Dakota Conference Annual Pathfinder Camporee - 2018

On September 26, 2018, six Pathfinder Clubs pulled in to Dakota Adventist Academy’s campground to set up campsites for the Annual Pathfinder Camporee. The weather forecast was cold and rainy but dedicated staff and Pathfinders came in spite of the weather. Pathfinders pitched tents, cooked supper over a fire, and worked on a scavenger nature hunt before gathering for evening vespers.There were a few icebreakers to help the Pathfinders and staff get to know each other. DAA’s Praise Team then led out in singing, culminating in the Pathfinder Song. The theme, “Facing the Giants”, was presented by **Pastor Loren Nelson**. He brought the story of David and Goliath to life and gave a history of giants in the Bible. Then the Pathfinders were off to the tents and campers to get a good night’s sleep.

Saturday morning Pathfinders met for Sabbath school. DAA’s Praise Team, led by DAA’s music teacher, **Eulalia Kenaston**, got the Pathfinders warmed up with action songs. TLT (Teen in Leadership Training), **Josh Ronalds**, gave a short devotion about the “giants” encountered in life. The Pathfinders then split into clubs and presented a skit about someone in the Bible who overcame challenges. Pathfinders from the Cleveland Prairie Trails Club sang special music, and then Pastor Nelson challenged the Pathfinders to turn to God when facing the giants in their lives.

In the afternoon the Pathfinders worked on three honors. **Debbie Olive**, from Dickinson, brought her tarantulas and taught the spider honor. Pathfinders were thrilled to be able to hold a tarantula. **Pam Castillo**, science teacher at DAA, used her expertise to teach the worm honor and the Pathfinders even got to race worms in dirt. It was a great Sabbath afternoon learning about God through nature. The afternoon activities ended with Pastor Nelson talking about ways to help in the community through Adventist Community Services. Pathfinders packed comfort kits for people who have been displaced. Clubs took the kits to be used in their own communities. The evening ended with vespers and a fun game of glow in the dark Capture the Flag.

Sunday morning’s worship thought was presented by **Pastor Jason Woll**. Then Pathfinders split into groups and rotated between three activities. **Brenda Jarski-Weber**, Pathfinder Director in Jamestown, introduced flag semaphore. Pathfinders used this telegraphy system to convey information to a partner across the room with flags. **Tracy Peterson** worked with the Pathfinders on team building, using a variety of fun activities. **Eulalia Kenaston** had the Pathfinders marching, in time, up and down the hall getting ready for the big parade at the International Camporee in Oshkosh.

It was a great weekend. Friendships were made, honors were earned and skills were learned.