



# Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

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Blessed are the Pathfinders who are taught to see beauty in all things around them...  
 for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

Blessed are the Pathfinders who are led with patience and understanding...  
 for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.

Blessed are the Pathfinders who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and close communion...  
 for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

Blessed are the Pathfinders who are taught the value and power of truth...  
 for they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.

Blessed are the Pathfinders who are guided by those with faith in a loving God...  
 for they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.

Blessed are the Pathfinders who are loved and know that they are loved...  
 for they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

*Adapted from the Scout Association of Ireland*

## Outreach Activity Ideas

### Adopt-a-Highway



Contact your local city officials to find out how you can participate in an Adopt-a-Highway project.

Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in a school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen.

On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. "Guess what Mom," he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me: "I've been chosen to clap and cheer."

## Honor Toolbox



### Soils Honor

Do your Pathfinders like playing in the dirt? Maybe they've wondered why some dirt looks bright red and other dirt is black, or why Georgia clay sticks to your boots. There is a new honor that was approved last February, Soils, which explores the exciting world beneath our feet by teaching how soil is made, how it varies around the world, and what it is made of.

For many years there have been several honors that explore the world around us, such as Geology, Rocks and Minerals, and Sand. But until this year, there has not been an honor for one of the most common physical features on earth, Soil. Soil is found on every continent and without soil there would be no life on earth.

By helping your Pathfinders to successfully complete the Soils Honor, you will teach your Pathfinders about different kinds of soil, where they are found, how they are formed, and of what they are formed. Even better, there is the chance to dig in the ground. What could be more fun?

You can find the Soils Honor requirements at <http://www.pathfinderpathways.com/soils.htm>. Below are several websites that have interesting activities that you might want to check out to help when teaching the soils honor. Happy digging.

[Dirt Pudding for teaching about soil horizons and profiles](#)

[Dr. Dirt](#)

[SK Worm Answers your Questions about soil and stuff](#)

[Just for Kids – What is Soil?](#)

[See Color/Feel Texture](#)

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**"Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit."**

--R.E. Shay

## Safety Tip

### Yellow Jackets, Hornets, Wasps and Bees

Wasps and bees can be a serious nuisance problem, particularly late in the summer when certain yellow jacket wasps forage in the garbage or other outdoor food areas. In the overall balance, however, these insects are quite beneficial in their activities.

#### Check Out These Facts

- ✓ Most bees and wasps are highly beneficial predators of insects or as pollinators.
- ✓ Problems with stinging insects most commonly occur with various species of yellow jackets and paper wasps.
- ✓ Yellow jackets, hornets and wasps make nests of paper; whereas, honey bees and bumblebees use wax. Some bees and wasps nest in holes in the ground or natural cavities. Hunting wasps usually make their nests out of mud.
- ✓ Only honeybees produce permanent colonies.

It's important to distinguish between various wasps and bees because of their potential as problems and because their control differs.

**Yellow Jackets** are banded yellow orange-and-black and are commonly mistaken for honeybees. Yellow jackets typically nest underground in rodent burrows. Almost all bee stings involve yellow jackets.



**Hornets** produce very large grey nests in trees, shrubs or under external eaves of homes. The common bald-face hornet is dark and marked with yellow or white stripes. Because of their large nest size and conspicuous location, hornets often cause particular concern. However, hornets rarely sting people unless the nest is disturbed.



**Polistes Wasps** and the western paper wasps make nests of an open cell construction, typically under eaves of buildings. These slender, reddish-brown-and-yellow wasps make good predators of caterpillars and rarely sting unless handled.



**Bumblebees** are social insects that annually establish new colonies started by single queens. Although their colonies are usually underground, they occasionally nest in padded material such as mattresses or in grass clippings. Bumblebees are plump and covered with black-and-yellow hairs. Control of bumblebees is rarely necessary and the nests are soon

abandoned. Insecticides useful for wasp control also kill these bees.



#### Sting Prevention:

If a yellow jacket flies near you or lands on your body, never swing or strike at it or run rapidly away, since quick movements often provoke attacks and painful stings. When a wasp is near you, slowly raise your hands to protect your face, remain calm and stationary for a while and then move very slowly (avoid stepping on the ground nest), backing out through bushes or moving indoors to escape.

Never crush a wasp or bee against your body since it could incite nearby yellow jackets into a frenzied attack. Wasp venom contains a chemical "alarm pheromone," released into the air, signaling guard wasps to come and sting whomever or whatever gets in their way.

When a bee or wasp gets into a moving car, remain calm. They almost never sting when in enclosed spaces such as a car or house. Instead, they fly against windows. Slowly and safely pull over off the road, open the windows and allow the bee to escape.

**Avoid attracting insects** by not wearing perfume, hair spray, suntan lotions, aftershave lotions, heavy-scented soaps, shampoos and other cosmetics when visiting areas where bees are prevalent. Avoid wearing shiny objects, bright-colored, flowery prints (especially bright yellow, light blue, orange or fluorescent red), black, wool and loose-fitting clothing that may trap stinging insects.

Hypersensitive persons should never be alone when hiking, boating, swimming, golfing, fishing or participating in any outdoor activity since help may be needed to start prompt emergency treatment measures if stung. It's wise to carry an identification bracelet or necklace, such as "Medic Alert," to alert others when shock-like (anaphylactic) symptoms or unconsciousness (fainting) occurs after one or more stings.

To keep from being stung, do not disturb the nests of any bee.

#### Treating Stings:

Treat the sting site with an antiseptic to prevent a possible infection. Cool lotions or compresses can help relieve pain and swelling. Crushed aspirin or powdered meat tenderizer also can help reduce the pain. If many stings are received, oral antihistamines can reduce swelling and itching. Take these medicines with the usual precautions for these products. Also a commercial prescription preparation such as an ANA Emergency Insect Sting Kit can be used.

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*Beautiful young people are acts of nature,  
But beautiful old people are works of art.*

# Camping

## Ten Camping Commandments to Build Excitement Outdoors

How do you get a girl or boy excited about the outdoors? How do you compete with the television and remote control? How do you prove to a kid that success comes from persistence, spirit and logic, which the outdoors teaches, and not from pushing buttons?

The answer is in the Ten Camping Commandments for Kids. These are lessons that will get youngsters excited about the outdoors, and will make sure adults help the process along, not kill it. Some are obvious, some are not, but all are important:



1. Trips with children should be to places where there is a guarantee of action. A good example is camping in a park where large numbers of wildlife can be viewed, such as squirrels, chipmunks, deer and even bear. Other good choices are fishing at a small pond loaded with bluegill. Boys and girls want action, not solitude.
2. Enthusiasm is contagious. If you aren't excited about an adventure, you can't expect a child to be. Show a genuine zest for life in the outdoors, and point out everything as if it is the first time you have ever seen it.
3. Always, always, always be seated when talking to someone small. This allows the adult and child to be on the same level. That is why fishing in a small boat is perfect for adults and kids. Nothing is worse for youngsters than having a big person look down at them and give them orders. What fun is that?
4. Always show how to do something, whether it is gathering sticks for a campfire or tying a knot. Never tell— always show. A button usually clicks to "off" when a kid is lectured. But they can learn behavior patterns and outdoor skills by watching adults, even when the adults are not aware they are being watched.
5. Let kids be kids. Let the adventure happen, rather than trying to force it within some preconceived plan. If they get sidetracked watching pollywogs, chasing butterflies or sneaking up on chipmunks, let them be. A youngster can have more fun turning over rocks and looking at different kinds of bugs than sitting in one spot, waiting for a fish to bite.
6. Expect young peoples' attention spans to be short. Instead of getting frustrated about it, use it to your advantage. How? By bringing along a bag of candy and snacks. Where there is a lull in the camp activity, out comes the bag. Don't let them know what goodies await, so each one becomes a surprise.

7. Make absolutely certain the child's sleeping bag is clean, dry and warm. Nothing is worse than discomfort when trying to sleep, but a refreshing sleep makes for a positive attitude the next day. In addition, kids can become quite scared of animals at night. The parent should not wait for any signs of this, but always play the part of the outdoor guardian, the one who will "take care of everything."
8. Kids quickly relate to outdoor ethics. They will enjoy eating everything they cook, building a safe campfire and picking up all their litter, and they will develop a sense of pride that goes with it. A good idea is to bring extra plastic garbage bags to pick up any trash you come across. Kids long remember when they do something right that somebody else has done wrong.
9. If you want youngsters hooked on the outdoors for life, take a close-up photograph of them holding up fish they have caught, blowing on the campfire or completing other camp tasks. Young children can forget how much fun they had, but they never forget if they have a picture of it.
10. The least important word you can ever say to a kid is "I." Keep track of how often you are saying "Thank you" and "What do you think?" If you don't say them very often, you'll lose out. Finally, the most important words of all are: "I am proud of you."

Edited from [www.gorp.com](http://www.gorp.com)

## Camp Cooking

### Hash Brown Potato Stacks

- Pre-Browned Frozen Hash Brown Patties - 2 for each serving
- Margarine or Butter
- Onion Slices
- American Cheese Slices



**Directions:** Butter one side of each frozen hash brown patty. Make a "sandwich" by putting one large slice of onion and one slice cheddar cheese between the unbuttered sides of hash browns. Wrap each "sandwich" in heavy duty aluminum foil. Grill over grate for about 45 minutes on medium low heat or until hash browns are crispy golden brown when you open the packet.

[http://www.chuckwagondiner.com/recipes.php?id=76&cat\\_id=12](http://www.chuckwagondiner.com/recipes.php?id=76&cat_id=12)

## Counselor's Corner



Are you having struggles with the reading sections of the class work? Here's a website that gives you some help.

<http://metrocast.net/~vathomas/reading.html>



## Hike of the Month

*'The journey is the destination'*  
**Baxter Creek Trail**

This hike offers beautiful wildflowers and some of the biggest and most impressive poplar trees in Eastern Tennessee.

The trail runs between the Big Creek area and Mt. Sterling in the northeast corner of the Great Smokey Mountain Park. Its 12.4 miles round-trip if you go to the top of Mt. Sterling and take in the view from the fire tower.

### Description

Possibly the hardest 6 miles you'll ever hike "up". Literally, this trail climbs steeply gaining over 4100' in elevation over the 6 miles to the summit of Mt Sterling. You will cross over several easily crossed streams and pass through an amazing tunnel of rhododendron. Your reward at the top is a fire tower that gives you a 360 degree view of the Great Smoky Mountains. This hike is extremely strenuous and worth the challenge. There is a water source near the top for any emergency water that may be needed. You will also have an assortment of trails available for your trip back down. The campsite at the top is excellent but always seems to be cold. This hike can be a great day hike or you can backpack in and enjoy the many different trails that connect you to this great section of country. Come prepared, either way.

Off Interstate 40 at the TN/NC border, Waterville Exit #451. Follow the road around to the left near the Big Pigeon River, pass the Hydroelectric Power Plant and continue on to the 4 way stop. Continue straight, pass the ranger station on your right, to the campground area on your left. Turn in to the campground and follow the signs for hiker parking. The big trees start about 2.5 miles above the Big Creek trailhead.

Trail Length – 12.4 miles

## Dutch Oven Cooking

### Charcoal Chimney Starter

I really like using a chimney starter. It looks like a coffee can with a handle, divided into two compartments by a metal disc. It lets you get a really good fire going with no chemicals. Place crumpled newspapers in the bottom portion of the starter. Remove the rack from the grill and place the chimney starter in the bottom. Fill the top half of the starter with charcoal. Then light the newspaper through holes in the bottom of the starter. The fire will draw up through the starter, lighting the charcoal. Leave the chimney starter where it is, and in about 20-30



minutes the coals will be ready. With a heavy, long-sleeved oven mitt, carefully empty the coals into the grill pan. Arrange the coals into a single layer with long tongs. This can found at the following stores for about \$12-20.

- Amazon.com
- Ace Hardware
- [Lodgemfg.com](http://Lodgemfg.com)
- Wal-Mart

## Nature Nugget

### Preparing to go outdoors

#### Why Go Out?

Simply stated, outdoors is where a child can become part of the natural world, watching it and wondering about it. It's where one can see tracks in the dust, hear a dragonfly's wings, smell honeysuckle or sage or balsam fir. Curiosity, caring, discovery, and sharing are experiences that happen outdoors to nurture an inquiring mind.



Taking children outdoors to learn about nature can be a challenge. It is little wonder that school teachers hesitate to go outside with twenty to thirty children. Find outdoor activities such as outdoor scavenger hunts and explorations to do so that being outside is not only manageable, but fun.

#### Which Activities to Do Outdoors

##### The Obvious Ones

Plan field trips to special places such as to a forest or a pond. Scavenger hunts, are excellent ways to challenge the children while focusing their searches. Certain active games requiring a lot of space are much more fun if played outside. Just as important are the outdoor sensory experiences – sitting with eyes closed by a pond or lying on the forest floor.

##### The "Why Not If the Weather Is OK" Ones

The joy and sense of well-being that can come from being outdoors are feelings that you want to inspire in children; the more time spent outdoors the more likely this is to happen. There are very few activities that cannot be done outdoors. Role-playing and other games are often more realistic and less inhibited when conducted outside. Show and tell activities work well if there's a good place to sit, look and listen. Creative projects become more imaginative, but materials need to be accessible and organized. If it's very windy, either find a lot of stones to weight things down or retreat indoors. The weather, the chemistry of the group, and the available outdoor facilities will all help determine how much to do outside.

### Where to Go

Usually one need go no further than the backyard, school yard, or nearby open areas. There are tow reasons for encouraging such proximity: minimal cost and complication of travel arrangements, and the message to children that nature explorations can and should happen right outside their own back doors.

If a trip further afield is planned, make a point of scouting it out ahead of time so you know where the children can find what they're looking for, how long they will need to spend, the best route, and the time it will require to get there and back. It also helps to plan the food and rest stops.

### Preparing the Children for the Trip

Anticipation is half the fun, or it can be. Whether walking fifty yards across the way or driving twenty miles to a park, include the children in some of the planning, and brief them enough to spark their interest. If pocket money, special clothing (like and extra pair of shoes), or picnic lunches are needed, sending notes home to parents may help the children come prepared. Parents can better support your outdoor efforts if they know what you're doing. Some parents might even be willing to go along to help.

### Preparing Yourself for the Trip

The Scouts have good advice when they say "Be prepared." Some of the things to organize ahead of time include: equipment needed fro the exploration such as task cards and hand lenses, field guides or other reference books, minimum first aid supplies, and a couple of surprises like a snack or a mystery object. Finally, consider what you would do incase of emergency – who would help take charge.

### The Trip Itself

Have a good time. Be flexible. Often the unplanned happenings and the spur-of-the-moment inspirations turn out to be the best parts of the trip. But stay on schedule. It's better to stop while they're having fun than to prolong a trip and risk ending up with restless, oversaturated children.

- Hands-On Nature

## Knot this Month

### Get Half-Hitched

The most basic of knots is called a half hitch. In a slightly different form it's popularly known as an overhand knot, which is the first step to tying shoelaces. The half hitch, though insufficient for most uses by itself, is a necessary building block for most other knots.



### Step 1: Hold it

Hold your practice rope in your non-dominant hand. Call the end in your nondominant hand the working end. Mostly you just want to keep the working end out of your way.

Now pick up the free end, the end you want to tie, with your dominant hand.

### Step 2: Wrap it

Pass the free end under and around your leg. Pretend that your leg is an object you need to secure with the rope.

### Step 3: Cross it

Take the free end and pull it up parallel to the working end. Cross the free end over the working end. Push the free end under the loop created by the cross-over. Pull the free end to snug down the knot.



### 11 Reasons you will not hear a fan give for not attending a game:

1. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
2. The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
3. The seats were too hard and not at all comfortable.
4. I went to many games, but the coach never came to call on me.
5. The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
6. I suspected that I was sitting with some hypocrites -- they came to see their friends and what others were wearing rather than to see the game.
7. Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.
9. It seems that the games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
10. I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.
11. I don't want to take my children to any games, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

### So why use them to stay away from church?

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