

**Policy on School Absence for Pathfinder Functions.** Pathfinder field activities, as a general rule, are to be scheduled outside of school hours. If, however, there is an occasional Pathfinder activity (in addition to the annual Camporee) that will necessitate early dismissal or absence from school, the following policy should be followed:

1. The club director should consult with the school not less than two weeks prior to the planned activity, and obtain school approval for the prearranged absence of Pathfinder students. The notification should include the names of the Pathfinders to be dismissed, the nature of the activity, and the time the students are to be picked up. Then, the club staff should meet the appointment on time. When these arrangements have been made, then appropriate prearranged absence and parent permission forms need to be on file for each student involved. Students must be marked absent from school (except for the authorized Camporee as outlined below).
2. Students may be required to make up any school work missed as a result of the activity.
3. Clubs should ask for dismissal of Pathfinders for weekend activities only, except for the annual Camporee. The Camporee is the only Pathfinder activity which may be authorized as a school function as outlined below. One-day activities should be conducted on Sunday or other non-school days, if possible.

The Pathfinder Camporee may be considered a school function only if specifically authorized in an official action by the local school board. Weekends may not be counted. In order for week days to be counted as school time, school officials must be in charge or Pathfinder leaders officially designated as school personnel for the Camporee by school board action. Otherwise, Camporee days must be made up unless school is in session. This policy is designed to accommodate students who attend, and not to affect the school program nor alter the school calendar. Except when the Camporee is authorized as a school function as outlined above and counted as school time, students who attend the Camporee when school is held are to be given excused absences from school, which shall not negatively impact the student in regards to perfect attendance recognition. (See GCC 1228 – Accommodating Non-Participating Students)

Southern Union policy states that students are permitted one school day maximum for Pathfinder Camporees. For those who have to travel several hours, Pathfinder students may be dismissed early on Thursday. In years when there is a Union-wide Camporee, two days may be taken. One additional day will be allowed for travel to the Union Pathfinder Camporee where necessary. The Pathfinder director should arrange departure time with the principal.