TRAINING IN ACTION
Volunteer Connection & Online Training Application

TRAINING DAY PATHFINDER UNIT LEADER TRAINING

This resource offers suggested training follow-up for Adult Members after they have viewed the **Pathfinder Unit Leader Training** course.

Suggestions for before the training day:

- If available, invite a seasoned Pathfinder Unit Leader to join the group for the day sharing expertise and answering questions.
- Have a laptop with internet access available to look-up resources for use during group activities.
- Have copies available of the Troop calendar, budget, roster, *Pathfinder Unit Leader Resource Guide, Level Award Tracking Sheet*, Pathfinder Necklace, or any other key items that may impact planning activities.

FELLOWSHIP/CONNECTION

Open the session with prayer lifting up the Unit Leaders and the Pathfinders in the Troop. Invite the Lord to stir your hearts and align your steps with His as you prepare to lead these young girls as they begin their AHG journey.

"He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:2-4, NIV

Begin with some forming questions: *Why did you register your daughter in AHG? What were you hoping she would learn? OR What is your earliest memory of childhood, something you can recall from kindergarten?*

JUST FOR FUN/TEAMBUILDING

Pathfinders are active and full of energy. Leading them will require lots of energy, and enthusiasm on the part of the Unit Leaders. Have some fun with this activity to get Unit Leaders up and moving. If you have enough people, make teams and turn it into a relay race or game.

STEPPING STONES – As in a game of hopscotch, jump on one foot down a path of "Stepping Stones" taped on the floor that represent the six Stepping Stones of the Pathfinder Program. Have Unit Leaders call out the name of the Stepping Stone with each hop. (1. Starting the Adventure, 2. Love God, 3. Cherish My Family, 4. Honor My Country, 5. Serve in My Community, 6. Next Step) If they wobble or have to put a foot down, they have to start over. See who finishes getting their team through the stepping stones first.

Keep an eye on participants–make sure everyone is being included.

ACTIVITES/APPLICATION

Spend time applying specific skills covered in the online training course. Depending on the number of attendees, break into small groups or pairs to work as teams. Come back together after an allotted time to share and ask questions.

Idea: It is important to plan ahead and be intentional about including Pathfinders in larger, whole-Troop experiences. How could Pathfinders be included in the following:

- Leadership opportunities for girls
- Flag ceremonies
- Service projects
- Special events

Choose one or two to discuss:

1. Using the *Pathfinder Unit Leader Guide*, review the sample meeting planners and lay out plans for the first month or two of meetings.

2. If your Unit has a very shy Pathfinder, what kinds of things can you, as a Unit Leader, do to draw her out? What should you avoid doing?

3. Developmentally, some girls this age may not take turns well. How will you manage this kind of behavior in a constructive way within the Pathfinder Unit?

4. A Pioneer or Patriot has expressed an interest in helping with the Pathfinder Unit. What parts of the curriculum or Unit time might she help with? What would this look like?

4. Looking at the *Fanny Crosby Level Award Tracking Sheet* as a guide, how will the Troop structure their calendar to be sure girls who have absences, but still wish to pursue the Level Award, are able to do so?

FOLLOW-UP/NEXT STEPS

Based on the feedback and sharing at the conclusion of the Activities/Application section, ask:

- Was there a section of the training that seemed to be difficult for some?
  - What can be done to reinforce or review this area?
- Was something identified as particularly challenging for the Troop in general, such as creating outdoor experiences, or providing leadership opportunities for girls?
  - What can be done to improve in this area?