Interest in sex finds expression in love and marriage and the founding of a home or in some variation of a committed or experimental relationship with a marriage commitment being put off for a few years. Service projects will be more successful when focusing on the use of already-developing vocational skills.

PERSONALITY VERSUS CHARACTER

Although the Bible says that we are to “be in the world but not of the world”, it is very difficult if not quite impossible to not reflect at least to a small degree that milieu in which we live. The parable of the wheat and the tares is quite accurate. We see this translate into some areas that are of particular interest to us to watch out for lest we find ourselves (and our youth) in a situation too similar to that other Biblical story, the young ladies waiting for the wedding party to begin. One area that needs to have our particular attention is that of situational ethics and character ethics.

In a recent review of the literature written over the past 200 years that deal with success, it is interesting to note a clear trend. For the first 150 years, success is defined in terms of such qualities as “integrity, humility, fidelity, temperance, courage, justice, patience, industry, simplicity, modesty, and the golden rule.” In other words, success was defined by positive character traits. However, during the past 50 years there has been a very clear shift from a character ethic focus to what is called a personality ethic. The personality ethic is focused more on public image, positive mental attitude, and even the best methods of deception. In other words, the shift has been from issues of character to issues of personality and appearance. (Tom Osborne: *On Solid Ground*) This change of focus has contributed to and even elevates the erosion of moral absolutes until young people no longer have anything solid to hold on to; no compass pointing them in the right direction. People today understand that personal lives are irrelevant to success and to leadership. Personal moral qualities have no weight in a person’s drive for success. The well known quotation from the book *Education* comes to mind: “The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.” (*Ed 57*) this concept almost seems archaic in today’s world—even among some youth leaders. Perhaps that is why the quotation begins with this trait being “the greatest want of the world...” much like the writings on the walls of Babylon, we need to ask ourselves “are we being found wanting?” What is our role as leaders? Is it that of providing young people with that which they want or is it that of mentoring them by showing them that which Christ wants—the narrow gate, the narrow path.

DISCIPLINE

The ages involved in this organization still include those who are considered “under-age” in some settings as well as those considered adults and therefore fully responsible for their own actions. The expectation is that all will function based on self discipline or that which is often referred to as internal discipline. Such may not always be the case. There may be 16 year olds who think they are 25 and there will be an occasional older young person who is not willing to live up to the level of maturity that should be there. So how does a leader set manageable rules that will be respected and enable the organization to function smoothly without criticism from local church members?

Right there is the key to good rules and simplicity at the same time. Behavior should be expected at all times that reflect the high moral standards of the church and will not be a motive for local church leadership to disband the club. This must be placed before the club membership at the beginning of a year's planned activities as well as before any trip from daytime field trips to extended trips to youth congresses or campouts. It becomes the primary driving rule of behavior—not a long list of do's and don'ts. When behavior becomes that, which will reflect badly on the group and the local church, the person's attention needs to be called to that fact, in a calm and polite manner, and a solution worked out which will range from repentance and change of behavior to returning the person to their home. Simple. Not complicated. Each person should be treated as fully responsible for their actions which in turn will determine the simple and firm reactions. That is the life in an adult world.

S E C T I O N 3

Organization

ORGANIZING AMBASSADOR

1. Counsel with your Field Youth Director

The local field/conference/mission youth director is responsible for all youth organizations within his assigned territory. Any person in a local church who sees the need for one of these organizations should counsel with and gain the support of the youth director before making further plans. The reason being simple—become familiar with the resources available as well as his influence will greatly enable further actions.

2. Meet with the Church Pastor/Elder

The field youth director may wish to be present or delegate one of his regional coordinators to represent him. They are in attendance as facilitators and encouragers ready to explain the program and answer any questions showing how the program will enhance his work with the senior youth of the church.

3. Present the Plan to the Church Board

If possible, the field youth director should attend the meeting and make the presentation to the board. It is necessary for the board to approve the organization of this club. The board should be fully informed of all its aims, financial requirements and a suggested budget as well as the role it will be expected to play in the mission of the church.

The board should be given information sheets with relevant details and should be asked to provide useful information as well. The information they may contribute should include names of potential participants and their addresses and names of persons who could be invited to help in a leadership role.

The church board should also elect a Director to lead out from this point forward. The Director could be the person who has shown the interest in moving forward thus far, or another person, leaving this first person to be an advisor or associate as the person chooses. Often a person has a burden for a perceived need but is not the person indicated to actually lead and would rather assist or advise.

4. Inform the Congregation

While best done during a Sabbath service, it may also be done via the church news letter. It is important that all the members be informed about Ambassador and its plans. A qualified person should take the time on Sabbath to share with the congregation the needs the church has for this club and a call may be made seeking those willing to help and those interested in belonging.

5. Call a Special Meeting on Sabbath Afternoon

Invite all senior youth who are interested in belonging to come for a sharing session to present the overall concept and receive input as to perceived priorities for program planning purposes. (Some have found that this meeting has also been very successful if held on Sunday afternoon.) The meeting may also serve as a general planning session since it is a good idea to have as much input from its new membership as possible.

6. *Choose a small executive committee*

The size of this committee will vary depending on the potential membership. In very small churches with but a half dozen youth of the qualifying age, all may participate in a leadership capacity. In other larger churches, the committee may number from 6 to 12, but seldom larger because the larger the committee is, the more difficult actually deciding and accomplishing anything becomes. To better function, it is quite possible to have one or more sub committees for various aspects of club operation.

7. *Program Planning*

The executive committee will meet on several occasions to prepare the actual program based on the recommendations of the group to be involved. These meetings should take place in the space of no more than two weeks from the initial Sabbath gathering (point 5 above) so that the group does not lose its interest in the new club. The first event should be announced at that time and take place no later than one week after the planning process has a program in place.

8. *Enrollment*

As part of the first event, there should be an enrollment of participants, presentation of final plans for the year, announcements of program components, uniform options and other points of interest to the group.

CLUB MAINTENANCE

Morale, or club spirit, is that intangible element that determines the success of any organization. It is a combination of a variety of important factors. All leaders and subgroup chairpersons will need to work closely together in developing a sense of unity and belonging, and maintaining interest and enthusiasm. Leaders must remember that this club is not a “maxi-Pathfinder” Club. It is geared to the psychological and felt needs of a different age bracket. To best meet those needs, it is best to have a more relaxed informal environment, with a varied, multiple-options program both in content and format and with much input from the participants. A highly structured somewhat more disciplinary format should be reserved for those who are choosing the Pathfinder Leadership training sessions.

Club staff will want to periodically review the program with these considerations in mind:

1. *Spiritual Objectives*

Ambassador leaders and all subcommittee leadership will need to ensure that the club operates from a spiritual basis. Scriptural principles must be clearly in focus. Representing Christ in an effective manner must be uppermost. Make full use of your church pastor or church elders. Ensure enough time for devotional growth and do all that is possible to make this time meaningful.

2. *Attendance*

While one always aims for 100 percent attendance, the nature of this club and its programming will not always demand that feature. There will be those that will opt out of certain parts of the program simply because it does not meet their particular needs, however, those whose needs are being met should find it worth their while to attend. Also, one must take into consideration the fact that at this age, individuals will have work and school commitments that will negate 100 percent participation at all planned events. Program input by a large majority of members will ensure greater participation and interest.

3. *Personal Contact*

There is nothing so effective as personal contact and encouragement on the part of leaders with those who find regular attendance most difficult.

4. *Staff meetings*

These meetings should not be closed meetings, but should be announced to all and those wishing to attend feel free to do so to add their input. This also becomes a good way to find staff replacements when the needs arise.

5. *Members Welcome*

It would seem unnecessary to say, but ALL persons who attend should be made to feel welcome, even those such as an occasional older person who might be coming only to criticize. A welcome attitude on the part of leaders can strongly encourage the downhearted and be like coals on the heads of the critical.

6. *Planning a balanced Program*

It is easy to get out of balance in a club of this type. It happens because leaders have one preference over another, because one subcommittee chairperson is more enthusiastic or creative than the rest, because some things are simply more fun than others, because leaders shy away from that which they know will draw criticism, and other reasons. Continually evaluate all your options and be sure to include as many as possible.

7. *Meeting area*

Be sure the meeting location chosen or available is appropriate to the activity planned, and will meet the weather needs. Adequate seating, activity space, materials for instruction or practice should also be considered.

UNIFORMS

There is no official uniform globally recognized for this club save the use of the club emblem. Local clubs or conferences may wish to provide an unofficial uniform which may consist of a dress polo shirt (suggested color: light blue) with the emblem on or above the left pocket area.

The Master Guide or Youth Leadership scarf, slide and pin may be worn by any persons who have completed the proper requirements and been invested. A sky blue (very light blue) club scarf with the logo imprinted may be worn by all other club members if so determined by the Division or the Union Youth Department if authorized by the Division.

Club emblems representing locally developed organizations that are considered as subsidiary organizations to Ambassador may be worn in any combination with the official emblem so as to denote its rank under this over-arching organization. Pathfinder/Adventurer scarves, etc. will not be considered appropriate and are strictly reserved for those involved with those clubs and who would therefore also wear those uniforms.

In many countries the use of camouflage associated with organizations denotes military and subversive elements. Today we live in a global village, that which is done in one place is known everywhere else, therefore to protect our organization and its existence in these countries, military or camouflage clothing is not considered appropriate at any time. This includes the use of combat boots, blousing of pant legs, and use of any weapons or weapon-resembling substitutes. (In other words anything that may be interpreted by governments as this being a paramilitary organization should not be worn.)

A sash that matches the color of the slacks, blazer or polo; a casual safari-style vest or other clothing device may be used for placement and display of class pins, Honor patches and other special event patches and pins related to the owner's activities in the club. No military, paramilitary, or police emblems are to be worn at any time.

A suggested Sabbath dress-up uniform could be the polo shirt or a light blue dress shirt and plain colored tie, traditional AY dark blue blazer with the club logo on the left chest-pocket of the blazer, and a tan "chino" slacks or skirt.

INSURANCE

CAUTION Be sure all activities are being insured by the church insurance policy against accidental mishaps. Also be sure that all safety regulations are being followed for any high adventure activity as appropriate and promoted by those entities that foster the activity.

APPLICATION FORM

See appendix 1.

FLAG

The flag used by the club will be the AY Flag already in use. If a club wishes, they could use guidons that are dark blue and light blue with Ambassador emblem superimposed between the two color field.

FINANCES

As programming develops and activities become more numerous, finances will become an issue. While most young people may have some personal source of income, many will not and participation will become limited causing discouragement, apathy, and an apparent lack of cooperation. Most of the smaller expenditures may be covered by membership contributions as the needs arise. However fund raising will soon become a necessity. There are several avenues of fund raising available to clubs of this type. Some are perhaps easier to tap but the results may be meager, while others may take more work but the results will be worth the efforts. The easiest sources are those that include those most interested: club members, relatives of members, the church collectively, and other church members. Remember that these sources already provide for much if not all of the local church operating, adding another entity will not necessarily increase offerings; it will likely only spread out thinner what is already being given.

Those sources that may be a bit more difficult to utilize but more substantial come from individuals with greater resources, the community at large, businesses, and local government. As the club becomes more involved in community service projects, and develop a reputation for outstanding volunteer work, funds become more readily available. These sources may be carefully cultivated by clear, precise, well thought out presentations, colorful informative printed materials, visible, well advertised involvement in community felt-needs, and well run vocational training programs that are open to the community. Today, many are the clubs that completely finance themselves through these methods.

FUND-RAISING POLICY

Here are some general guidelines to aid in determining whether or not the proposed fund-raising project meets the standards set by the church.

1. Has the fund-raising program been approved by the local church board and the Field Youth Department?
2. Is the plan in harmony with any ordinances the local community may have in effect?
3. Does it refrain from having to appear to have any resemblance to gambling?
4. Will the product be sold, if this is the case, be sold on its own merit and without reference to the needs of the club or member?
5. Will those purchasing get their money's worth?
6. Are any other clubs covering the same territory during the same time as your fund-raising program?
7. Are you reasonably assured of the fact that no one who needs work will lose it because of the fund-raising program?

8. Will the fund-raising program protect the character of Ambassador and the Seventh-day Adventist Church and leave the local field free from any agreement of financial responsibility?

Note: A financial report should be given to the church board at least once every trimester, and an activity report should be presented to the church at large and local field youth ministry office also every trimester.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

SHARE YOUR ACTIVITIES!!!! As a general rule, we seem to strongly believe the statement that the right hand should not know what the left hand is doing. WRONG!!!!

Yes, there is a place for that, but not here. Sharing of activities should occur continually and at several levels:

1. Membership—often even local club members are not informed of what is going on—no wonder support is often missing.
2. Local church—if the church is expected to support and be proud of its youth, they must know all the good things that are going on.
3. Community—the news is full of all that is evil with youth, we have the opportunity to counter that fact with all the good that is taking place as well—not to mention the increased financial support it may bring from unexpected sources.
4. Church hierarchy—local church papers, Unions and Divisions, web pages, all need to know so as to encourage growth in all other areas as well. Success can and will be replicated if given a chance.

USE OF PATHFINDER/AY CLASSES AND HONORS

Today, the Classes and Honors are primarily directed to the Pathfinder Club, however, traditionally, this has not been the case. They have been extensively used by all youth from the age of 10 up through adulthood as windows into new worlds of adventure. This should remain in effect. However, within the programs of Ambassador the focus and reasoning behind the use of these tools will be a little different from that which fits the Pathfinder Clubs. Here, participation in these is more than just to open up windows of discovery and adventure. Participation in these also implies development of leadership abilities—the capacity to teach those who are younger. Therefore greater emphasis should be placed in the completion of the Classes through their advanced levels; all Honors through their advanced levels. It is the plan of the youth department at the General Conference to develop advanced levels for all Honors over the course of the next few years. Many new advanced levels are currently being added and the most recent updated listings may be obtained through visiting their website at youth.gc.adventist.org or writing to the department directly. Every member of Ambassador should consider developing a special file for each Class and each Honor completed as an aid to teaching resource. These files might include evidence of all personal work done, sketches, teaching ideas to make them more interesting, listing of material resources available at local shops, libraries, interested instructor personnel in the church and community, etc.

MAINTAINING ENTHUSIASM

1. Set definite dates for completion—make yearly time charts for the combination class, advanced classes, Master Guide or AY Leadership so that each person may have one and use it to follow along making sure they are keeping up with the program and will complete the materials on time for an investiture. In the case of Honors, these will generally take 3 months each. They should also be carefully outlined with clearly defined events and time lines for completion.

2. Make the study worthwhile—it should be fun, active, meaningful and helpful. Do not gloss over requirements lightly, it devalues the effort. Testing is very appropriate to assure quality work. All requirements for a given Honor MUST be completed. The requirements are considered the minimum to be learned, NOT the maximum. The maximum is only determined by the passion awakened in the person for the topic.
3. Waiving Requirements—on rare occasions, certain requirements may be waived and alternate, equally rated requirements may be substituted at the discretion of the local field youth director. These substitutions may not be determined unilaterally at a local club.
4. Meeting the requirements—any work required must actually be done. Observation or description instead of action does not fill the requirement. All classwork must be signed off by a certified, active Master Guide, AY Leader, the Instructor, or Mentor as each case may require.
5. Master Awards—there are 12 Master Awards. Completion of all these may be strongly encouraged as they will reflect a deepening interest and passion for a general area of activity as well as give participants a solid broad spectrum of capabilities.
6. Investiture Service—it is the responsibility of the club leadership to contact the field Youth Department and schedule a meeting for the investiture of both classwork and Honors at least once each year. This meeting may be held in the church as a formal ceremony similar to those held for Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs or they may be held in a specially selected environment to enhance the occasion.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Due to the more relaxed informal format of Ambassador when compared to Pathfinder Clubs, Induction Ceremonies are not required however; local clubs desiring to have them are most welcome to adopt a simple, but inspiring format.

RECORDS OF COMPLETED WORK

Local clubs should maintain a file of all completed classwork, Honors, Red Cross certifications and any other official-type certifications completed by members as part of their experience in Ambassador. Often young people find themselves highly mobile during these years and loss of certificates, pins, and patches occurs. Keeping careful accurate records will be of use when those losses take place.

LEADERSHIP

Club leadership should be selected by local church boards in the case of locally sponsored clubs as noted above. Leadership in these cases should consist of at least one leader and at least one associate. They should be members of the local church in good standing and of sufficient maturity to serve as mentors and spiritual guides to the membership.

There may be situations where a local field would rather organize district, regional, or field level clubs in place of local church clubs (similar to a Youth Federation). In the case of a district club, the leadership will be selected by the Pastor in coordination with the Elders of each church involved. In the case of clubs organized on a wider basis, the club leadership should be selected by the Field Youth Department in consultation with church pastors. Personnel requirements will be the same as in the case of local church clubs with the difference that these clubs will function directly under the sponsorship and guidance of the Field Youth Director.

All persons elected should be advised that the leadership position is for a minimum of a two year period barring any need for change as determined by the sponsoring entity due to lifestyle changes, transfer of mem-

bership, etc. All leaders should also either have completed their Master Guides or AY Leadership or be willing to prepare for investiture by the end of their first year of service.

In addition to the above elected leaders, each club will want to include the services of additional personal to meet their varied needs at different times and depending on the size of their organization. These persons must be willing to abide by the Seventh-day Adventist church lifestyle at all times. There will be occasions to utilize as guest presenters for given topics those who do not practice our church lifestyle, these situations are taken into consideration and allowed as necessary but not encouraged on a long-term basis.

DUTIES OF CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Listed here are ten club leadership positions which may be lumped or further split depending on the realities of each club. There may be other categories which may be added by a local club as needed.

Sponsor

Generally churches like to elect an adult such as one of the Elders of the church to act as a Sponsor for any and all youth organizations to give sage advice, encourage its leadership, and come to its defense when the need arises.

Director

This person is elected by the church board. He or she is responsible for all club doings and accountable to the church board. The person should be a person that has shown a high degree of maturity and may be trusted with proper financial management skills as well as have a high degree of interest in the youth of the church. It is recommended that this person also be a member of the church board.

Assistant Director

May be elected by the church board or chosen by the Director in consultation with the Church Pastor or First Elder. He or she must have the same characteristics mentioned above for the Director and will substitute the Director whenever and wherever necessary.

Class subcommittee Chairperson

- Master Guide/Youth Leadership Award
- Combination Class and other curriculums

One of the focuses of this club is to develop leadership. These skills can have several directions to focus on. The Master Guide is designed for those who want to become Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders, the Youth Leadership Award is for those wanting to get involved in Senior Youth leadership, and other seminars can be sponsored for leadership in other areas of church work. Where there is already a Master Guide or Youth Leadership Club functioning, it would automatically become this component of Ambassador. Its director could become this chairperson. Events needed to complete the requirements of the Master Guide or Youth Leadership will be coordinated with other subcommittees so that maximum benefit may be had for all involved. See also below for the concept and requirements of the "Combination Class". Some Divisions have developed specialized curriculum for clubs fitting this age group. These programs can be incorporated into this club under this committee leadership as well. Since those using these curriculums have their own resources, they will not be outlined in this manual.

Honors subcommittee Chairperson

- Vocational Training
- Hobby Development

Numerous vocational training activities and hobbies may be encouraged and developed through the use of the more than 250 Honors available. These will encourage our youth to become self sufficient and provide opportunities for employment in areas that they find interesting and fulfilling as they look ahead to the future God has in mind for them.

Outreach subcommittee Chairperson

- Friendship Evangelism
- Impact Evangelism

The primary objective of any entity sponsored by the church is that which will involve the fulfilling of the Gospel Commission. This is done through all forms of evangelism from the traditional formats to creative ideas not yet thought of. It is the role of this team to search for and adapt those methods most suited to their club membership skills and resources as well as local cultural acceptance. This team will also work in close coordination with the Class team and Community Service team to ensure a blending of activities and special events.

- Community Service subcommittee Chairperson
- Liaison to Service Organizations
- Communications—Media/Church
- The focus of SDA youth ministry is Salvation and Service. This subcommittee is responsible for providing fulfillment of the second part of that focus to its membership. Every community has organizations that need the volunteer support of our youth from Red Cross chapters to soup kitchens, health institutions and schools the options are nearly limitless. Because these also are so highly visible to the public this team will also need to shoulder the bulk of the publicity for both the secular and church media.

Relationships subcommittee Chairperson

- Social Events/ Lifestyle
- Pre-marriage Seminars

No youth group is complete without a strong social component. Youth need to come together for healthy opportunities to socialize. It is also a good way to bring other youth to the knowledge of the gospel. This team must work closely with the Outreach team along those lines. The age of many senior youth is also at the level where basic lifestyle issues and preparation for marriage takes a high priority. Every good club should plan for a series of lifestyle and pre-marriage seminars each year especially for those members reaching that stage in their lives. The lifestyle brochures published by the Youth Department can serve as a spring board for some of these. These seminars may be large events with invitation to the public or they may be small events designed just for the one or two couples needing them.

Recreational subcommittee Chairperson

- Camping Events
- High Adventure
- Sports

Related to social events, these types of activities take matters a step further and require their own leadership which will of course still work closely with the above team. Events that involve extended travel, several days of camping, specialized training for effective participation will be the responsibility of this team. There are youth clubs already involved in Search and Rescue and other similar activities of adventure and sporting; these will be a part of this team's leadership.

Standards of Excellence subcommittee Chairperson

- Silver Award
- Gold Award

These two programs will be almost entirely promoted/coordinated by Ambassador. They are two awards designed specifically for this age category and while they have much overlap in application with other subcommittees, they are of an intense and complete enough content that they should be handled by

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one set of leaders. Their fulfillment is strictly regulated by the requirements outline as is the investiture of the emblems representing them. These awards are neither for the faint of heart nor for those who want to “earn something quick”. They require patience, self discipline, hard training and work—a lot of work. Completion of the Gold level classes a person at near Olympian levels. The manuals for these awards may be downloaded from the General Conference web site: youth.gc.adventist.org

SECTION 4

Programming and Scheduling

SUGGESTED PROGRAMMING

1. Leadership development through such curriculum as the Master Guide and the AY Leadership
2. Community outreach through service and emergency preparedness training
3. Spiritual development through traditional and innovative evangelistic outreach
4. Lifestyle vocational/career capacitating through specialized multi-vocational training
5. Friendship skills development through specifically focused socials and pre-marriage seminars
6. Character and personality development/awareness through outdoor/high adventure programming.
7. Life enrichment through use of the advanced Honor levels as developed in the AY Honor Handbook

Regular attendance meetings should take place at least once per month preferably twice. These meetings are to focus on items 1, 4, and 5 above and when necessary will cover training under items 2, 3, and 7.

An additional meeting each month can be in an outdoor setting; it should be activity oriented rather than utilizing a formal approach and will relate to items 2, 6, and 7.

A systematic, carefully planned program should be developed which will provide activities wide spread over several months and/or concentrated into several weeks per year which are related to item 3.

Style and content of each different program will vary in accordance with specific needs, culture, local creativity, and available resources. Leadership must however, always keep in mind that all events will be in keeping with Christian principles and church guidelines. Time allowed for meetings will vary from one hour to half days and should be announced at least one week prior to each meeting. Be sure to keep programs coordinated with AYS when there may be conflict of scheduling especially as to Sabbath afternoons.

YEARLY SCHEDULES

Here are some suggested schedules for the different sub-committees of Ambassador. It must be understood that these are only suggestions that must be adapted to local realities. The reality of each local field is influenced by which hemisphere of the world you are in. Certain months are more appropriate in one than another. School schedules and holidays influence schedules. The calendar of events at the local field level influences these schedules as well and must be consulted while developing your yearly program.

We begin with the two heaviest programs, those of the Master Guide and the Youth Leadership Award, all other activities will need to fit into their schedule if the youth group is small and the same youth are involved in all functions. In large groups that have numbers of youth who are only involved in one or another of the various sub-groups, then it is not so essential to integrate activities. Any one or more of these sub-committees can function on its own within a youth group. It is not necessary to have either the Master Guide or the Youth Leadership groups functioning in order to still have a successful club program using any of the other options.

MASTER GUIDE SCHEDULE

Prerequisite: Must be at least 16 and a baptized Seventh-day Adventist.

January

Devotional & Journal (Encounter Series I/Bible Year)
 Personal Goals & Objectives
 Begin Path/Class curriculum teaching
 Leadership skills—e
 Introduction to Fundamental Beliefs

February

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Begin Fitness program
 2 hr. Seminar I
 Christian Storytelling Honor
 Class curriculum

March

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Fitness program
 2 hr. Seminar II
 Christian Storytelling
 Class curriculum

April

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Fitness program
 2 hr. seminar III
 Leadership skills—b
 Class curriculum

May

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 2 hr. Seminar IV
 Introduction to Church Heritage

June

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Camping Skills II
 Honor I

July

Devotional (ES I/BY)
Steps to Christ
Pathfinder Story
 Honor II

August

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 book on church heritage

September

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
Education
 Field Path. Staff Training Weekend
 Leadership skills—c

October

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Leadership book
 First Aid
 Leadership skills—d

November

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Child Development book or seminar
 Leadership skills – a

December

Devotional (ES I/ BY)
 Fundamental Beliefs—test
 Church Heritage—test

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD SCHEDULE

January

Pre-requisite
You and God ((req. 2)

February

You and God (required 2 continue)
You and God (req. 4b)

March

You and God (req. 2 cont.)
You and Youth (req. 1a)

April

You and God (req. 2 cont.)
You and Youth (req. 1b; 2)

May

You and God (req. 2 cont.)
You and God req. 4a

June

You and God (req. 2 cont.)
You and the Church (req. 2 cont.)

July

You and the Church (req. 2)
You and the Community (req. 1)

August

You and the Church (req. 2)
You and the Community (req. 2)

September

You and God (req. 1)
You and the Church (req. 2)

October

You and God (req. 3)

November

You and the Church (req. 1)

December

You and God (req. 3 test)
You and the Church (req. 1 test)

HONORS SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE

January

Arts and Craft Honor

February

Nutrition Honor (YLA)

Christian Storytelling Honor (MG)

March

Health and Science Honor

April

Nature Honor

Arts And Crafts Honor

May

Physical Fitness Honor (YLA)

Camping Skills I Honor

June

Camping Skills II Honor

Selective Honor I (MG)

July

Selective Honor II (MG)

Vocational Honor

August

Bible Evangelism Honor

September

Outdoor Industries Honor

October

Vocational Honor

First Aid Honor (MG)

November

Wrap up unfinished Honors

December

Wrap up unfinished Honors

YLA= Youth Leadership Award

MG= Master Guide

OUTREACH SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE

January Friendship Evangelism Project	February Friendship Evangelism Project cont.
March Holy Week Evangelism	April Seminar planning
May Community Seminars	June Community Seminars
July Evangelism planning	August Evangelistic meetings (YLA)
September Baptism	October Friendship Evangelism Project
November Christmas planning	December Christmas outreach

COMMUNITY SERVICE SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE

January Plan Community Project I	February Community Project I
March Plan Better Living Project	April
May Better Living Project (YLA)	June Better Living Project (YLA)
July Plan Community Project II	August Community Project II
September	October Plan Community Project III
November Community Project III	December Christmas party for orphans

RELATIONSHIPS SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE

January New Year's Welcome	February Valentine's Day (Friendship Day)
March Pre-marriage Seminars-1,2	April Pre-marriage Seminars- 3,4
May Pre-marriage Seminars- 5,6 "Social to Save"—Spring Party	June Lifestyle Seminar-1 (YLA) Weekend Retreat at Camp (YLA)
July Lifestyle Seminar- 2 "Social to Save"—Summer at the Lake Party	August Lifestyle Seminar- 3
September Lifestyle Seminar- 4	October Lifestyle Seminar- 5 "Social to Save"—Fall Party
November Lifestyle Seminar- 6	December Christmas Sharing Party

RECREATIONAL SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE

January Caving Trip	February Team Sport I Tournament
March Bicycle Camp	April Orienteering Meet
May Beginner's Camping weekend	June Backpack weekend
July Rock Climbing Trip	August Track and Field Day/ Triathlon
September Canoe Trip	October Search and Rescue Training Camp
November Team Sport II Tournament	December Winter Campout

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE SILVER AWARD

January

- *Meeting with interested youth to plan physical fitness practice schedules
- *Assign leadership roles under Section IV-A for first 6 months

February

- *Begin fitness practice sessions based on weather—indoors/outdoors
- *Plan Expedition for Section III and schedule based on optimal weather#

March

- *Select community project for Section IV-B and schedule for optimum time of year.#
- *Continue fitness practice sessions

April

- *Continue fitness practice sessions

May

- *Continue fitness practice sessions

June

- * Test first round of fitness activities
- *Assign Cultural Improvement Section V readings

July

- *Complete Community Service Honor selected under Section IV-C
- *Begin fitness practice sessions part two
- *Assign leadership roles, Section IV-A for next group

August

- *Complete Skills Honor selected under Section II
- *Continue fitness practice sessions

September

- *Continue fitness practice sessions

October

- *Continue fitness practice session

November

- *Complete Section V readings

December

- *Test round two of fitness activities
- *Have completed Sections II, III, and IV

Be sure to insert these activities during the months selected and complete them prior to December.

Note: Due to the high level of physical training required, this Award is not designed to be completed by all members of Ambassador.

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE SUBCOM YEARLY SCHEDULE GOLD AWARD

January

- *Meeting with interested youth to plan physical fitness practice schedules
- *Assign leadership roles under Section IV-1/2 for first 6 months

February

- *Begin fitness practice sessions based on weather—indoors/outdoors
- *Plan Expedition for Section III and schedule based on optimal weather#

March

- *Select a Share Your Faith project for Section IV-3 and schedule for optimum time of year.#
- *Continue fitness practice sessions

April

- *Continue fitness practice sessions

May

- *Continue fitness practice sessions
- *Complete Community Service Honor I selected under Section IV-4

June

- * Test first round of fitness activities
- *Plan/Assign Cultural Improvement Section V

July

- *Complete Community Service Honor II selected under Section IV-4
- *Begin fitness practice sessions part two
- *Assign leadership roles, Section IV-A for next group

August

- *Begin Skills Honors selected under Section II
- *Continue fitness practice sessions

September

- *Continue fitness practice sessions
- *Complete Skills Honors selected in August

October

- *Continue fitness practice session

November

- *Complete Section V assignments

December

- *Test round two of fitness activities
- *Have completed Sections II, III, and IV

Be sure to insert these activities during the months selected and complete them prior to December.

Note: While this schedule presents the ideal of completing the Gold Award in one year, two or more years is perhaps more realistic, especially considering the high level of physical training needed to complete the necessary events. It must be understood, that this Award is not designed for everyone, nor should it ever be understood that all members of Ambassador are somehow to complete this Award—it is indeed for a select few who find its challenges enticing.

MASTER GUIDE REQUIREMENTS

I. PRE-REQUISITES	Signature*	Date
1. Be at least 16 years of age.	_____	_____
2. Be a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.	_____	_____
3. Complete a basic staff training course in one of the following:	_____	_____
** _____ a. Adventurer Ministries		
_____ b. Pathfinder Ministries		
_____ c. Youth Ministries		
 II. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT		
1. Read the book Steps to Christ.	_____	_____
2. Complete the devotional guide Encounter Series I, Christ the Way, or a Bible Year plan.	_____	_____
3. Keep a devotional journal for at least four weeks, summarizing what you read each day.	_____	_____
4. Demonstrate your knowledge of our Fundamental Beliefs by completing one of the following**:		
—a. Write a paper explaining each belief		
—b. Give an oral presentation on each belief		
—c. Give a series of Bible studies covering each belief		
—d. Conduct a seminar teaching each belief	_____	_____
5. Enhance your knowledge of church heritage by completing the following:		
a. Reading the Pathfinder Story		
b. Earning the Adventist Church Heritage Award		
c. Reading a book on some aspect of church heritage	_____	_____
 III. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT		
1. Attend and complete a two-hour seminar in each of the following areas:		
a. Leadership skills	_____	_____
b. Communication skills	_____	_____
c. Creativity and resource development	_____	_____
d. Child and youth evangelism	_____	_____

- 2. Have or earn the following Honors:
 - a. Christian Storytelling _____
 - b. Camping Skills II _____
- 3. Earn two additional Honors of your choice not previously earned. _____
- 4. Hold a current Red Cross First Aid and Safety certificate or its equivalent. _____
- 5. Supervise participants through either an Adventurer Class or Pathfinder Class curriculum or teach a Sabbath School class for at least one quarter _____

IV. CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Read the book Education. _____
- 2. Read at least one additional book on child development or attend a three hour seminar dealing with child development within the age group of your chosen ministry. _____

V. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Read a current book on your choice of topic under the general category of Leadership Skill Development. _____
- 2. Demonstrate your leadership skills by doing the following:
 - a. Develop and conduct three worships
 - b. Participate in a leadership role with your local church children's/youth group in a conference sponsored event
 - c. Teach three Adventurer Awards or two Pathfinder Honors
 - d. Assist in planning and leading a field trip for a group of Adventurers, Pathfinders or Sabbath School class
 - e. Be an active Adventurer, Pathfinder, Youth Club, Sabbath School, or AY Society staff member for at least one year and attend at least 75% of all staff meetings. _____
- 3. Identify three current roles in your life, at least one of which is spiritually oriented, and list three goals or objectives for each. _____

VI. FITNESS LIFESTYLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Participate in a personal physical fitness plan for a minimum of three months, and evaluate any level of improvement of physical condition. _____

*In these columns, you may record the signature of the Instructor or Examiner and date of completion for each requirement.

**Space before each selection is to check off the training track selected to fulfill the requirement.

I certify that _____
has completed all the requirements for the Master Guide.

Instructor/Mentor: _____ *Date:* _____

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite: Be at least 16 years of age and a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

You and God

Signature* Date

1. Complete the Youth Department 10 hour Youth Ministry Training Course.

2. Keep a devotional diary for at least six months, following a personal devotional program that will be meaningful to you.

3. Pass the Youth Department Bible Truths examination; choose at least one church doctrine; and in writing:

a. Show how Christ is the center of this doctrine.

b. List ways that this doctrine affects your daily living.

4. Do one of the following:

— a. Complete the Adventist Youth Honor in Physical Fitness.

— b. Complete the Adventist Youth Honor in Nutrition.

You and Youth

1. After Studying the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy including Messages to Young People and at least one other book of your choice, dialogue with one or more youth on two current issues as they relate to Adventist young people. The topics could include:

Relationship to Government Television and Theater

Music Christian Dress

Dating and Marriage AIDS

Health and Temperance Recreation and Amusement

Choice of Life Work

2. After completing the above dialogue summarize in one paragraph your conclusions, stating a positive Christian purpose.

You and the Church

1. Pass the Youth Department Church Heritage test.

2. Do one of the following:

— a. Teach the Sabbath School lesson to a group of senior youth for a minimum of one quarter of thirteen Sabbaths within one year.

— b. Serve as an officer of the Adventist Youth Society,

Youth Sabbath School, Youth Council, or similar church or campus youth organization of a minimum of three months.

3. Do one of the following:

— a. Plan and direct/co-direct a weekend church or campus senior youth retreat or a spiritual emphasis week for youth.

Where necessary subdivide the group.

— b. Plan and direct at least two senior youth recreational activities covering a total time span of at least six hours. Where necessary subdivide the group.

You and the Community

1. After studying the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy teachings of Spiritual Gifts, write a brief summary of how your gifts can most effectively be used in youth ministry.

2. Chose one of the following, endeavoring to lead one or more people to Christ.

— a. Organize and direct or present the sermons for an evangelistic campaign for a minimum of ten nights, emphasizing Christ as the center of all Bible truths.

— b. Serve as an Adventist Youth Taskforce volunteer for a minimum of twelve weeks.

— c. Serve as a student missionary.

— d. Participate in youth ministries in a conference, field or mission for ten to twelve weeks.

— e. Give a series of Christ-centered Bible studies covering at least fifteen major doctrines.

— f. Direct or co-direct a community Better Living project for a minimum of ten days.

*I certify that _____
has completed the requirements for the Youth Leadership Award.*

Instructor/Mentor: _____ Date: _____

SPECIAL AY CLASS COMBINATION REQUIREMENTS

There will be youth joining Ambassador who have never had the opportunity to participate in a Pathfinder Club nor had the AY/Pathfinder Classes available at the age-appropriate times. Perhaps they are recent converts to the church or simply lived where there was no Pathfinder Club when they were younger but they would like to go back and complete the Pathfinder Class curriculum. Remember that this is a special program ONLY for those who are of the minimum age required or older and have never completed any of the Pathfinder classes. These requirements must be completed in their entirety to qualify.

So, following is a condensed, merged edition of the Pathfinder Classes for those who wish to complete all 6 basic levels and their Master Guide. Completion of these requirements will give the right to the candidate to receive the pins representing the basic class levels of Friend, Companion, Explorer, Ranger, Voyager, Guide, as well as the Master Guide. Completing these requirements does not entitle the use of any advanced level class bars nor of the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) and Advanced Pathfinder Leadership Award (APLA or PIA).

These requirements must be completed in a minimum of 1 ½ years and a maximum of 3 years. Any requirements completed prior to being 16 years old do not qualify except for any of the required Honors. NOTE: All requirements must be completed prior to investiture.

When all requirements have been completed, the Field Youth Director or his designee will make a careful review and test the candidate where it is felt necessary before programming the investiture and will give final clearance by placing the signature, date and location in the designated location.

At the investiture, the candidates must have this registry with them and have them signed in their appropriate location.

I. PERSONAL GROWTH

	Signature	Date
1. Be an active member of Ambassador or one of its subsidiaries	_____	_____
2. Be at least 16 years old.	_____	_____
3. Be a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church	_____	_____
4. Memorize and explain the meaning of the:		
Pathfinder Pledge and Law	_____	_____
AY Aim and Motto	_____	_____
5. Know, sign, and explain the Legion of Honor	_____	_____
6. Read the following books		
The Happy Path or Finding the Right Path	_____	_____
Steps to Christ	_____	_____
100 pages on leadership or junior youth development		
Book title: _____	_____	_____

II. SPIRITUAL DISCOVERY

1. Have completed the Bible Year. _____

2. Have read the four gospels in a modern translation.
Translation used: _____

3. Discuss in a group setting three of the following:
__ Luke 4:19-26
__ Luke 11: 9-13
__ Luke 21: 25-28
__ John 13: 12-17
__ John 14: 1-3
__ John 15: 5-8 _____

4. In consultation with your leader, select one of the following passages of Scripture...
John 3—Nicodemus
John 4—The Samaritan Woman
Luke 10—The Good Samaritan
Luke 15—The Prodigal Son
Luke 19—Zachaeus
and show how Jesus saves us. Use one of the following four methods to do so:
Group Discussion with your leader
Oral Presentation at an AYS meeting
A series of posters
Through an original poem or hymn _____

5. Read about the life of J. N. Andrews or a pioneer from your country. Discuss the importance of outreach ministry and why Christ gave the Gospel Commission (Matt. 28: 18-20) _____

6. Memorize the books of the Bible and be able to place them in their general classifications:

OLD TESTAMENT
Pentateuch
Historical
Poetic
Major Prophets
Minor Prophets

NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels

Historical

Letters

Prophecy

7. *Study and make a presentation of the love of God as demonstrated in the lives of Joseph, Jonah, Ester, and Ruth.*

8. In consultation with your leader, select one of the following themes:

- A parable of Jesus
- A miracle of Jesus
- The Sermon on the Mount
- A sermon on the Second Coming

and demonstrate your knowledge of Christ's teachings through one of the following:

- An interchange of ideas with your leader
- An activity that will involve your whole group
- In written format of no less than 2 pages

9. Know at least 15 of the basic doctrines of the Adventist Church.

10. Complete the tests in a) Bible Doctrines and b) Church Heritage with a passing score of no less than 75%. (Review manuals are available on the General Conference Youth Department web site.)

a)

b)

11. Complete a Bible Gems Certificate by memorizing at least one verse for each of the following categories:

Great Passages

Ps. 119:11 I Kings 18:21 Col 3:16 Other: _____

Salvation

John 1:1-3,14 Prov. 28:13 John 3:17 Other: _____

Doctrines

Isa. 1:18 Eccl 12:13,14 Mark 1:27, 28 Other: _____

Prayer

I Sam 15:22 Ps 51:3 Heb. 11:6 Other: _____

Relationships

Efe. 1:8-10 Prov 19:19 I Tim 4:12 Other: _____

Behavior

Ps 34:3,4 Prov. 22:29 Gal. 6:7 Other: _____

Promises and Praise

Ps. 56; 35:7 Ps. 91 James 1:7 Other: _____

III SERVING OTHERS

1. Participate in a discussion about witnessing toward other youth and put into practice some guidelines in an actual situation. _____
2. Spend at least 20 hours total in the following projects:
 - Bringing at least 2 friends to attend meetings held by the church
 - Help plan and participate in an outreach program of the church
 - Visit by providing a special program two of the following places
elderly care center, hospital, orphanage _____
3. With the help of a friend, spend at least one day (8 hours) on a project for the church, school, or community. _____

IV MAKING FRIENDS:

1. Name 10 qualities necessary for being a good friend. Discuss four daily situations in which you can practice the Golden Rule. _____
2. Participate in a panel discussion or skit on peer pressure and its role in your decision making. _____
3. Complete one of the following Honors:
 - Christian Grooming and Manners
 - Family Life _____
4. Through personal study and in group discussion examine your attitudes on four of the following topics:
 - Friendship
 - Power of the Will
 - Self Concept
 - Relationships—parents, Family, others
 - Peer Pressure
 - Choosing a Profession
 - Moral Behavior
 - Love and Sex _____

V HEALTH AND FITNESS

1. Make a presentation to elementary students regarding the laws of good health.

2. Complete one of the following activities:

___ Organize and participate in a fitness event such as a walkathon, marathon, invitational bike ride, or other similar community event.

___ Read pages 102-125 from the book *Temperance*, by E. G. White and pass a quiz on it.

___ Complete the Honor in Nutrition or teach the Physical Fitness Honor to a group.

3. Discuss the principles of physical fitness. Show a summary of your daily exercise program and sign a commitment statement for a program of regular exercise.

4. Participate in one of the following:

___ 15 km hike

___ 15 km horseback ride

___ 1 day canoe trip

___ 80 km bicycle ride

___ 1 km swim

5. Complete one of the following activities and design and sign a commitment statement to an alcohol-free lifestyle.

___ Participate in a discussion on the effects of alcohol on the body

___ Watch an audiovisual on alcohol or drugs and discuss it

___ Participate in a Stop Smoking Seminar, or watch 2 films on health or make a poster on smoking or drug abuse or participate in an exposition on health issues at a fair.

6. Memorize and explain I Corinthians 9:24-27.

7. Complete the Honor in Swimming, intermediate level or another fitness related Honor not previously completed.

VI LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1. Draw and fill in an organizational chart of our church with particular attention to your Division.

2. Observe the work of church deacons over the course of two months and give a report of their activities such as:

 their involvement with the needs of church members

 care of church properties

 communion service, baptisms, offerings

3. Attend at least once a regular church board meeting and give a report to your group.

4. With your group leaders plan and have social activities at least once per trimester for a year.

5. Complete the following Honors:

 Drilling and Marching

 Junior Youth Leadership

 Stewardship

6. Help a Pathfinder Club plan and complete a special outreach project such as an event for street kids or community beautification.

7. Help a Pathfinder Club plan and complete a special activity such as an open-house, special reception, excursion, or overnight campout.

8. Demonstrate your leadership skills and growth by the following:

 develop and lead out in at least 3 creative devotionals for a group

 help teach at least 2 Honors to Pathfinders or 2 Awards to Adventurers

 plan and coordinate a weekend campout for a club or unit of either

 Pathfinders or Adventurers.

VII NATURE STUDY

1. Complete one Honor from each of the groups listed below:

 a. Amphibians, Birds, Poultry, Livestock, Reptiles

 Shells, Trees, Shrubs

b. Stars, Cacti, Weather, Flowers, Animal Tracking

c. Ecology, Environmental Conservation

d. Cats, Dogs, Mammals, Seeds, Bird Pets, Small
Mammal Pets

2. Identify Alpha Centaurus and Orion. Know the spiritual significance of Orion as described in the book Early Writings page 41.

3. Complete the Wilderness Master

4. Identify at least 6 animal tracts and make plaster casts of at least three.

5. Prepare and describe at least 5 activities in nature that may be appropriate for Sabbath afternoons.

6. Review the history of the global flood, study at least 3 different fossils and explain their origin and relationship to the transgression of the Law of God.

7. Be able to identify from photos, collections or live, one of the following:

— 25 tree leaves

— 20 rocks and minerals

— 25 wild flowers

— 25 moths and butterflies

— 25 shells

VIII OUTDOOR LIVING

1. Know how to make a rope and how to take of rope. Know how to tie, the practical uses of, and make a knot board of at least 15 knots.

2. Know 10 rules to follow while on a hike and what to do if lost.

3. Learn how to mark a trail, show ability to mark and follow a trail set for 2 km

4. Complete an Honor not previously earned that will qualify for one of the following Masters: Aquatic, Recreation, or Sportsman.

- 5. Design three types of wilderness shelters know how to use them and use one for a weekend campout. _____
- 6. Pass a test in Advanced First Aid. _____
- 7. Complete the Honor in Orienteering. _____
- 8. Be able to light a fire on a rainy day; know where to find firewood for it; keep it lit. Know how to repair, replace, and tighten an axe handle. _____
- 9. With a group of not less than 4 persons including the instructor, hike at least 25 km in the wilderness that includes at least one over-night. Take notes to be used for an evaluation/discussion covering planning, participation, and observed flora and fauna. _____
- 10. Design 5 lashing projects for a campsite and one club camp entrance. _____
- 11. Plan a menu for a pack trip of 3 days for 4 persons; include at least 3 dehydrated foods. _____
- 12. Be able to send and receive a message using semaphore, or Morse code using a flashlight, or sign language, or have a basic knowledge of Amateur Radio. _____
- 13. Know how to find the 8 cardinal directions without the aid of a compass. _____

IX LIFESTYLE ENRICHMENT

- 1. Complete 2 Honors in each category below which have not been previously earned.
 - a. Household Arts or Arts and Crafts _____
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____

b. Health and Science or Outreach Ministries

1. _____

2. _____

c. Outdoor Industries or Vocations

1. _____

2. _____

2. With the guidance of your leader, discuss with your group one of the following topics:

— Christian Modesty

— Recreation and Amusements

— Sabbath Observance

3. Through a discussion and/or personal study, evaluate your attitudes towards 2 of the following topics:

— Abortion

— AIDS

— Violence

— Drugs

X. STAFF LEADERSHIP TRAINING

1. Attend a seminar of at least 2 hours on Pathfinder or Adventurer Staff Training.

XI. SERVICE TRAINING

1. Serve as a Counselor or Assistant Counselor in either a Pathfinder Club or Adventurer club for at least one year.

2. Help with the instruction to a group of children in one of the AY Classes for at least 5 months or until Investiture.

3. Complete the Honor in Christian Story Telling

XII. DEVELOPING NEW ABILITIES

1. Complete at least 10 hours of training sponsored by your Field Youth Department covering the following topics:

- Unit Counselor
- Communications Skills
- Camping Skills and Leadership
- Developing Creative Resources
- Junior Youth Evangelism

REVIEW AND EXAMINATION

I certify that _____ *has completed*
the Special Combination Class requirements at _____
_____ *on* ____/____/____.

Reviewing Mentor/Field Youth Director _____

INVESTITURE

Invested by _____
At _____ *on* ____/____/____.

ACTIVITIES

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL EDUCATION

Christian young people have every reason to be the happiest persons in the world. Jesus said, “I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10). A life lengthened by proper health habits but boring is not an abundant life. We are not just to be happy because life is good, life is fair, and life is long. None of those phrases are accurate for anyone—a Christian or a non-Christian. But, James tells us we can and should be happy in any and all circumstances. Paul understood that as well which is why he could sing while in prison and beaten. This all may sound a bit morbid as an introduction to this section, but there is a reason. Today’s society places a major emphasis on having fun—at almost any cost.

Entertainment is the way to happiness, so says the media. Jeff Jacoby, a columnist for a major newspaper was evaluating this concept once and wrote the following about today’s view of fun and happiness. “It is not that movies and TV shows are laced with dung, but that they cannot help being laced with dung. So much TV and movie fare is morally corrosive because those industries by their nature are at odds with traditional moral teachings... (they) contradict the fundamental messages of the Judeo-Christian tradition.” He then goes on to point out many of the contradictions and concludes with this observation: “One last contradiction: TV and the movies are obsessed with fun. In the Jewish and Christian traditions, the focus is on happiness.” In the movies, “when the dazzle is over, when the excitement has passed, what’s left? Very few people... want to be buried under a stone that says ‘Here lies... he had a lot of fun.’ Fun is not what life is about. Yet it is overwhelmingly what the media culture demands. The difference between fun and happiness is like the difference between sex and love. One is easy but quickly ended; the other takes work but can last forever. One appeals to the senses; the other nourishes the soul.”

It’s not hard to see the contrast of Christian fun and those amusements that, sought merely for the sake of pleasure, tend to be carried to excess, weakening our physical, mental, and spiritual powers. Satan is constantly endeavoring to unsettle youth by creating new attractions and fascinating amusements that destroy the usefulness of young people and separate them from God.

Recreation that may cause us to lay aside religious convictions temporarily is disastrous. Although recreation invites us to take off from the complex rat race of modern technologically driven living, it never should encourage us to be off-duty Christians; religion cannot be a postscript for everyday living. Having said all this, we do have some positive guidance: “It is the privilege and duty of Christians to seek to refresh their spirits and invigorate their physical and mental powers to the glory of God.” MYP 364. Notice it is our DUTY to have and participate in recreation.

GAMES

Games fall into several categories. The poorest of these are those games of chance that encourage gambling, dissipation, and cheating. Those that encourage stimulation of the brain, learning in all its facets from Bible to nature to general knowledge are more acceptable. Those that also encourage exercise and social interaction besides learning are even better.

SPORTS

While we may choose to involve ourselves in spectator sports to a greater or lesser degree, sports that are promoted by us as an organization should be more along the lines of participatory events. In spectator events, emotions tend to run high, adrenalin flows in excess and there’s nowhere for it all to go except in yelling and name calling. Commercial interests tend to exploit and make larger than life of so-called

“star” players. These then enter a world of hero worship that is not healthy for a young Christian’s involvement. While commercialized sports and other such areas of competition exist in various public sporting leagues and should be avoided, a position against participating in sports in a recreational way should not be taken. After Ellen White enjoyed observing her grandchildren playing baseball one afternoon, someone questioned her about it. Her response was “I do not condemn the simple exercise of playing ball; but even this in its simplicity, may be overdone.” *AH* 499.

Temperance is the key to all social activities and recreation. Young people are sometimes confused by Ellen White’s statements that apparently condemn bicycle riding and tennis. Immediately they are tempted to condemn her writings—especially when these are used inappropriately by some well-meaning adults. The reasons behind these statements are extremely useful for us still today and they must be understood. Both these activities were written about for specific situations. In the case of bicycle riding, great sums of money were being spent for racing bicycles—to the tune of several months’ family wages, with the avowed purpose of engaging in races with towns-people. Basic family needs of food and clothing were being set aside in the effort. The whole thing was being carried to extremes. A similar situation occurred with tennis. Students were missing classes at school in order to play “just one more game”; competition against the community was organized that developed an unwholesome spirit which needed to be curbed. These are all reasons that could or should cancel many types of activities, not just bicycles or tennis. It was Tozer who put it very clearly: “Whatever keeps me from the Bible is my enemy, however harmless it may appear to be.”—*Best of Tozer*, page 108

MUSIC

Music is one of those subjects that do not seem to have any people that are opinionless. Most everyone seems to have very clear feeling of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable music. Most everyone seems to feel that whatever type of music they prefer is the best type that there is and any other type is either too old-fashioned or too far over the cliff. There is a line of thought that teaches that music is actually neutral in the over all panorama of the Great Controversy. After all musical notes are just that—musical notes—they say or do nothing in and of themselves. While that is very accurate, it is also very deceptive. It is analogous to saying that letters are also just that—letters on a keyboard—they say or do nothing in and of themselves. BUT, the way letters are used to construct words is another story—so also the way musical notes are used to construct music is also another story. As Satan will use words to write that which will lead people away from God, so he will use music to do the same. Just as there is every genre of writing and speaking, so there is every genre of music: comical, dramatic, intense, inspirational, depressive, eloquent, folksy, uplifting, degrading, poetic, grating, all these terms and many more may be applied to both written/spoken language and musical language. In fact most composers will refer to their efforts as language. They can by skilful use of music evoke any line of thoughts they wish, any body reactions they wish—psychological and body chemistry studies confirm this. Music is not neutral. It is an integral part of the Great Controversy and is used by both sides in the battle for our souls. Every one has their own tastes in music, and that is quite acceptable—there are many forms of music to choose from for this. But a Christian should never be so narrow as to confine himself to only one type of music nor be so unfocused as to permit any form of musical production or sound volume to be used as an excuse to glorify God. He has been particular of what is offered to Him as worship since the beginning of mankind’s history as evidenced in the sad story of Cain and Abel. God is the source and author of a wide range of musical types. He likes variety just as is shown by his creation. But he is not the author or originator of that which evokes hypnotic effects, anarchy, dissonance, discord, and destruction of hearing—those are the thorns and weeds introduced into the fields.

In our clubs and in our meetings we will want to focus on that music which will draw us to God without sending mixed messages of confusion. Of the wide range available to us we will want to select that which is near a “middle of the road” type that will elicit least controversy and division and yet resonate in the inner chords of the soul of every youth.

DISCIPLESHIP

There are numerous words that seem to be key words in youth ministry. Mentoring and discipleship are perhaps two of the most important. Youth Ministry does not involve just doing that which youth enjoy doing. Mentoring signifies the actions leaders must take, do take whether they recognize it or not in their leadership roles. Discipleship is the response to good mentoring. It is taking Christ's narrow path we as leaders have pointed out for them. Youth Ministry is not a fun and games lifestyle alone (even though there is often fun and games involved). If the youth do not find the small gate and take the narrow path Christ speaks about, then all of our planning sessions and nice programs and all of our time, energy, and resources spent are meaningless. They become like the drums and cymbals alone—a lot of noise, a lot of emotion, but no melody and no harmony—no valid music.

WORSHIP/DEVOTIONAL

A key component of every Christian's life is found in their concepts and practice of worship to God and personal devotional time. Because mankind's relationship to God is of such importance and these two aspects of life are so vital to that relationship, it would be difficult to even call a person a Christian who does not involve himself in these in some kind of systematic consciously planned pattern.

Worship

Often worship is seen as something that I must receive a benefit from or it isn't of any value. We forget that worship is that which we give to God, it is not for ourselves. It is our outward expression of thanksgiving, of what our relationship with God means to us. Thus it is best done in a combined fashion of that which comes from the heart with that which God asks of us. We have in the Bible a very clear expression of this in the very first chapters of Genesis where God specifies the worship he expects. Abel worshiped according to God's request, Cain chose to worship according to his own desires—using that which he felt was of merit. Today is no different. For many today, worship is offering that which we choose to offer based on what we like or want with little or no consideration of what it is that God asks of us and therefore our worship can be just as offensive as Cain's was. There are several components of worship; each must be carefully and prayerfully examined within our hearts in order to provide that which truly will be worship. The music used, the prayers offered, the words spoken, the actions involved; all are to be to the glory of God. There can be no mixing in of the profane under the guise of culture, times, personal preference or any other excuse.

Personal Devotions

This is the time for personal struggles and needs to be met. This the time when which most builds my strength, satisfies my innermost soul, is to happen. Timeframes are of no essence here, the Apostle says "I die daily"—that is the only reference we have for time. Devotions need to take place daily; other than that, they may last a few minutes or hours depending on the struggles at hand. They may consist of short readings one day and long tearful arguments another day. They may begin early in the morning by conversations with God before we even get out of bed and they may wrap up a day as we fall asleep in His trust. Any music, words read or words spoken, any actions; all are focused on that which will bring me closer to God within the frameworks of my culture, my times, my personal preferences—God is feeding me, giving me the strength and enthusiasm to face each day with and for Him. A hurried lifestyle is no excuse to limit personal devotions. It was Martin Luther who probably best understood this: he is quoted as saying something like "I have so much to do today; I must spend an extra hour on my knees to prepare for it."

CAMPING AND NATURE

Camping and other related outdoor adventure is a highlight in the programming of most youth groups. There are some clear guidelines recognized by all who venture into this world of discovery that must be an integral part of our teaching and behavior.

Pastor Robert Tyson, one of our early youth directors, who was also a true mentor, taught that if we are to be leaders of youth, we must become outdoors persons first. He meant that we not only must become skilled in the art of camping and high adventure, we must also develop a strong appreciation for and ethic towards nature—those small fractions of wilderness yet remaining for our enjoyment and protection. True outdoorsmen are not the “Rambo-type” that strap on a long knife and plow into the wilds, cutting, destroying, and imposing their presence on the environment. True outdoorsmen blend in; become a part of this environment—they learn to “walk softly”. They follow fanatically the axiom: “Kill nothing but time, leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures.” They familiarize themselves with every living thing and appreciate each and every species for what it is—a representation of the creative acts of God, another piece of the grand puzzle picturing the Great Controversy, each with lessons waiting to be learned as one deepens their powers of exploration and understanding. Nature should not cringe at our arrival, it should barely sense our presence and hardly notice our departure. One of the goals of every club activity in the outdoors should be to leave the site in better, cleaner, more natural condition than when they arrived.

“He alone who recognizes in nature his Father’s handiwork,...learns from the things of nature their deepest lessons, and receives their highest ministry.” *Ed 119-120*

A web site called www.thru-hiker.com provides many great ideas for ultra light equipment that one can make and save money, from great sleeping bags to backpacks and simple stoves, everything an adventurer needs, cheap and ultra light.

FIRST AID EQUIPMENT FOR GROUP CAMPING

This is a suggested listing of First Aid items as adapted from the Standard Outward Bound Kit:

STANDARD PATROL FIRST AID BELT

Outside Zippered Pocket

1	pair of scissors	10	pkgs. of diatrol
20	¾" bandaids	1	pocket mask for CPR
20	1"x3" bandaids	1	midsize airway
2	2" adhesive tape	1	stethoscope
1	9"x18" moleskin		
1	roll nylon rip-stop tape		
1	small bar of soap		

Inside Plastic Box

1	vial of coricidin
1	vial of aspirin/advil
1	vial of Tylenol
1	vial of milk of magnesia tablets
1	bottle of oil of cloves
1	nail clippers
1	tweezer
1	thermometer
1	hypothermic thermometer
3	steristrips
1	single edge razor blade
6	safety pins
1	tube of spectrin
1	tube of zinc oxide

Inside Plastic Bag

6	accident report forms
6	emergency notice forms
6	vital signs charts
1	first aid booklet
1	mountaineering medicine booklet
4	tampons
8	gauze pads 4"x4"
8	telfa pads 3"x4"
2	rolls of kling
2	packages of spenco second skin
1	bottle of betadine (pharmidine) 4 oz.
1	wire splints
2	ace bandages
1	triangular bandage
2	surgipads
1	pair of sunglasses
8	hoseclamps
8	skin prep

FIRST AID EQUIPMENT FOR GROUP CAMPING

This is a suggested listing of First Aid items as adapted from the Standard Outward Bound Kit

FIRST AID RESUPPLY BOX

Inside Plastic Box

- 2 pairs of scissors
- 2 tweezers
- 2 nail clippers
- 36 safety pins
- 3 thermometers
- 3 hypothermic thermometers
- 2 oil of cloves

Inside Manila Envelope

- 2 first aid booklets
- 10 accident report forms
- 10 emergency forms
- 10 vital signs forms
- 100 gauze pads 4"x 4"
- 100 telfa pads 3"x 4"
- 20 rolls 2" adhesive tape
- 4 pairs of sunglasses
- 1 large roll of moleskin
- 500 aspirin/ 500 Advil
- 500 tylenol
- 100 cold tablets

- 100 milk of magnesia tablets
- 3 bottles of betadine (pharmidine) 4 oz.
- 2 bottles of benzoin
- 100 ¾" bandaids
- 100 2"x 3" bandaids
- 14 tubes of zinc oxide
- 4 tubes of spectrin
- 4 triangular bandages
- 3 wire splints
- 4 3" ace bandages
- 36 golf pencils
- 12 empty plastic vials
- 50 pkgs. of 2 diatrol
- 4 surgipads dressings
- 15 hoseclamps
- 1 roll nylon rip-stop tape
- 5 steristrips
- 6 spenco second skin
- 8 rolls of kling
- 10 small bars of soap
- 2 boxes single edge razor blades
- 1 box of tampons
- 50 skin preps

Application for membership

Ambassador Club

Name _____

Address _____

Birth date _____ Sex: M F Baptized SDA Y N

Phone _____ e-mail _____

I would like to join Ambassador at the _____
 ___ Seventh-day Adventist Church. I will attend and actively participate in the club
 and agree to live by the guidelines and rules established by the club in keeping with
 the lifestyle taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I have been a member of other SDA youth organizations. Y N

If yes, which? _____ Adventurers _____ Pathfinders _____ Master Guide Club

_____ Youth Federation _____ Youth Emergency Service _____ Search and Rescue

_____ Adventist Youth Society _____ Other: _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

