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The most critical role in the club: The Counselor

1. Tell about someone with whom you like to spend time.

2. What does it mean to be a good counselor?

3. What are the characteristics of a good counselor?

4. How can the counselor be a friend to a Pathfinder?

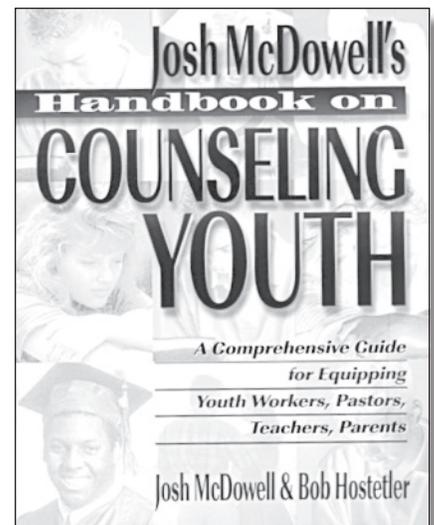
5. How can the counselor be a mentor to a Pathfinder?

6. What are some specific ways a counselor be an example to a Pathfinder?

7. Can you do and be these things, without being perfect?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

—I COR. 13:4-8 NIV



Great resource

Josh McDowell's Handbook on Counseling Youth, by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler. Published by Word Publishing, \$18.99, ISBN - 0-8499-3236-x. 542 pages. Size: 7.5" x 9".

Activity ideas

- Field trips to place of unit member interest
- Campout
- Honor instruction
- Attend member school events
- Postcards while on vacation
- Home made goodies
- Weekly phone calls
- Parent contact
- Room inspection
- Drop in at school
- Drop in at Sabbath School
- Backup activity plans
- Travel conversation plans
- _____
- _____
- _____

It is estimated that over 400,000 young people are members of gangs. I recently interviewed several dozen gang members from both the east and west coasts, trying to gain more insight into the gang mentality. I was shocked to discover that one thing they all have in common is the expectation of ending up in jail or the grave by the age of twenty as a result of their gang activity. It is scary to think that these young people have committed themselves completely to a way of life that promises them only premature death or a jail sentence. This tells me that we Christians should not be afraid to confront kids with the high cost of following Jesus. Gangs offer the kind of love, acceptance, and empowerment that kids will die for. The Gospel offers a relationship with the One who died in their place so that they can have the love, acceptance, and empowerment they are craving. If only we could reach these kids, to help them understand that they can commit themselves to a Person who offers them life instead of death!

— WAYNE RICE IN *ONE KID AT A TIME*

NAD description of unit counselor and duties

The counselor is the leader of a unit of six to eight boys or girls. Men should lead boys and women should lead girls. Counselors hold a key position in the Pathfinder Club, for they have the closest contact with the Pathfinders and their family and home.

Counselors are selected from baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist church where the club is organized. They must be converted and dedicated Christians. They must be willing to learn and grow, and should broaden their knowledge of arts, crafts, and nature so they may help to expand the knowledge of their unit members. They should set a good example in attitude and behavior.

Counselors are always to be with their unit when it is functioning as a Pathfinder unit unless an assistant counselor is caring for it. During achievement classes or craft periods the unit might be dispersed among several groups, and at that time the members are under the supervision of the instructor or class teacher.

The counselors are to become well-acquainted with their unit members. They should enter into all the various activities with them and win their confidence. They should become acquainted with the parents and home conditions. Counselors plan an occasional activity outside of the club period with their units, but only as they are authorized by the director of the club.

Counselors defend the standards and principles of the club at all times. They work together with other officers of the club, and are willing to help when asked.

Duties:

1. Take charge and lead/teach a unit or class, working and staying with them during all programs.
2. Encourage, teach, and test necessary classwork for successful investiture of members.
3. Set a good example in neatness, attendance, punctuality, and uniform. Be a role model in Christian behavior.
4. March and drill with units.
5. Develop understanding and friendship within the unit.
6. Help members with any problems and keep leaders informed (respect confidentiality).
7. Encourage members to participate in all activities.
8. Participate in campouts, arranging all details with deputy director and members.
9. Attend staff committee meetings.
10. Notify the director in advance if unable to attend a meeting.

Character traits of counselor

“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

—I CORINTHIANS 13:7

1. Patience _____

2. Kindness _____

3. Graciousness _____

4. Humility _____

5. Courteousness _____

6. Unselfishness _____

7. Even Tempered _____

8. Guileless _____

9. Sincerity _____

10. Fairness _____

11. Christ-centeredness _____

Some Statistics about Teens

- ✦ Gunfire is the second leading cause of death among all teenagers. Auto accidents are first.
- ✦ Among African-American teenagers, gunfire is the leading cause of death.
- ✦ Juvenile arrests rates went from .3% in 1980 to .8% in 1996 to .6% in 2011.
- ✦ Over half of all high school students believe that having money determines success in life.
- ✦ In 2007, 25% of 15 year-olds have had sex. 66% by 18.
- ✦ One out of ten sexually active teens says he or she began having sex in junior high school.
- ✦ In the USA, 750,000 teenagers per year get pregnant, half of them abort.
- ✦ In 2012, 78% of teens drink alcohol.
- ✦ One out of every three teens smokes cigarettes.
- ✦ One out of every five teens smokes marijuana.
- ✦ One million teenagers per year run away from home.
- ✦ The average age of a runaway is 14.9 years.
- ✦ Over half of all teenagers say they have no role models.
- ✦ One out of every four children in the United States is raised by a single parent.
- ✦ One out of every three teenagers admits to being a shoplifter.
- ✦ One out of every three teenagers has considered committing suicide.
- ✦ One out of every ten has attempted it.
- ✦ Teenage suicide rates up 21% from 2000 to 2009.
- ✦ 7-9% of young people deliberately self-harm.

Although I have the communication skills of men and angels, and have not love, I am nothing but a screaming child or banging drum. If I can triple to the rear in perfect time, have total mastery of knot tying techniques, and have the kind of positive thinking that successful directors say is the secret to success, but do not love for Pathfinders, it is for no lasting good. Even though I make great sacrifices of time and money so that fees are low; and I make sure that my staff has all the best manuals, but do not show them love, they will still be grumpy and noncommittal. Love teaches me to put up with a lot of grief that would ordinarily make me angry. It makes me into a sensitive, listening person. It keeps me from acting like a know-it-all and going on ego trips. Love keeps me from being rude, even to 7th grade girls. It keeps me from demanding "it always be done my way," and it keeps me from blowing up, when the tent blows down or the tire blows out. It prevents me from keeping demerit files on my Pathfinders. Love gets no satisfaction out of problems other clubs have, even when their problems make my club grow. Drill, and classwork, and trophies may be important, but without love for my Pathfinders, they are nothing.

—I COR. 13, MILAM'S PF VERSION

B A S I C
TRAINING
 FOR GOD'S ARMY IN THE WORLD

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Child abuse, victim high risk factors

- Preadolescent appear more at risk than other age groups.
- Children with few friends are more likely to be abused. Their isolation usually allows child-oriented sex offenders to use a relationship and attention to get the child to trust them.
- Children who have parents who are physically or emotionally uninvolved in their lives run a higher risk of being abused.
- Children are at higher risk who have seen violence between family members, or live in families where there are many problems that do not seem to be resolved. These are the children who may look for their own emotional needs to be met outside their family. They are at higher risk of begin abused because this is the situation a child-oriented offender looks for in finding an isolated child who will not report, or not report right away. Also, the amount of time the family has to spend on managing problems may stop them from knowing about the many needs and problems their children have.

The above statements do not guarantee that a person in those situations will be abused. They are only observations about victims who have reported sexual abuse.

Common emotional reactions

- fear
- shame
- powerlessness
- anxiety
- anger
- inappropriate sexual feelings
- depression
- disbelief
- self-blame
- denial
- embarrassment
- mixed feelings
- confusion

Note: Not all victims may experience all of these reactions.

Common behavior reactions

- sleep problems/nightmares
- appetite problems
- fears
- school problems
- running away
- isolation
- suicide thinking/attempts
- problems with job responsibility
- temper problems
- acting-out/breaking the law
- problems making friends
- aggressive behavior
- being too adult-like (for children)
- drug and/or alcohol abuse
- sexual aggression
- inappropriate sexual behavior
- breaking home rules
- bed wetting

Note: Not all victims may experience all of these reactions.

Please help!

If you have additions, corrections or ideas to share, please send us an e-mail. In the subject line list the course number printed by the page number of this handout.