

ADVENTIST YOUTH HONORS

Development Supplement



**By Master Guides:
Chris Fishell & Randy Raynes**

©***2004 Xtreme Youth Resources Internationalsm***

The *Xtreme Youth Resources International*SM logo is a Service Mark of, and the exclusive property of *Xtreme Youth Resources International*SM

***Xtreme Youth Resources International*SM
holds no copyrights or ownership of any kind to the Adventist Youth
Honors, Pathfinder, or other AY programs referred to in this guide**

Please visit our Website for more Youth Ministry and Pathfinder Ministry resources.

www.xtremeyouthresources.org

©2004 *Xtreme Youth Resources International*SM

When you are developing an Honor for your AY/AJY Society or Pathfinders the central focus is important to remember; keep Christ and Christian values at the center of all activities, remain within the law and those legally binding issues that surround us today (insurance), and finally the Honor must be intellectually and physically educational.

You need to understand that the guidelines found in the NAD Honors Handbook (or at our web site) were developed for helping you design and execute honors that can be adopted throughout the NAD or even be adopted by the General Conference. It is unfortunate that insurance creates legal restraints today; however, without these guidelines we open ourselves to financial damages of never before seen amounts in the courts of industrialized nations around the world. Today the secular world is busy teaching people that they are not responsible for their own actions, that they can be supported by the government if they choose or sue others for their own foolish acts or thoughtlessness. As youth leaders and ministers we are exposed to great liability, it does not always matter what really happens, perception is reality. With this in mind and with the most conservative views of our religion, the Pathfinder Committee and advisors have developed guides that include many written and implied limitations. One of the most apparent is in the area of defensive arts, although many churches allow children to be taught karate or other defenses it is not allowed to be an honor. Insurance and religious conservatism require certain things that some may find acceptable to be excluded in almost any category you can imagine. Please follow this spirit, you may choose for your family what ever activities you deem proper, for others peoples children, as a leader in the church you must always follow the most prudent pathway available to you.

Honor patches and tokens are specific in design and size. The Diamond shaped club and conference tokens are what you will make for your new honor should you have the resources. The diamond is the width and height of the NAD/GC oval token, so you should be able to develop patterns easily. Remain within the color categories as well. Since each area is very specific in color, if you do not follow the standard it will be changed later should your honor be accepted by the conference or higher for use.

Skill levels are identified for youth by breaking down age groups. Average is the only guide for this; your activities must be geared to the average person in a general age group. Try these as a basic separation of groups: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16 and up. You will find the specific guide in the NAD Honors Handbook, or download the *Nature Honor Skill Level Spreadsheet*: or similar list from *Xtreme Youth Resources International*SM. In the Handbook you will find this information at the beginning of the book, in the *XYRI* list you will see class to skill correlations. You will need to choose a skill level for your honor early in your planning to assist you in choosing the proper skill activities and lesson presentation.

Test your honor first on the smallest possible group. As a staff member you will need to seek the approval of the director prior to teaching the honor. The director can help you coordinate with the necessary staff and select a group to teach. I recommend a group of 5-8 students of the age for the intended skill level of your honor. This smaller more intimate group will make evaluating suggested teaching methods and aids easier. Making flying adjustments to those methods will also be simplified in a smaller group. Have each participant fill out a survey of how the were impacted by the course and what they felt was good or should change. Do not be offended by what you read, youth are still developing their tact and may be crude or more blunt than you are used to. After reading these critiques of your effort and making any changes you feel will improve the honor, if possible teach it a second time to the same group. This will give you a good read on how positive your changes have been; often this will not be possible though, so it will be important for you to teach the honor at least one more time yourself before submitting it to others.

The next step is to ask counselors or instructors in your own club to teach it to others and if you are well acquainted with counselors or instructors outside your club ask some of them to teach it as well. Having this behind you with positive feedback and maybe a few more minor adjustments you are ready to present your honor to the local conference director. Seek the approval and assistance of the director in releasing the honor to the whole conference. You will need 3 or more clubs to test your honor with largely positive feedback before you can reasonably ask your director to submit the honor to NAD or your division. A well-tested and accepted conference honor is likely to get a positive reaction from the Pathfinder Committee.

The committee may return the honor to the director asking that certain changes be made and tested or that more teaching occur before they approve the honor, this is not a bad thing. Remember they are concerned with the usefulness of the honor throughout the division and may have some concerns that you did not consider in your design. They will work with you in helping to get your honor approved by communicating through your conference director.

Although several honors have been revised in recent years others are still aging or contain out-of-date information. If you are burdened to change them when teaching, you should document your changes and the outcome. The updating of an honor is essentially the same process as starting new. You will need to have more than one test of your new criteria before the conference can submit the revised honor to the division. It is important that our efforts in teaching be filled with learning information and skills of current use, do not hesitate to make the appropriate changes to an honor and submit them. If you do this you will be doing a service for all of us.

Some items can be divided into two or even several separate honors. Camping for example includes a wide range of skills and talents. Some of them are quite basic and a younger child can be, easily, taught these skills. Other skills are advanced and even young adults may have difficulty in trying to learn them. As a result in 1997 NAD adopted four new camping honors, Camp Skills I-IV. Some of you will remember earning them earlier as I did. I am not fully familiar with who developed the honors or where they were first used, sorry. Narrower categories such as Model Rocketry have only two honors a basic and an advanced. Most topics should be developed with both a lower level basic category and an advanced category requiring the completion of the first to earn the second. Some items though, will be such narrow topics as to only need a single skill level; for example housekeeping. Although my wife would argue the simplicity of the activity it is unlikely that you would develop an advanced housekeeping honor, the skills needed to keep a home clean are limited in number and somewhat easily taught to younger kids (8-9) indicating that a single honor will do.

Never simply require participation in an activity to earn an honor. Going camping does not make any Pathfinder or Adventurer proficient in camping without the act of intentionally learning skills. Commemorating campouts with patches pins or buttons is a great idea and a motivator for your youth, try it. Develop your honor however, by mixing an understanding of the skills needed to do something with actually learning the skills and then participation in a successful project. An example of this will be in model rocketry: If you teach first the basics of a model rocket's parts to your group then have them build and launch a model rocket of moderate skill level they have learned useful information of science as well as practiced physical skill in an area of modeling. Over time earning many honors in a variety of categories will help your youth develop skills and learning habits that will follow them into college and adulthood. They will have the knowledge that following something through to the end is its own reward, giving them an ethic that will help them be successful in anything they choose to do.

The actual development of an honor will require you to choose a topic that will be of interest to the youth you work with, and narrow the focus in that topic to make the item reasonably completed in 4-12 hours of work and teaching time. This short time for completion will help keep you focused as the developer of the honor and provide very particular experience to your youth. Develop a list of questions, for your topic, that will need to be answered for the youth to actually develop a useful understanding of the topic. This list will be your guide for the remainder of your endeavor to build your honor. All of your activities, memorization, questions, and test will be designed to answer these questions.

The more activity the better, hands-on is important for most youth to stay interested and for some to learn. If you choose to develop a test keep it short, it is better to test them by the successful completion of a practical activity than a written test as they will receive greater enjoyment from it. Practical activity testing also proves that your youth have learned the desired lessons and skills, often written tests are true/false or multiple choice allowing them to guess and that proves nothing of what they learned.

Complete the requirements yourself. Since you will need to develop an answer key for your requirements in order for others to teach the honor, it is a perfect opportunity for you to do it yourself. Your first best test of the material is to do this, by completing it yourself you will be able to critique the time required and the resources you have suggested before ever piloting the honor with a group. Chances are after a few groups have completed the honor you will find that some small adjustments are appropriate. Your requirements should be able to be completed without group activities where possible. Individuals should be able to complete and earn your honor on their own using the resources you have suggested. You must also be clear in stating the goal of the honor you have developed. Use of collegiate language may not be suitable to all readers, keep your choice of wording simple and straightforward.

Finally, enjoy yourself. Pursue topics that you will enjoy teaching as much as your youth will enjoy learning. Your time together is meant to be positive and fun. You work and they go to school full-time neither of you want evening or weekend lecture courses with stringent, difficult homework. If you choose areas that they want to learn in, and you will enjoy teaching, the experience will be better for all of you.

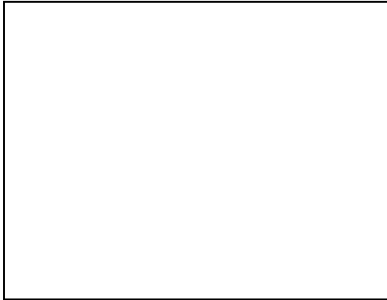
Appendix

Form A1 *AJY/AY Honor Planner.....pg.6*

Form C1 *AJY/AY Honor Evaluation Form.....pg.7*

Form F *AJY/AY Honor Student Evaluation Form.....pg.8*

AJY/AY Honor Planner



Honor Name: _____

Category: _____

Skill Level: _____

Estimated time to complete: _____

Developer's name: _____

Token design

What is the goal of the honor?

SAMPLE

What specific questions should be answered while completing the honor?

What specific skills must be developed to answer these questions?

What items must be obtained and used in the completion of this skill?

What resource material in wide circulation is available to assist the instructor?

What terms should be learned and what are their definitions?

Should there be an advanced Honor for this topic?

What honors should be prerequisites for this Honor?

Are there any safety issues or special considerations in teaching this skill?

Does this skill require a certified instructor for completion?

Please use additional pages for your answers if needed. Upon completion mail to: ...

AJY/AY Honor Evaluation Form
This is a sample form intended only as a suggested format

FORM 101

(HONOR TITLE)
EVALUATION FORM

Please print clearly and answer all questions thoroughly. Thank you for pilot testing this honor.

Your name _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Your mailing address _____

_____ Zip/Postal Code _____

E-mail address _____

Club Name _____

Church _____

Club Director _____ Conference Director _____

Conference _____

Date you began honor _____ Date Completed _____ How many Completed? _____

Years experience as a youth leader/counselor _____ Was this the first time you taught an honor? Y/N

Was the goal of the honor clear?

Were the resources and the key thorough?

Was completion in a timely matter practical?

Was it necessary to make changes to the requirements? If so what did you change and why?

Were there problems with the resources and key? If so what changes do you recommend?

What did you like about the honor?

What did you like about the key and the resources?

What advice might you give future instructors?

Did you find the skill rating appropriate?

Would you teach this honor again?

Please use additional pages for your answers if needed. Upon completion mail to: ...

**AJY/AY Honor
Student Evaluation Form**

This is a sample form intended only as a suggested format

**F
R
O
M
F**

Name of your honor _____

Please print clearly and answer all questions thoroughly.

Your name _____ age _____ unit name _____

The progressive class you are currently completing _____

E-mail address _____

Club Name _____ Church _____

Club Director _____

Date you began honor _____ Date Completed _____ How many honors do you have? _____

How long have you been a Pathfinder Adventurer AY Member _____?

Was the goal of the honor clear?

Would you be interested in taking this honor again?

Would you tell a friend to take this honor?

What did you like most about the honor?

What did you like least about the honor?

What would you change about the honor?

What advice do you have for the teacher?

Would like to take the advanced honor?

On a scale of 1-5 how hard was this honor for you?

Do you think the honor was too hard for you? If yes, then why?

Do you think the honor was too easy for you? If yes, then why?

Please use additional pages for your answers if needed. Upon completion mail to: ...