

## Fundraising ideas:

**Trash-A-Thon:** Each Pathfinder gets a sponsor sheet and fills it in with pledges. The pledges can be of any amount per hour (preferably at least \$1). The club then schedules a place and time to go to public areas and pick up trash for 2-4 hours. The director/coordinator officially signs the sponsor sheet and fills in the number of hours the Pathfinder worked and then the Pathfinder goes to each sponsor and collects the pledges. This is an easy fundraiser which benefits the community. Also, it teaches the Pathfinders about community service and the importance of not littering.

**Birthday Party:** Pathfinders plan and provide all the supplies needed for a birthday party or other party (child's or adult's). Party would include themed invitations, decorations, food, and games/activities--all this for a donation to the club.

**Balloon-o-gram or Flower-o-gram:** A balloon-o-gram or flower-o-gram is a telegram with balloons or flowers. Church members, families, and friends can order a balloon-o-gram at anytime for anyone in the local area. The Pathfinders would then deliver a bunch of balloons or flowers, a card and message, and sing a song for the receiver. The cost for the balloon-o-gram or flower-o-gram would be on a donation basis. Run this fundraising event for a while to include holidays as well as birthdays; from February to Memorial Day would give you Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mothers Day, as well as birthdays.

**Church Family Christmas Greetings - Online:** Collect photos and greetings from church families and design and publish an online Christmas Greetings directory where church families can share Christmas Greetings with the whole church family. Request that a donation be made to the club for each greeting included in the directory. Since all Seventh-day Adventist Churches have access to free websites, just have the church's webmaster add a page(s) for Christmas Greetings and let the Pathfinders and Staff design it (may want to use the privacy settings and require a "login" to view).

**Pet Care:** Pathfinders, staff, and parents volunteer to care for church families' pets while they go on vacation in exchange for a donation to the club.

**M&M Tubes:** Buy a bunch of m&m tubes filled with m&m's and attach a tag that says something like this: "Instead of selling candy, the Pathfinders are giving it away. . . Take this tube home and enjoy the m&m's, then we'd appreciate it if you'd fill the empty tube with quarters and other spare change and return it to the Pathfinder Club member who gave it to you. Thank you for supporting the Pathfinders." Give them out freely to family and friends. Each empty tube holds up to \$14.

**Yard/Garage Sale:** Boring as this sounds, this fundraiser actually brought in the most money for our club of all the fundraisers we did for the 2004 Oshkosh Camporee. (It was also the most work!). Getting lots of saleable items from church members and advertising is the key to success. Advertise in the newspaper, online community pages, and the church & school newsletters. On the day of the sale, have large, readable signs placed in prominent places. Don't over-price items--people are looking for bargains!

**Send the Pastor Camping:** This fundraiser was a HUGE success! When our Pastor first joined our church, he made it clear he was NOT a camper, but was a strong supporter of the Pathfinders. So as a fundraiser for camping equipment, the club collected donations to send the Pastor on one of the club's camping trips. If the club reached its goal of specified amount, the Pastor agreed to spend a weekend "roughing it" with the Pathfinders. The church loved the idea and quickly reached the goal. The club enjoyed having the Pastor along on the Conference Camporee and to "prove" to those who "sent the Pastor camping," the club took lots of pictures for all to see.

**Tent Display:** Another HUGE success! This fundraiser was also for camping equipment, not Oshkosh, but could be adapted to fit Oshkosh. The club set up a tent in the foyer of the church and attached tags for needed camping equipment such as backpacks, water filters, lanterns, and tents. Each tag also had a dollar amount from \$10-\$250. The church members were then asked to sponsor a piece of needed equipment by taking a tag and making the donation to the club through the church. People were very generous and we were able to purchase more than 10 new tents, several backpacks, and other miscellaneous camping equipment. To adapt for an Oshkosh fundraiser, consider having tags for specific meals, a few miles of airplane travel, a nights lodging (\$10 for a tent space for one?), or part of the "gate" fee (entrance fee). Be sure to include small dollar amounts as well as large amounts on the tags because small amounts add up quickly and allow everyone to feel they can participate.

**Car Wash:** Another old favorite which usually brings in \$150-\$200 for 2-3 hours of washing cars. We found that just requesting a donation works better than setting a price per vehicle. We made arrangements to use Les Schwab's parking lot for the car washes. Good advertising and large, readable signs are the key to getting people to participate.

**Talent Show or Drama and Music Program:** Have the Pathfinders, staff, and parents put on a benefit program with skits and musical selections. State that it is to raise funds for a particular project and provide a box at the entrance to collect donations. Our homeschool group raised \$300 for needy families by putting on an evening program of skits and plays. The boys performed several short Boy Scout comedy skits and the girls performed a longer, 3-act American Girl skit. After the hour long program, we served refreshments.

**Childcare:** This favorite fundraiser can bring in \$200-300 when provided during church or school sponsored activities for adults such as school auctions or Valentine's dinners. At Christmas time, try a "parent's night out" to go shopping while the Pathfinder Staff and teens provide a "party" for the kids 12 and under.

**Hire a Pathfinder:** Family, church members, neighbors, and friends are asked if they have any work that needs to be done inside or outside their homes and the Pathfinder staff and kids will come and perform just about any task that needs to be done in exchange for a donation to the club.