
Michigan Pathfinder Camporee

September 12-14, 2025

North Woods of Camp AuSable - Grayling Michigan



#holdthefortcamporee



Michigan Camporee Bulletin

It is always an exciting time to start off the Pathfinder year with the Michigan Pathfinder camporee. We are thankful for the opportunity for us to meet together with the purpose of discipling the young people in the Northwoods of Camp AuSable.

Camporee's definitely help "ignite" the Pathfinder program. Kids make lasting friendships with other Pathfinders, their Pathfinder leaders and with Jesus Christ.

The mission of the Camporee is to inspire, create teamwork within the club and connect to Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Our theme this year is **Hold The Fort**. Christ has asked us to serve Him on this earth, until He comes again. It fits right into the Pathfinder Pledge - "I will be a servant of God and a Friend to Man."

With our mission in mind, we are giving you most of the morning and part of the afternoon to be with your club. Come prepared with an interactive Sabbath School of some sort. We have enclosed a potential Sabbath School activity you can use if you would like. We will have a special "Hold the Fort" feature at 2:30pm in the pavilion. After a short activity, we will turn the pathfinders "loose" on the Michigan Clubs scavenger hunt.

Class A uniforms are to be worn on Sabbath morning for church service. We do understand not everyone will have their uniforms yet. We encourage your clubs to wear their field uniform shirts the rest of the weekend.

We always braid our first year TLT's on Sabbath morning at the Camporee! The TLT's need to be in Class A uniform to be braided.

As in all camporees, we ask that you create a nice entrance to your camp depicting the theme. I am excited to see what you come up with!

There is important information in this Camporee bulletin. We encourage you to read this packet carefully.

Thank you for your ministry to Pathfinding. Without you, there is no Pathfinder program in Michigan!

We are happy to welcome Pastor Eric Christenson to our camporee as our guest speaker. Pastor Christenson is the pastor in Hillsdale and Prattville.

Pastor Craig Harris

Michigan Pathfinder Director

Camporee Schedule

FRIDAY

- 3:00 p.m. Pitch Camp/Registration Begins
6:00 Supper (Plan a sack lunch as time is a factor)

SABBATH PREPARATION

- 7:53 SUNDOWN - Plan to have your camp set and ready for the Sabbath!
8:00 Evening meeting at Pathfinder Bowl (Bad weather option - Pavilion). Pastor Eric
Director's Meeting (10 minutes after the end of the meeting)
10:30 Quiet Time

SABBATH

- 7:00 a.m. Rise & Shine!
7:30 Morning Watch & Prayer (with your club)
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Flag Raising
9:30 Sabbath School in your club
10:45 Worship Service (Pavilion) (TLT Braiding)
12:30 Dinner and Free Time
2:30 Special Feature (Pathfinder Pavilion)
5:00 Supper
6:30 Flag Lowering
7:15 Sundown Worship at the Pathfinder Bowl
Director's Meeting (After the evening meeting)
10:30 Quiet Time

SUNDAY

- 7:00 a.m. 5K Sandy Skedaddle
8:00 Morning Watch & Prayer (with your club)
8:15 Breakfast and Camp Strike
9:00 Flag Raising
9:30 Start at Pavilion - Field Events
12:00 p.m. Presentation of Trophies & Awards / Flag Lowering
1:00 Lunch, Camp Cleanup and Break Camp (thank you for doing a good job of cleaning your site!)
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Before You Arrive

1. Online Registration:

- a. Find the registration email Pastor Craig sent that gives the instructions for registering your club.
 - b. Here you will enter the number of pathfinders, staff, tents, campers, trailers, medical staff, etc
 - c. You must register before coming
2. Make sure all of the TLT information is submitted to the Youth Department. This should be done already through the registration...If not, email to Cathy right now: coliver@misda.org
 3. Communicate to all of your staff that there is to be NO TRAFFIC in the camping area during camporee. This is for the safety of the Pathfinders. Thank you for helping us with this important matter.
 4. Remind Pathfinders to bring their Class A uniform. Girls are allowed to wear black slacks or a skirt at the camporee.
 5. Remind the Pathfinders and staff that shorts are allowed by must be at least to the top of the knee.
 6. Create a nice entrance to your campsite depicting the theme "Hold the Fort".
 7. Remember to leave your pets, including your dog, at home or at a kennel.
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When You Arrive

1. Go directly to your assigned camp site and pitch camp. (This will be emailed to you) Move vehicles to the designated parking areas. If folks needs to run to town, please have them park in the front parking lot.
 2. Director should check-in in the Pathfinder Pavilion when your are able.
 3. Remind your Pathfinders of the Sabbath. We encourage you to use this time as a good teaching moment for the sanctity of the Sabbath hours. We also encourage you to remind the Pathfinder that all of the footballs, soccer balls, etc, keep the Sabbath in the North Woods.
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When You Leave

1. Please make sure there is no fire in the fire pit. Please douse the fire with water until there is no doubt it is out.
2. Have your Pathfinder Team comb the entire camp site picking up the littlest piece of paper or trash and throw in trash bag.
3. Dispose of trash bag in the dumpster on your way out.
4. Have a great trip home.

Camporee Guidelines

The mission of the camporee is to **inspire, teach** and **build** friendships within the local club and the Michigan Pathfinder program under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Our focus will always be on God's nature, God's word and God's mission. With this mission in mind:

General

1. We have created a schedule that is a bit lighter on its feet so you can have more time with your club to start off the year. We hope this will help you in teaching and building of the lasting friendships Pathfindering offers.
2. Medical - We will post the sites where medical people are located. There is a local hospital for emergency situations.
3. Club Directors are requested to have your club sit together with their counselors at the programs. There will be no assigned seating areas. Clubs are responsible for all Pathfinders at all times. All Units are to have a designated counselor with their unit.
4. Encourage your Pathfinders to refrain from bringing their phones, mp3 players, or other electronic devices to camporee. Thank you for encouraging them to have the joy of the camporee and God's leading without these distractions. We do realize that many use these for the Bible, etc...but a weekend free of electronics is a great thing!
5. Thank you for participating in all of the camporee activities
6. Thank you for respecting other clubs and guard carefully the Quiet Time.

At the Campsite

7. All fires must have a shovel, and a bucket of water near the fire pit. For obvious reasons.
8. Each campsite should have a useful First Aid Kit. See below for First Aid Kit suggestions.
9. One open fire per campsite only. The campfire must be in the provided fire ring.
10. **Sorry, Pets are not permitted at the camporee. If you bring a pet, we will kindly ask you to take it to a local boarding house.** We had a young person bit by a dog in years past. And it was a "friendly" dog. A couple of local Dog boarding house numbers:
 - a. Pet Parlor - 1584 W Houghton Lake Dr, Prudenville, MI 48651 (989) 366-7500
 - b. Northern Trails Quality Pet - 5951 Glenwood Ct, Grayling, MI 49738 (989) 344-9999
11. Camping is permitted in designated areas only.
12. Thank you for parking your cars in the designated parking areas only. No cars are to be at the campsite.

Dress Guidelines

The dress code at the camporee/fair is as follows:

13. Modesty is the rule. No tank tops, low neck lines, or any clothing that allows undergarments to show is tolerated. (This includes boys pants riding low). This policy is for the entire North Wood's camp including the club's campsite.

14. We encourage clubs to wear their field uniforms Sabbath Afternoon and Sunday. (Realizing that many Pathfinders have only one field uniform shirt.)

15. Sabbath morning dress is Class A for all Pathfinders and Pathfinder staff. (We understand you may have new Pathfinders that have not been outfitted yet. We also understand, you may also have a camp cook, camp superintendent or parent that may not have a uniform.) TLT's are full dress uniform.

Girls are allowed to wear black slacks or a skirt for Class A at any Pathfinder event in the North woods.

16. We have modified the field uniform to include knee length shorts. No other length of shorts is acceptable. (Thank you for making sure these guidelines are followed.)

17. The North American Division Pathfinder Department has directed each conference to NOT ALLOW any type of army fatigues, or camouflage wear, to be worn at any Pathfinder Event in North America. The Michigan Conference will abide by this guideline. Thank you for your cooperation in not wearing these types of clothing.

Bathrooms and Water Pumps

18. The bathrooms are not garbage cans. So please do not throw diapers, dirty undergarments, shirts, hats, cans, water bottles or anything else into the tanks.

19. Please keep the lids closed when done using the stool. It helps with ventilation.

20. Please wash your dishes, hair and brush your teeth at your campsite NOT at the water pumps. The water pumps are to be used for gathering drinking water only.

Events

21. We encourage you to have fun and march your group to and from meetings. Perhaps create a marching song just for your club.

22. The camporee events will be team oriented. We encourage clubs and or units to stay together during the events for better team building. All events are general in nature so no practicing is required prior to the camporee.

23. We encourage each club to take in at least one Flag raising/lowering during the camporee.

Garbage and Trash

24. Campsites are to be kept clean, and all garbage and trash are to be put in the dumpster behind campsite #1. Thank you for your help.

Firewood

25. Dead trees may be cut up and used for firewood. Thank you for being kind to our live trees and let them live! When you leave, please neatly stack the firewood near a tree on the edge of the site.

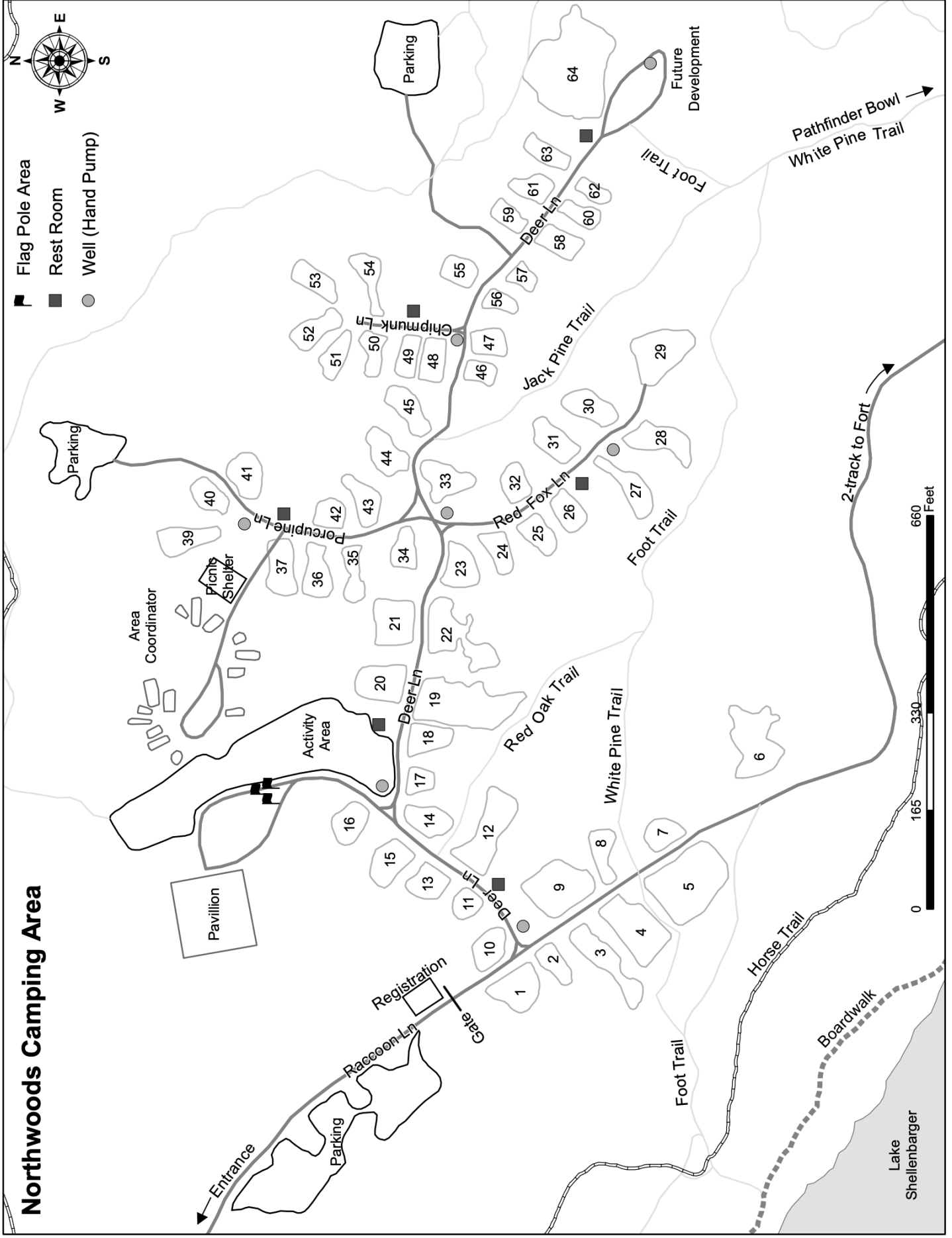
Parking and Vehicle Traffic

26. No vehicles are to be left in the campsite. This clutters the campsite and campground. We want the camp to look nice so others can see your decorated camp entrance, etc. Vehicles are to be parked in the designated parking areas only.

NOTE: Only those vehicles parked in the large lot near check-in are allowed to leave for town. Vehicles parked in the parking areas within the campground must stay parked until Sunday morning.

- a. We understand the need to get the vehicles in and packed on Sunday. The gates will be opened at 9:30 on Sunday morning.
- b. Please respect the camporee safety rule of having **NO VEHICLE TRAFFIC ON THE CAMPGROUND**. The only exceptions are for medical emergencies. Please do not ask the Area Coordinator they will say no. The Conference Director or the Camporee Safety Director will give the ok to move a vehicle. ***This rule is not unreasonable, it is for safety concerns of having 1,000 people walking/running on the roads.***

Northwoods Camping Area



Camporee Sabbath School Idea

Interactive Worship Thought: Hold the Fort

Theme: *Holding on to Jesus until He comes back*

Scripture: Revelation 2:25 – *“Hold fast till I come.”*

1. Introduction (2 minutes)

- Start by showing the students a picture of a fort or ask:

👉 *“What comes to your mind when you hear the word FORT?”*

(Take a few answers: “safe place,” “strong,” “defense,” etc.)

- Say: *“Today we’re going to hear about a real-life battle where soldiers had to literally HOLD THE FORT. And then we’ll connect it to what Jesus tells us in the Bible.”*

2. The Story (3 minutes)

- Retell the Civil War story in simple, exciting terms:
 - General Corse from the North and 1,500 men surrounded by 6,000 enemy Confederate Southern soldiers.
 - Things looked hopeless in the fort, many were wounded. The soldiers were about to give up and surrender
 - Then they saw a message signal on a distant hill: *“Hold the fort; I am coming. – General Sherman.”*
 - That message gave them hope and strength to keep fighting until help arrived. They were able to keep the fort from the enemy take over until General Sherman and his troops arrived!
- Ask:

👉 *“How do you think the soldiers felt when they saw the signal?”*

👉 *“Why do you think that one message gave them courage to keep going?”*

3. Bible Connection (2 minutes)

- Read aloud: *Revelation 2:25 – “Hold fast till I come.”*
- Say:

“Just like the soldiers held on until General Sherman came, Jesus tells us to hold on until HE comes back. Life is a battle. Sometimes we feel surrounded—by temptation, by problems, by people who don’t follow Jesus. But Jesus’ message to us is the same: HOLD THE FORT. I am coming!”

- Ask:

👉 *“What are some challenges kids your age face that make it hard to ‘hold the fort’ for Jesus?”*

(Bullying, peer pressure, doubts, distractions, etc.)

4. Interactive Activity (2 minutes)

- Do a quick **Signal Flag Game**:
 - Make a piece of paper or cloth into a small “flag.”
 - Choose one student to stand at the back and wave the flag as if sending the message. Can you decipher the message? (Back in the civil war times, the flags put into different positions created an letters of alphabet. So when they saw the flag flashing the different letters, it spelled out “Hold the Fort - I am coming.”)
- In a similar way with hand signals or signing for those that are hard of hearing. The flags were the hand signals in a bigger way!
- Have everyone shout together: *“Hold the fort, Jesus is coming!”*
 - Point: *“Just like the soldiers passed on the signal, we can encourage each other to keep holding on to Jesus.”*
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5. Closing Reflection & Prayer (1 minute)

- Wrap up with:

“The soldiers only had to hold on for a few hours until help came. We don’t know exactly when Jesus will return, but we do know He has promised He WILL come. Until then, we ‘hold the fort’ by staying faithful, trusting Him, and encouraging one another.”
- Prayer idea:

“Lord, help us to hold on to You when life gets hard. Thank You that You are coming again. Give us courage to stay faithful and encourage others until You come. Amen.”

First Aid Kit

Most clubs will purchase a good first Aid Kit, which is acceptable. Just in case you haven't, here is a list of the essential and recommended items for your kit:

Essential Items

- Ace Bandages (2" and 4" wide)
- Sling
- Triangle Bandage
- Adhesive Bandages (Band Aids) one inch wide
- Adhesive Bandages (Band Aids) two inches wide
- Disinfectant - Hydrogen Peroxide is good
- Tape and Gauze bandages
- Gloves
- Instant Cold Pack

Recommended Items

- CPR Mask or resuscitation mask
- Finger Splint
- Cortaid for insect bites

This is just a starter kit. You may wish to add other items you feel your club may need.