

# MARKHAM WOODS ADVENTURER CLUB

# HANDBOOK

2016 – 2017

## **Statement of Mission**

The mission of the Markham Woods Church Adventurer Club is, through a variety of hands-on activities, to develop in the church's children a lasting respect and love for God, for family, for others, for the church and for nature.

## **Statement of Philosophy**

Adventurer-age children are discovering their own identities, developing values and expanding their horizons in a variety of ways. The Adventurer Club offers an experience beyond church and school that is both unique and appealing, and that for many may not be available anywhere else.

The Adventurer Club utilizes hands-on activities, geared specifically for this age group, to provide experiences and develop skills that will be beneficial throughout life.

## **Statement of General Goals**

1. Instill spiritual and social values.
2. Teach children both individual and team skills.
3. Develop in each child a sense of self-worth and self-reliance.
4. Create a bond of friendship and respect between children and adults.
5. Ensure a sense of belonging--to the Adventurer Club, to the Markham Woods congregation and to the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.
6. Inspire a desire to serve others.
7. Promote a love and respect for nature.
8. Instill a sensitivity for the feelings of others.
9. Teach personal responsibility and self-control.
10. Encourage children to transfer the skills and lessons learned in Adventurers to the family, school, church and community setting.

# General Information

## **Membership Criteria**

The Markham Woods Adventurer Club is open to children in grades K-3 who meet **ONE** of the following criteria:

- One legal guardian of the child is a member of Markham Woods SDA Church.
- (OR) the child and his/her legal guardians are not Seventh-day Adventists.

## **Cost**

We do not charge anything for Adventurers because Markham Woods Church has a “Free for All” philosophy (explained on page 3).

## **Registration and Mandatory Parent’s Meeting**

Online registration begins on Monday, August 1 through Sunday, August 14, 2016. We will conduct our yearly Adventurer Club Parent’s Meeting on Saturday, August 20, at 6:00 pm. Your child cannot join the club unless one LEGAL GUARDIAN attends the entire meeting.

## **Regular Meetings**

Our regular meetings start in late August and continue until April. We meet about twice a month on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

## **Uniforms**

Markham Woods Adventurers do not wear the traditional Adventurer uniform, nor do we give out any honor patches. Our Adventurers are given a club T-shirt at the beginning of each year, and they are expected to wear it at EVERY Adventurer meeting.

## **Campout**

Markham Woods Adventurers go on one campout per year (weather permitting) toward the end of March. We typically meet at the camping location on Friday afternoon around 5:30 pm and depart on Sunday morning after breakfast. Adventurers must camp in a tent with their legal guardians.

# "Free for All" Philosophy

Many organizations "nickel and dime" their members nearly to death. Markham Woods Church seeks to be an exception. As part of its overall philosophy, the church does not charge for most activities.

There are several reasons for this:

- First, it's a pain to always be collecting money at church social and recreational events.
- Second, we don't want our activities to only be enjoyed by the "Haves" and exclude the "Have Nots" from participation. If we charged, some people wouldn't be able to join in.
- Third, it's more efficient just to give money to the Church Budget than to pay for the services provided by the church, because money given to the church is tax-deductible.

Here's an example: If a family in the 25 percent tax bracket pays \$100 to participate in a church function, that's \$100 gone. But if that same family is allowed to participate for free, with absolutely no strings attached, yet chooses to donate \$100, their gift is tax-deductible. And they've just saved \$25 in tax. They can keep the \$25 for themselves or use it for some other charity. Either way, the gift approach benefits them.

But won't some people take advantage when you merely encourage giving but don't demand it? Won't they avoid their fair share of the burden? That may happen occasionally. And there are some people who simply can't afford to give. We understand that. Still others just choose not to give. But most people want to be supportive. So, overall, the positives of our approach far outweigh the negatives.

So how much does Adventurers cost? The costs vary somewhat from year to year. But the annual Church Budget allocation to the Adventurer Club is \$3,300. That probably works out to about \$70 per Adventurer. The cost covers the T-shirts, all materials for crafts and activities at the Wednesday night meetings, the food at the Christmas and Year-end Parties and the cost of the campout conducted toward the end of March. However, no Adventurer is charged one penny. It's all paid for by the Church Budget.

Nothing is ever truly free. Someone pays. Our approach simply ensures that it's paid in the most efficient and most inclusive way possible. Please continue to support our Church Budget. Thank You!

# Guidelines for Adventurer Meetings

**1. ATTENDANCE** – Attendance of Adventurer meetings is strongly urged. We want to develop in each child a sense of responsibility and commitment. Those who join the club should commit themselves to wholehearted participation. The Adventurer Club is staffed by volunteers. If these volunteers are willing to make a commitment of their time for the benefit of the children, then the children and their parents should in turn make a similar commitment.

**2. BE ON TIME** – We meet about twice a month on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Adventurers are expected to be punctual, so please ensure that your Adventurers arrive on time and are picked up on time. Do not wait for your Adventurer to phone you to say she or he is ready to be picked up. Please be here promptly at 8:30 pm.

**3. UNIFORM** – Adventurers are required to wear the current Markham Woods Adventurer T-shirt to all Wednesday night meetings. Adventurers are given a new T-shirt at the beginning of each year. With their T-shirts, Adventurers can wear jeans or shorts, but the T-shirt is the only compulsory part of the uniform.

# Guidelines for Adventurer Campout

**1. DATE** – Markham Woods Adventurers go on one campout per year (weather permitting) toward the end of March. The exact date will be announced before November.

**2. ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE** – We meet at the camping location on Friday afternoon around 5:30 pm and depart on Sunday morning after breakfast. Transportation is the responsibility of each family.

**3. FAMILY CAMPING REQUIRED** – Adventurers must camp in a tent with their legal guardians. Adventurers cannot camp with another family, even if it's a long-time family friend.

**4. FOOD and EQUIPMENT** – The Markham Woods Adventurer Club will provide Friday night snacks, Sabbath breakfast, lunch and supper and Sunday breakfast. The club will also provide tents and lanterns.

## **5. CAMPING RULES FOR THE CHILDREN:**

- Do not start or play with fire, or possess incendiary devices (matches, lighters or fireworks).
- No swimming or playing in water unless supervised by a staff member or parent.
- No possession of the following items on the campout: phones, electronic devices, or cutting tools of any kind.
- No feeding or teasing any animals (wild or domesticated).

# Generic Adventurer Campout Schedule

## **Friday**

5:30 pm	Families arrive at the designated area / Pitch tent / Organize gear
6:30 pm	Activity
7:00 pm	Snack Break
7:30 pm	Campfire Worship
8:00 pm	Preparation for bed
9:30 pm	Total silence

## **Sabbath**

7:30 am	Wake Up and prepare for day
8:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 am	Activities
11:00 am	Sabbath Worship
11:30 am	Activities
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Activities
3:30 pm	Family Activities
5:30 pm	Activities
6:30 pm	Supper
7:30 pm	Campfire Worship
8:30 pm	Games
9:30 pm	Preparation for bed
10:30 pm	Total silence

## **Sunday**

8:00 am	Pack up / Camp tear down
9:00 am	Breakfast
10:30 am	Departure

# Campout Packing List

## **Must Bring:**

Sleeping bag and pillow

Extra blanket (cool weather)

Optional: pads / air mattress

Extra clothing / underwear / socks

2 pairs of comfortable walking shoes (close-toed only)

Jacket (cool weather)

Towel / washcloth

Personal items: toothbrush / paste / comb / soap / etc.

Gear: flashlight / insect repellent / sunscreen / poncho

Bible

If swimming: bathing suit / water shoes / flip-flops / mask or goggles

## **Do Not Bring:**

Electronic devices of any kind

Incendiary devices (matches, lighters or fireworks)

Cutting tools of any kind