

TEMPLE SALEM SAINTS

Pathfinder Year Handbook 2025



Welcome back returning pathfinders and welcome all new pathfinders to our Temple Salem Saints family! This guideline is crucial for proper functioning and understanding for this pathfinder year! Thank you to all parents and church members for the support the club has received last year and we hope we can count on your support again for this pathfinder year. This will be a guide that will go over basic and new policies for this pathfinder year. Please keep this as a point of reference and share the information with the appropriate people. Let's begin!

Registration:

For your child to be officially registered in the club, the pathfinder registration form, general consent form and the medical form must be completely filled out, along with the registration fee of \$35 for new pathfinders or \$25 for returning pathfinders paid upon the time of registration. Parents have **until March 1, 2025 to complete registration.** **After the deadline, the club will no longer accept applications and your child(ren) will have to wait until the next Pathfinder year to register.**

Please understand: without the completion of registration your child(ren) will be considered as a risk management issue and we cannot afford the potential consequences or problems it will cause in the future.

If you owe any money from the previous year, that is due upon registration. The director has a list of the people who owe from the previous year, the amount, and what the money is due for.

Club Schedule, Function and Conduct:

- Club hours/schedule are as followed (unless otherwise stated from the director):

1st and 2nd Sunday - 10:30am - 1:00pm

3rd Saturday - 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Parents/Guardians are expected to sign children in and out of club.

Parents, please do your best to drop off and pick up your children **ON TIME**. This is an issue that arises every year. Unless your child is staying after for drum corps or drill team/color guard practice, we expect you to arrive at 12:55pm during the closing prayer to pick up your child and bring him or her home. Our staff has other obligations besides the club. We cannot wait hours after the club ends for your child to be picked up. **After 1:30pm, parents will be charged \$5 for every half hour the child is not picked up. Records will be kept of this. At the end of the year, any remaining fees not paid can hinder a child's eligibility for investiture.** If this is a problem, please speak to other parents and make other accommodations for your child to be picked up

- Understand that attendance is **MANDATORY** and your child's attendance will affect whether or not your child is allowed to participate in outings, attend camporee or be invested for the year.

Any long absences will be reviewed and taken into account by the directors if they feel that it is excusable **AND** the child meets with his or her instructor to check work or make up hours.

IF YOUR HAS SIX UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, YOUR CHILD IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR INVESTITURE FOR THE YEAR IF IT IS NOT CLEARED WITH THE DIRECTOR.

Parents please keep this in mind, as the director will not bother with excuses at the end of the year. Accountability is key.

- Your child should also come to the club prepared. This means that he/she should have their bible, a black or blue pen, their work that is due for that particular morning and a willing spirit to be in club. This year we will not be freely handing out pens and bibles from the office. A soldier never goes to battle without his or her rifle, why should our pathfinders come to church without their bible?
- Pathfinder dues are expected every week. **Dues are one dollar**. Just ONE dollar. Dues are needed for proper club functioning. With dues we provide food, help pay for field trips or other pathfinder expenses that could diminish the cost pathfinders have to pay out of pocket. We will be better on tracking down who does and does not bring dues this year. Pathfinders will be held accountable for this.
- Respect is not an option, it is mandatory. Pathfinders must address staff members by their proper titles followed by their name. Pathfinders must also address parents and each other with respect as well.
- There are certain things/situations that will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Electronics should be put away and out of sight during club hours. No phones, ipods, tablets, cameras, etc should be out unless given the okay by the director or instructor.
 - The first instance where an electronic device is seen, it will be taken away and given back to the pathfinder at the end of the day
 - The second instance, the parent will have to get it from the director at the end of the day
 - The third will result in a parent/pathfinder conference with the director.

No jewelry, except for wedding bands. Tattoos, if your child has any, should not be visible. (Especially, when in Class A uniform)

- The following will result in **IMMEDIATE** pathfinder suspension for the rest of the year as they are not tolerated under any circumstance:
 - Fighting
 - Sexual misconduct (this includes consensual and/or nonconsensual sexual activity, distribution, display, or possession of any pornographic material, unwanted sexual contact, etc.)
 - Weapons or any illicit drugs
 - Repetitive swearing or outright disobedience (depending on the severity)
 - Any other extreme acts that the executive staff deems necessary for a suspension. With this, a meeting will be called with the pathfinder in question along with her or her parents.

Special Accommodations:

- If your child has any particular illness, physical disabilities, mental disabilities, or any other issue that may impact them at any point of club functioning, **please inform the director as soon as possible in order for accommodations to be met.**

We have nurses and social workers/mental health practitioners on our staff that have the proper licensure and training to accommodate these children.

Please also note that these individuals are **mandated reporters** and will have to be documented accordingly if situations do in fact arise. If at any point your child has a mental breakdown, or the staff fears the child is in danger to himself/herself or others, the Boston Emergency Service Team (BEST Team) or Boston Police may be contacted. Parents will be kept informed of such actions, if they do in fact arise.

Communication:

Temple Salem Saints will communicate and relay important information through the following means:

1. The announcements through the church's bulletin or through verbal communication from the Secretary's office.
2. The window or door in/on the pathfinder office will be updated with announcements
3. Temple Salem Pathfinder Parents via WhatsApp
-Provide the club with an accurate and up to date phone number to permit messages to reach you. Please listen/read the messages in full **and then** proceed to contact the director, if you have any questions.
4. The church website: <https://templesalemsda.org/>
5. Our Instagram page -> @templesalemsaints

Pathfinder Books:

- Pathfinders will receive their books at the second or third meeting of the club year. The first book is free and should be well taken care of. If the book is damaged or lost, it will **cost \$5** to get a new one after the first. Parents please be advised that the binders are purchased for the pathfinders. Please ensure that they are taken care of and in good condition.
- The books should only have **black or blue ink** in them. No pencils, no colored pens will be acceptable. The instructors will emphasize this upon the initial meeting with the kids. The work that the instructor assigns should be done **immediately**. A minimum of one paragraph will be accepted as completed work for any section. The director has outlined that a paragraph at a minimum contains 8-10 sentences. The instructor has the means to dismiss a child if they are

behind on their book or a disruption in the class. The club has a plan to finish books early and on time so that the summer can be spent on recreational activities, honor enrichment, camp, and even a pathfinder break. Parents work with your kids to ensure that their books are done in a timely fashion.

- All pathfinders in the **Ranger, Voyager, and Guide** class must have their bookwork **TYPED**. Excuses will not be accepted. If a pathfinder needs to print out their work and is not able to, they need to discuss this with their instructor so he or she can find the means to have this issue resolved.
- Pathfinders who wish to do more than one book have to follow a particular protocol this year and it is as followed:
 - The pathfinder must attend the class of the first book that needs to be done and **COMPLETELY** finish this book before moving on to the next class.
 - The instructor and the director must sign off that the book is finished in order for the pathfinder to move on to the next class.
 - Ex: if a child would like to do a Friend and Companion book, the pathfinder **MUST** attend the Friend class and complete the Friend book before working on the Companion book. The Friend instructor and the Director must sign off the Friend book before moving on to the Companion class.

Uniforms:

Issues with uniforms typically range from incomplete uniform, damaged/dirty uniform, missing uniform pieces, or just not wearing uniform due to miscommunication. Wearing your class A or class B uniform properly **IS NOT AN OPTION. IT IS MANDATORY. WHEN YOU SIGN UP TO BE A PATHFINDER, YOU ARE NOT A PATHFINDER ONLY WHEN IT IS CONVENIENT FOR YOU. WHEN YOU ARE TOLD TO WEAR YOUR COMPLETE CLASS A UNIFORM (or class B uniform) YOU WEAR IT! NO EXCEPTIONS!** To ensure that there is no confusion please adhere to the following uniform guidelines and specifications:

Class B Uniforms

As was previously stated, proper class B uniform is the following:

- **Burgundy club t-shirt:** Unless otherwise stated by the director (there will be cases where the blue club t-shirt should be worn, the area t-shirt, or the conference t-shirt) - **Each shirt cost \$10**
- **Black or blue jeans/sweatpants:** No gray jeans or any other color jeans for that matter, and absolutely **NO GREY SWEATPANTS OR BASKETBALL SHORTS!**
- **Sneakers:** We do physical activity every Sunday. There is no reason why you should not be in sneakers. No boots, no moccasins, no sandals, **NO HEELS** (Yes, pathfinders have worn heels to club before!). If you have an issue on a particular Sunday, please see the club director **IMMEDIATELY** upon entering the basement for club that morning.
- **Belts:** Wear your belts, pathfinders! No one should see where the good Lord split you! All guys should also have their shirts **TUCKED INTO** their pants.
- **Club Sweats (optional)**– club sweats may be offered as a set for the 2025 year. Prices will be set soon. Estimates would be roughly **\$70**

Class A Uniforms

As a club, we have improved slightly on our Class A uniforms. It is not where it should be! We have to look sharp **EVERY TIME** we wear our uniforms! They should be worn with pride and dignity. Every other church should look at us with envy because our uniforms are so sharp! It is an embarrassment to the church when we go out and wear our uniforms, and

one or two people are sloppy. That is all it takes: **ONE OR TWO PATHFINDERS IN INCOMPLETE OR MESSY UNIFORM.** In order to prevent the headaches and embarrassment, the following is what constitutes a COMPLETE pathfinder uniform:

- Shirt/Blouse – Khaki (Suntan) in color (**up to \$30**)
- Black Pants/Skirt – (**up to \$30**)
- Black sock (boys) / Black ULTRA SHEER tights (girls)
- Black sash (**\$6-\$10**)
- Black neck tie/bowtie (**boys \$7**)/(**girls \$5**)
- Black belts w/ pathfinder belt buckle (**\$9**)
- Black beret w/ pathfinder triangle patch (**\$17**)
- White cotton gloves – not silk gloves, **COTTON GLOVES (\$4)**
- Neckerchief w/ black slide (**\$10**)
- Name tag (**\$8**)
- **PROPER PATHFINDER SHOES**
 - The shoes have to be clean, black oxford shoes that have no extra lines or designs on them. This would be a **PROPER** pathfinder shoe:



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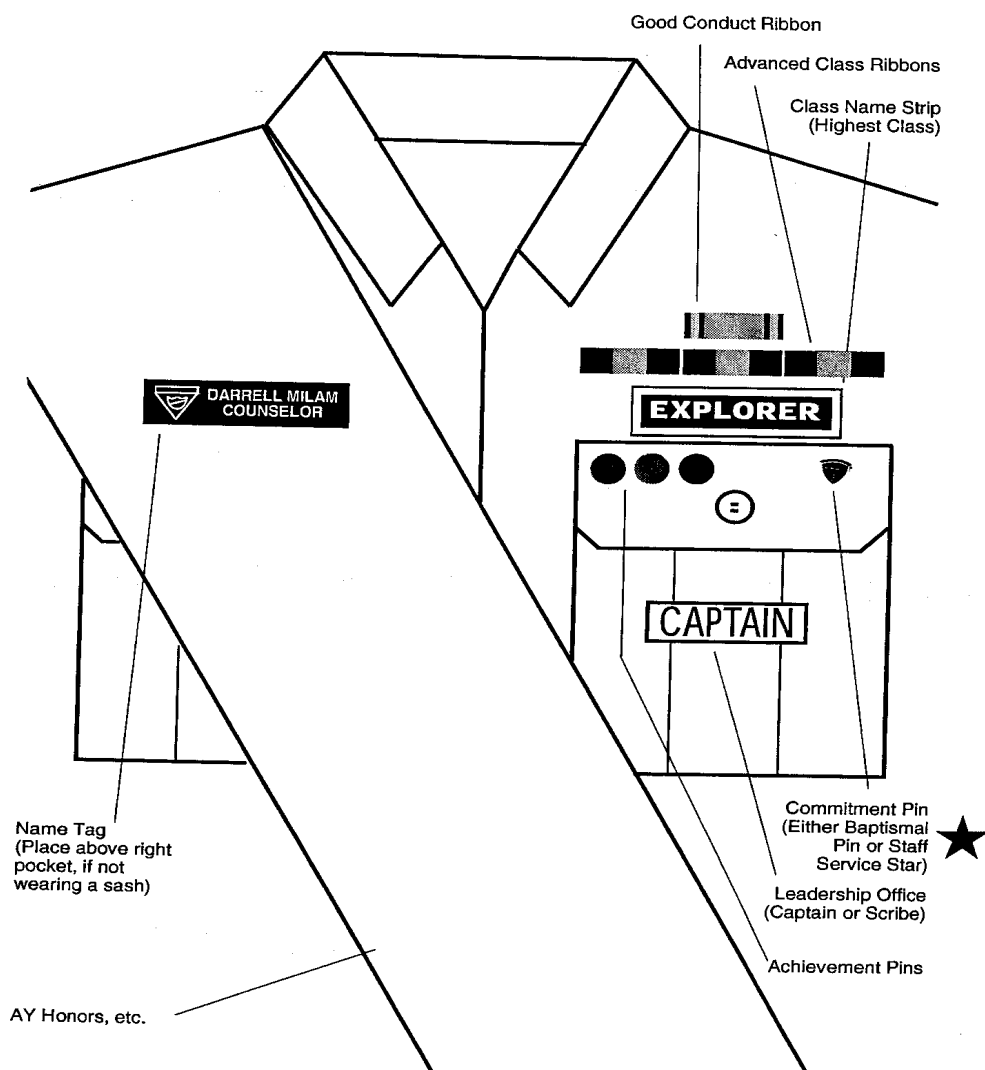
These are two CLEAR pictures as to what is expected in terms of a proper pathfinder shoe. You can find shoes like this at Walmart, Kmart, Amazon or the Army Barracks Store.

Optional Purchases:

- Garment Bag (\$13)
- Accessory Bag (\$10)

Uniform Patches

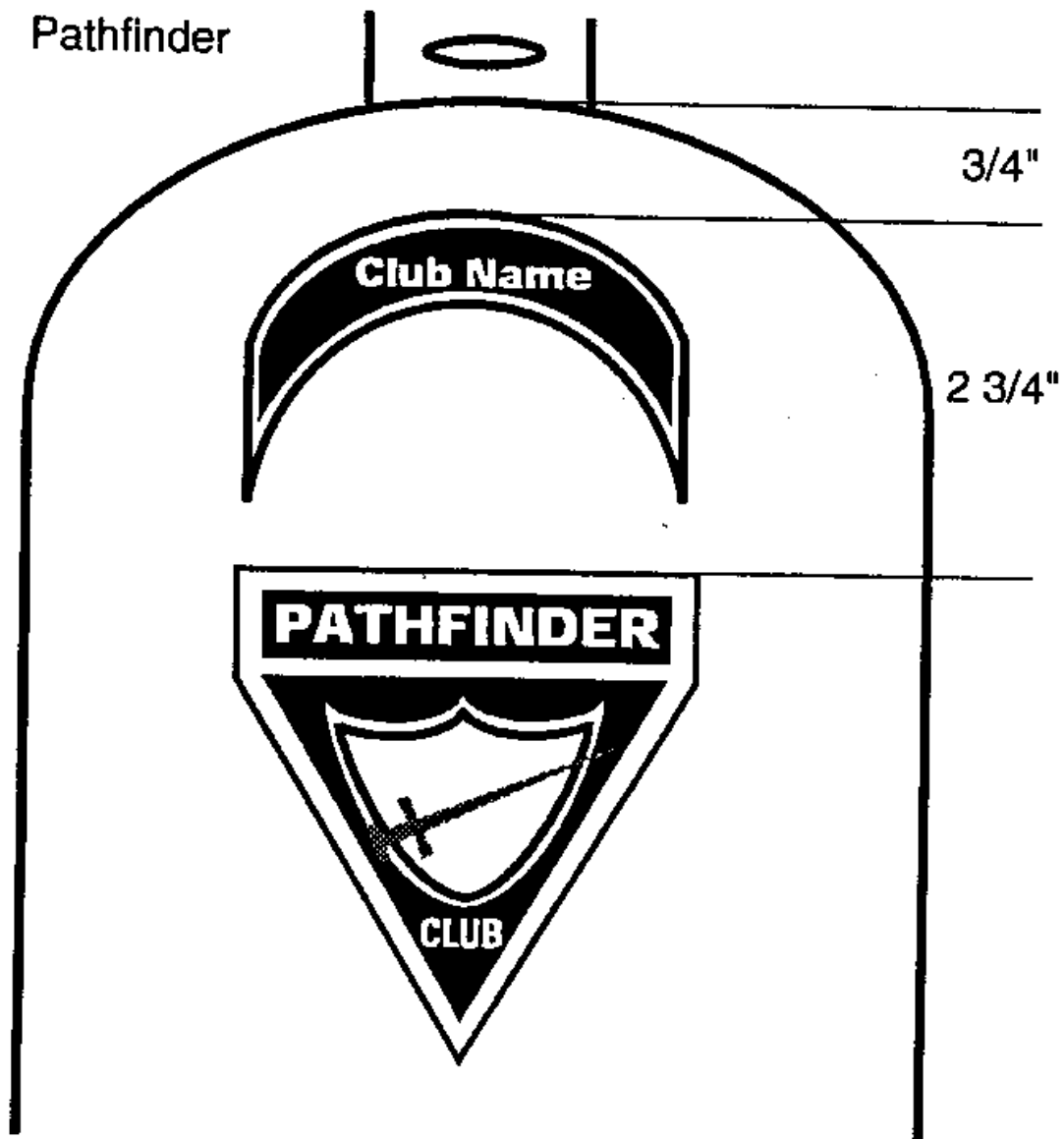
A proper uniform has the **CORRECT** patches in order on the proper arms sewed on **ALL THE WAY** so that a pinky finger may not get in between the patch and the uniform shirt. The following, with a few modifications is what is expected on a pathfinder shirt/blouse when wearing Class A uniform:



If your child is not a captain or anything like that, please disregard the captain tag.

For the Arms, the arms are VERY important. These figures are old, but you get the right idea with them:

Right Sleeve



The measurements are on this already. A rule of thumb: your index finger should fit in between the patches

Left Arm**Left Sleeve**

With Conference Patch



IMPORTANT TO NOTE: This picture is outdated. We now have the NEW rectangular Atlantic Union Patch that goes IN BETWEEN the conference and world patch. The Chevron that

is underneath the world should be the chevron of the last class a pathfinder was invested as. This does not apply to pathfinders in the Friends class wearing the Pathfinder Uniform.

As we stated earlier, pathfinders should not wear their uniforms when it is convenient for them. They are to wear their uniforms WHENEVER they are told to dress up. The following circumstances are times when pathfinders are EXPECTED to wear their uniforms:

- 1. Pathfinder Week of Prayer/Pathfinder Day**
- 2. Induction/Investiture Ceremonies**
- 3. Parade & Fair**
- 4. Haitian Flag Day Church Celebration/ Haitian Flag Day Parade**
- 5. Adventurers' Day**
- 6. Youth Day**
- 7. Supporting another Club's Pathfinder Day/ Special Events**
- 8. ANY OTHER INSTANCE NOTED BY THE DIRECTOR**

With the other instances, the director will communicate through the means of communication listed earlier to tell the pathfinders to wear their full Class A uniform.

*** IMPORTANT: EXCUSES SUCH AS UNCLEAR OR LOST UNIFORM PARTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE! IF YOU KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO NEED YOUR UNIFORM, CLEAN IT!! DRY CLEAN IT!! KEEP IT TOGETHER!! YOUR DIRECTOR DOES NOT LIKE EXCUSES! ***

Special Uniforms

This applies to Drum Corps, Color Guard, and Drill team members. Special Uniforms are considered Ivory Berets with the pathfinder patch sewed on, white ascots, white citation cords with the gold tips, and gloves. These pathfinders do not need to wear the black beret, black necktie, and neckerchief and slide. The special uniforms are referred to as “whites” and can be purchased for **\$40** from the director directly. This is **ONLY** if a pathfinder is on a special team. The whites should also be clean at **ALL** times.

Special Teams:

Drum Corps, Color Guards, and Drill team members are special teams. Being on either team is not a right, it is a **PRIVILEGE**. You may be on the team today, but insubordination and disrespect will get you off the team **immediately**. If a pathfinder’s bookwork is not up to date, if they have behavioral issues, if they do not show up to practices, or if they do not adhere to the rules stated by the special teams leaders, they will be dismissed from the special team. These special teams are **ministries**, not special activities that a pathfinder feels entitled to.

Field Trips and Outings:

We have plans for field trips and outings throughout the year. Club time does not always have to be within the confinements of the basement. We would like to change it up a little this year! To do this, we need the cooperation of **ALL** the pathfinders and staff members! In order for a pathfinder to attend the trips and outings we have planned for this year, the following is expected:

- Proper conduct and good club behavior
- Up to date bookwork
- Good standing with dues (we told you we will keep track of this)

- Signed general consent form (this will prevent paperwork from constantly being signed. This general consent form gives permission for a pathfinder to go out with the club whenever)
- Pathfinder readiness (you are prepared for the particular trip at hand)

Camping:

Camp this year is the Area Camporee that will be held from ****August 1st-August 3th 2025 (Tentative Date)** . Where and the cost of the camp this year will be relayed to you as soon as possible. However, we would advise you all to not wait until the last minute to purchase camp materials. Please see the following checklist to ensure that you are properly prepared for camp:

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS HAVE YOUR NAME ON THEM!!
Bible (pathfinder bible or King James version preferred)
WATER BOTTLE OR CANTEEN (DON'T FORGET)!!! KEEP HYDRATED!!!
Sleeping Bag-rolled or in a stuffed sack
First Aid kit
Pillow
Flashlight that works with spare batteries
Coat or jacket (it gets cold at night)
Warm hat, gloves, mitten, scarf (it gets cold at night)
Poncho, rain boots, and/or umbrella
Casual clothes (black or blue jeans, play clothes)
Required t-shirts (maroon and light blue club shirt, green area shirt, red conference shirt, etc)
Two pairs of shoes (hiking and/or tennis)
Socks for each day plus one (it is best if they are not cotton because cotton make your feet sweat & very cold if they are wet)
Underwear for each day plus two
Dirty clothes bag (i.e small plastic bag)
Personal items (<u>DEODORANT</u> , chapstick, <u>SOAP</u> , toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush, towel, washcloth, etc)
Bug Spray
Sunscreen (black people get sunburn too)

VALISES
TSS HANDBOOK 2020

Hat and/or glasses for the sun
Notepad and pencil
Small daypack for daytime activities
Camera (optional)
Toilet paper or wet wipes
MESH KITS!! WE WILL NOT BE HAVING PAPER PLATES, FORKS ETC. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE YOU WILL HAVE TO RENT ONE
Swim suits (optional...there is a water park)
Shower shoes/shower caps
FULL CLASS A UNIFORM!! NO EXCEPTIONS !!
Camp Chair
THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME
Food snacks: this is for YOUR own good! We don't need any bugs, bears, mice, skunks, or any type of wildlife in our campsite especially in your tents! Only acceptable for the bus
Cell phones- we will take it for the entirety of the camp if seen
Electronic devices/ games –we will take it for the entirety of the camp if seen
Jewelry
SUITCASES

IMPORTANT 2025 DATES

- Registration Deadline – March 1st
- Club Start date – March 2nd
- Community Parade / Pathfinder Induction Ceremony – April 19th
- Pathfinder Week of Prayer - April 20 - April 26th
- Haitian Day Church Celebration - May 17th
- Haitian Day Parade – May 18th

- Taste of Haiti Fundraiser/General Fundraiser – TBD
- Club Books Due – July 6th
- Camp – **August 1-3th
- NEN Area Spiritual Review/Board Exam – Aug 17th
- Pathfinder Day – Sep 20th
- NEN Investiture – October 4th
- More events/dates TBA

This handbook was created to ensure that we are all on the same page for this 2025 Pathfinder Year. Any questions, comments, or concerns should be brought to the directors directly. It will be our honor serving as your co-directors for this year. Thank you parents and church for all your endless support and prayers in years past, please continue to work with the staff this year! We look forward to working with you all to ensure we have a great pathfinder year this year! God bless!

Sincerely,

Sara Fils-Aime, *Director*.