



2010 Summer Camp Informational Packet

WELCOME! Thank you for choosing Pathfinder Summer Camp. We are pleased to offer one of the finest experience-based educational programs in the Southeast.

Pathfinder's summer camp differs from many other area camps in that our counselors are the same highly trained facilitators who are our permanent, year-round staff. Pathfinder Facilitators are mature professionals, many with classroom teaching backgrounds. Exceptionally talented and experienced with learners of all ages, they are extensively trained in our team-building, community-strengthening curriculum.

Inside this packet, you'll find information about Pathfinder and the camp programs. The actual registration forms are a separate packet. If you haven't received the registration forms, please contact us and it will be emailed to you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Pathfinder Camper Policies
- Bring-Along List
- Directions to DaySpring
- Directions to Pathfinder
- Directions to Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
- Directions to Sawgrass Lake Park

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Page 1 of 2

WELCOME! Thank you for choosing Pathfinder Summer Camp. Below are questions frequently asked by parents. You can find answers to other FAQ's on our website: www.pathfinder-ed.org.

Who is Pathfinder?

Pathfinder, Inc. is a non-profit organization helping youth and adults develop community through the power of shared experiences. These shared experiences occur during activity-based, outdoor adventure programs that increase mutual understanding, develop healthy decision making skills, and build respect for self and others.

Is this an educational or recreational camp?

Both! Your child's camp week has been created around a theme but also includes community building, problem-solving, leadership development, outdoor challenge, or a combination of these - but most of all, fun! Most activities are outdoors and all of them are educational, challenging and fun.

When they accomplish challenging activities - both individually and as a group - children are learning what it takes to overcome future challenges. This results in people who are more confident in their own abilities, who are able to succeed beyond previous expectations and who realize that challenge is a vital part of lifelong learning. Pathfinder presents these opportunities and experiences in a manner that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

What kind of activities can my child expect?

We can provide you with a specific list of activities for the week of camp that you've selected. Generally speaking, Pathfinder activities have a minimum of lecture, and focus instead on experience-based learning. Participants actively engage in exploring, discovering, pondering, creating, thinking and doing an activity. Then they "debrief" their experience under the guidance of Pathfinder facilitators. The debrief is designed to draw parallels between what the participant learned and how s/he may apply this learning in real life.

Is it safe?

At Pathfinder, physical and emotional safety is our highest priority. Pathfinder has an excellent safety record. We were the first and remain the only Florida organization accredited by the Association for Experiential Education. Pathfinder instructors are trained in American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and other relevant safety training. Please see the cover letter of our Liability Waiver and Medical Release form for details on our safety record and staff training.

What does a typical day look like?

Day Campers must arrive by 9:00 am and will sign in. Each full day contains three-hour morning activities, lunch, a two-hour afternoon session, followed by a snack. Day Campers will be picked up by 4:30 pm (5:30 pm if you've paid for late pick-up). Overnight Campers will have a brief Free Time with sports or other recreation, and a two-hour evening session after dinner. Overnight campers will have breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and dinner at Dinner 6:00 p.m. Pathfinder programming is usually completed by 9:00 pm; lights-out is determined by the age of the youth attending.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Page 2 of 2

What if it rains or there is severe weather?

Florida weather can be a challenge, especially during the summer. We will try to provide the opportunity for campers to participate in all planned events for their week of camp, however, due to rain or thunderstorms, some activities might not be possible. Our counselors are trained in leading alternative indoor activities that are still fun and recreational. Pathfinder will not give refunds due to inclement weather.

My child has never been away overnight before. What if s/he gets homesick?

Summer Camp can be a fundamental part of child's development, an opportunity to be away from home in a safe and controlled environment. Parents can arrange for their camper to call home before or after the day's programming to check-in if necessary. In our experience, homesickness dissipates as the campers become engaged in their full, fun days of programming.

My child is on medication. Should s/he continue to take it during the trip?

In the majority of cases, absolutely. This is especially important for medications which may help your child focus or concentrate. All medications should be sent in their original packaging for dispensing.

My child is hesitant to participant in _____. Can s/he still go on the trip?

Our commitment to physical and emotional safety allows campers to engage more fully, choose their level of challenge, and distinguish between healthy and unhealthy risks or choices. While campers may always opt out of activities which seem too frightening or physically difficult, Pathfinder facilitators are mature, experienced professionals who excel at finding ways for individuals to participate in a positive way. Often youth finish their program to find that they did things they never thought they could do; this is exactly the kind of experience that Pathfinder programs are designed to create.

My child is differently-abled/has an orthopedic injury. Can s/he still go on the trip?

In the majority of cases, absolutely. Pathfinder facilitators support all campers to participate and make a positive contribution to their community group. Specific conditions, injuries, and/or needs should be described on the Liability Waiver and Medical Release form so that we may prepare any additional support or arrange specific accommodations. Feel free to call us directly if you have additional concerns.

What are sleeping arrangements like?

Overnight Campers will stay in one of DaySpring's Youth Cabins. The Cabins have two wings with bunk beds for up to 16 in each wing, attached bathrooms and showers. The campers will be separated by gender and Pathfinder staff will sleep in the sleeping room between the two wings. DaySpring has been a highly supportive partner to us and our programming. The grounds are beautiful and green, the accommodations are comfortable, and the food is delicious. Please visit their website for pictures and more info. www.dayspringfla.org

My child has a special diet. What accommodations can you make?

Alternative menus are available at DaySpring including vegetarian options, and by special arrangement, options for specific allergies. Specific allergy concerns and dietary needs should be described on the Liability Waiver and Medical Release form. We are happy to accommodate your child's needs and feel free to call us directly if you have additional concerns.

1310 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Phone: (727) 328-0300 Fax: (727) 328-0100

Email: info@pathfinder-ed.org Website: www.pathfinder-ed.org





PATHFINDER CAMPER POLICIES

- **Safety is always our first concern!** We expect all campers to follow all safety instructions.
- Campers will be **supervised at all times** by Pathfinder facilitators.
- Campers may use site phones with approval of their counselors (**only during free times**) and calls should be collect or credit card. We don't encourage the use of personal cell phones by campers. Pathfinder is happy to relay any messages from parents to their children. Any cell phones students bring will be kept by Pathfinder facilitators during the day.
- Pathfinder programs are **smoke-free environments**; smoking is prohibited in all buildings.
- Use or possession of **alcoholic beverages** and **illegal drugs** is prohibited for all campers. Campers caught with any of these substances will be sent home immediately.
- If misbehavior results in a decision to send a child home, there will be **no refund of fees**. If a camper is sent home due to injury or illness, the refund will be pro-rated for the length of stay.
- **Snack foods** may not be kept in campers' rooms but may be stored in the common room, in tight-closed containers.
- Soda is not available during programming or mealtime.
- **Pathfinder's Liability Waiver and Medical Release form must be completed by every child attending.** During camp, the waivers will be on site and kept in a location known and accessible to all adults present. They then become the property of Pathfinder, Inc.
- Parents/Guardians may visit the site where the camp is taking place before or during their child's camp, with prior notification. Special arrangements may need to be made and additional costs may be incurred. We encourage parents to contact us directly for any other information desired.





BRING-ALONG LIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS • BRING ALL ITEMS BELOW FOR EITHER DAY CAMP OR OVERNIGHT CAMP

- ❑ **PRESCRIPTION AND OTC MEDICATIONS** - in original container with directions and dosage amount, given to your camp counselor
- ❑ **CLOSED TOE SHOES** - they must be closed-toe, i.e. sneakers or hiking boots
- ❑ **SHOES FOR WATER ACTIVITIES** - must be either a second pair of sneakers, water sandals with a back strap or water socks. Flip flops will not be permitted in water classes

*Please do not bring crocs as water shoes - they do not stay on your feet in the mud
or on slippery river rock.*

- ❑ **TOWELS**
- ❑ **RAINWEAR** - buy an inexpensive poncho, if necessary
- ❑ **WATER BOTTLE** - with your name on it, filled only with water
- ❑ **BATHING SUIT** - we recommend a bathing suit suitable for physical activity or sports
- ❑ **LONGER SHORTS AND LONG-SLEEVED SHIRTS** - for tree climbing and high ropes
- ❑ **INSECT REPELLENT** - non-aerosol
- ❑ **SUNSCREEN & HAT**

ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL ITEMS • BRING ALL ITEMS BELOW FOR OVERNIGHT CAMP

- ❑ **BEDDING** - pillow and either a sleeping bag OR a set of sheets and blanket for a single bed
- ❑ **TOILETRIES** - shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrush & paste, floss, deodorant, lotion, etc.
- ❑ **CLOTHING FOR EACH DAY** - including pajamas, underwear, socks, adequate for the season

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ❑ Radios and electronic games or devices are discouraged. Hairdryers are the exception.
- ❑ Extra eye wear (glasses or contacts)
- ❑ Flashlight, books, camera

**Please leave your nice, expensive things at home because they could be lost or damaged.
Pathfinder is not responsible for lost or damaged items.**

**Pack for casual comfort in the outdoors but understand that we will be in a natural environment. Ants,
mosquitoes and other bugs are to be expected.**

URBAN WILDERNESS EXPLORERS SITE FOR JULY 5TH, 8TH, 9TH

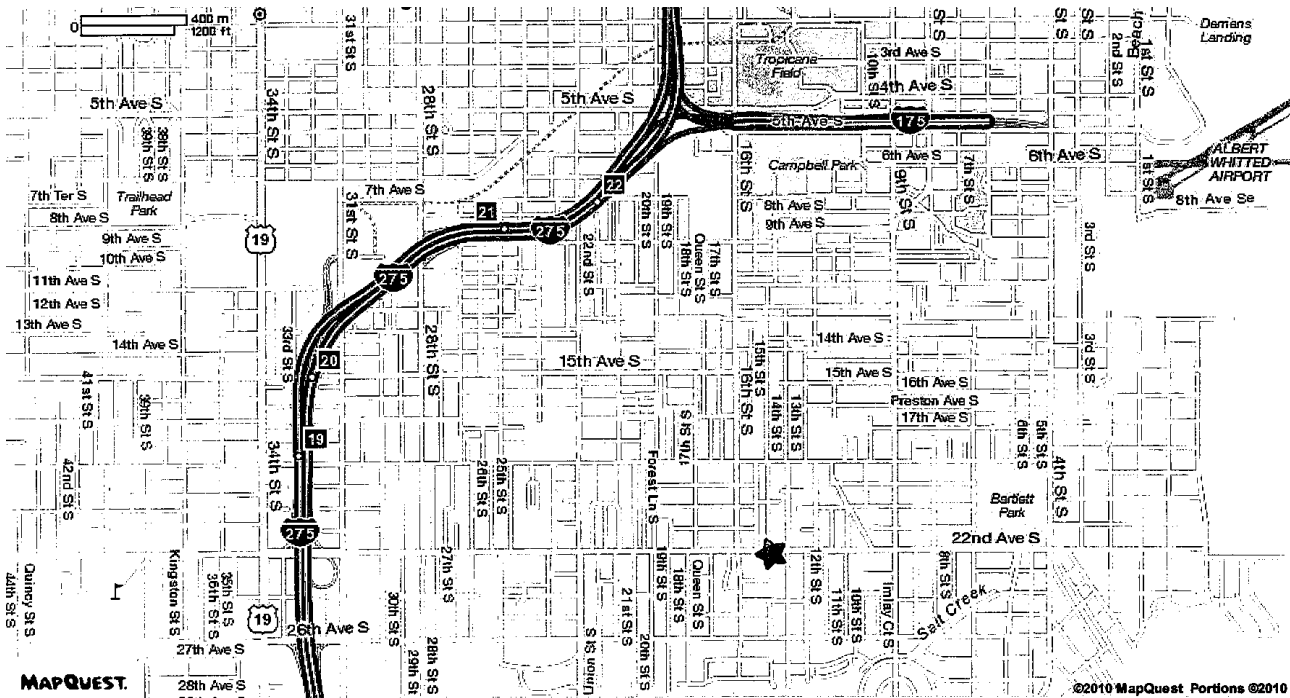
PATHFINDER COMMUNITY ROOM at LAKEVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 1310 22nd Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
 727-328-0300

DROP OFF: NO LATER THAN 9:00AM
 PICK UP: PROMPTLY AT 4:30PM

Meet at the Community Room facing 22nd Avenue South.

From 275N: Take Exit 19 (22nd Ave S.) Turn L at bottom of ramp onto 22nd Ave S.
 Go 1.5 miles. Church is on right side just before 13th St S.

From 275S: Take Exit 18 (26th Ave S.) Turn R at bottom of ramp onto 26th Ave S.
 Take immediate L onto 31st St S. Turn R onto 22nd Ave S.
 Go 1.5 miles. Church is on right side just before 13th Ave S.



1310 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
 Phone: (727) 328-0300 Fax: (727) 328-0100
 Email: info@pathfinder-ed.org Website: www.pathfinder-ed.org



URBAN WILDERNESS EXPLORERS SITE FOR TUESDAY, JULY 6TH

BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE

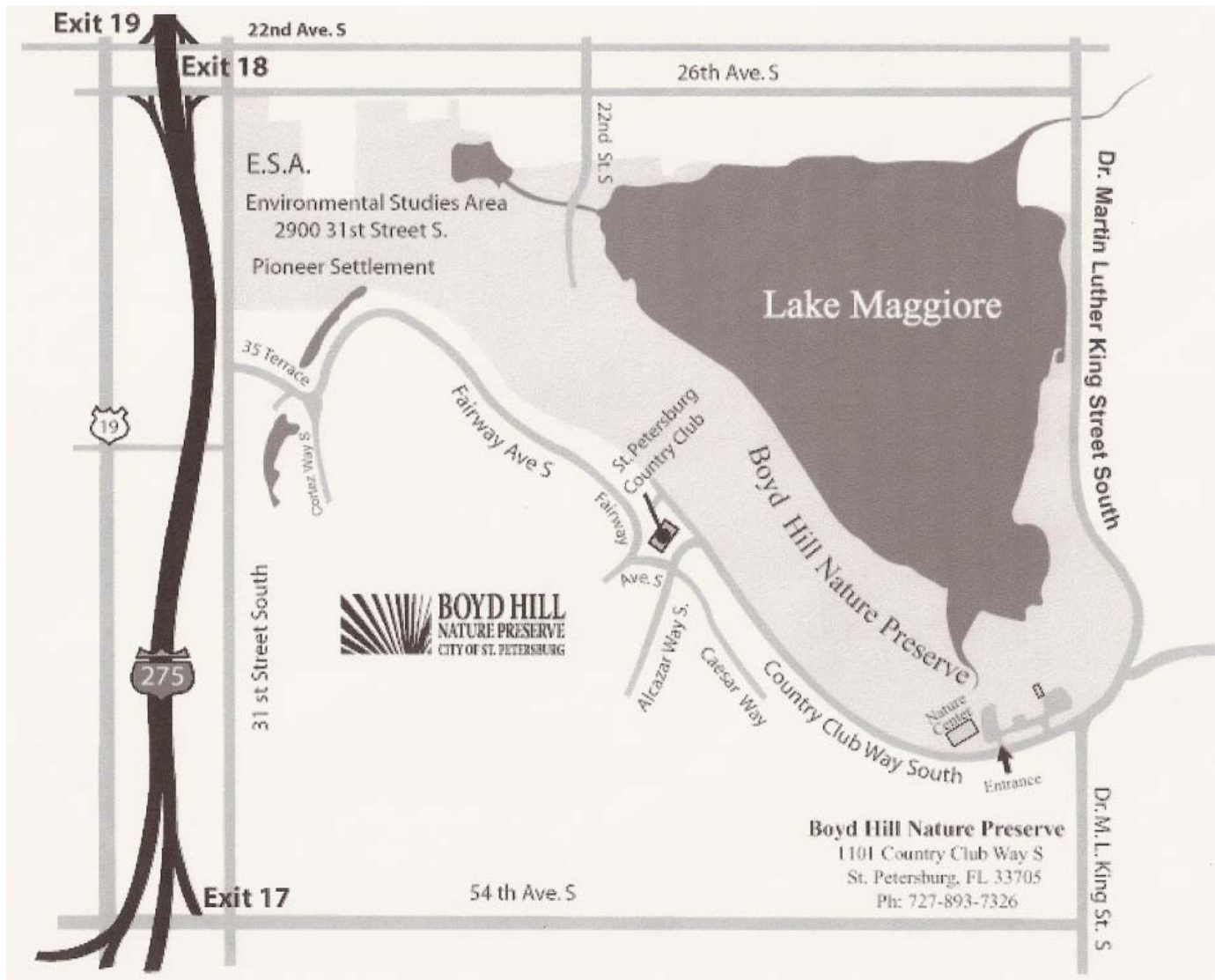
1101 Country Club Way S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
727-893-7326

DROP OFF @ BOYD HILL: NO LATER THAN 9:00AM
PICK UP @ BOYD HILL: PROMPTLY AT 4:30PM

Meet outside front doors of the Nature Center

From 275N: Take Exit 19 (22nd Ave S.) Turn L onto 22nd Ave. S. Turn R onto Dr. Martin Luther King St. S. Turn R onto Country Club Way S. Entrance will be on R.

From 275S: Take Exit 17 (54th Ave S.) Turn R onto 54th Ave S. Turn L onto Dr. Martin Luther King St. S. Turn L onto Country Club Way S. Entrance will be on R.



1310 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Phone: (727) 328-0300 Fax: (727) 328-0100

Email: info@pathfinder-ed.org Website: www.pathfinder-ed.org



URBAN WILDERNESS EXPLORERS SITE FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 7TH

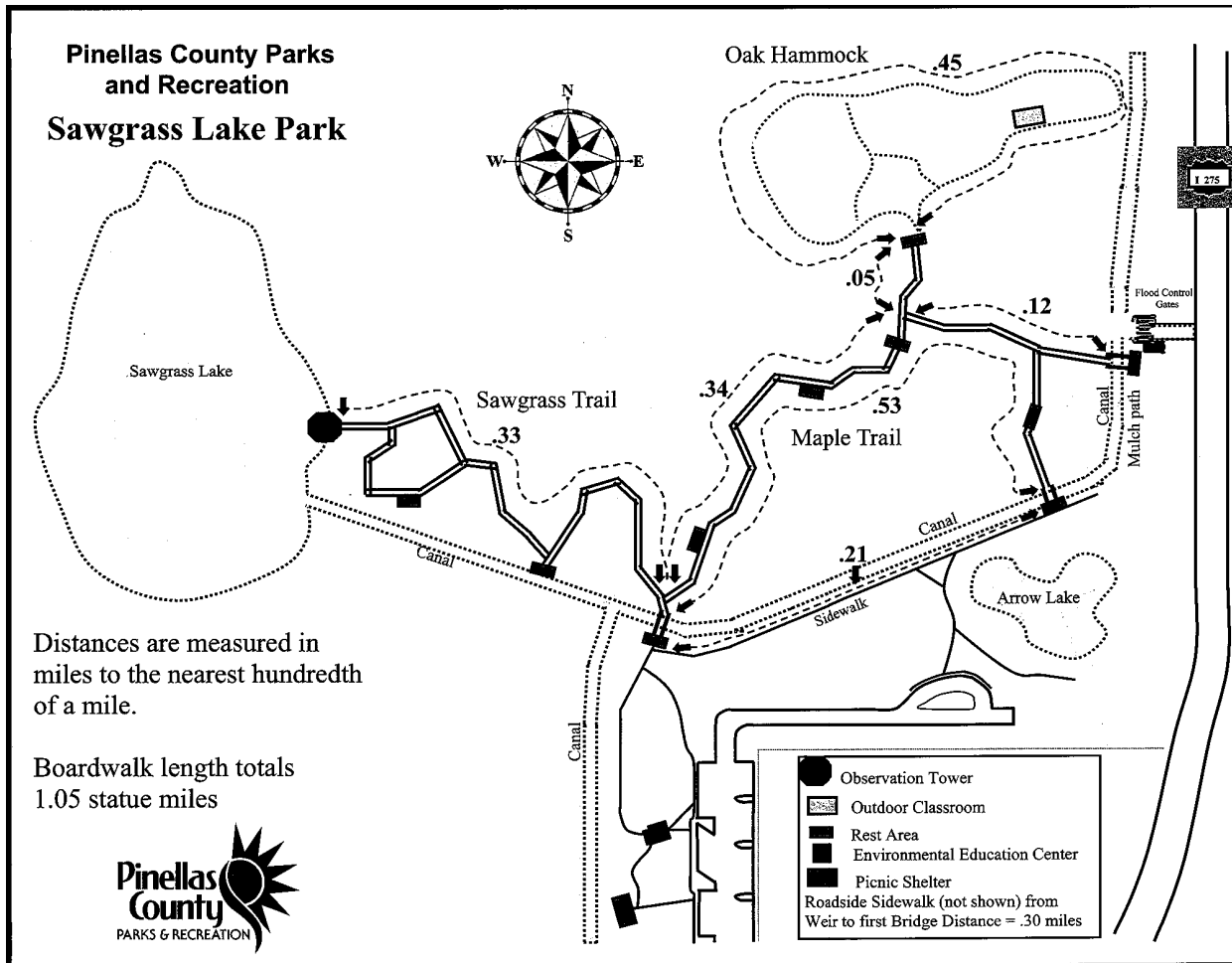
SAWGRASS LAKE PARK
7400 25th St. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

DROP OFF @ SAWGRASS: NO LATER THAN 9:00AM
PICK UP @ SAWGRASS: PROMPTLY AT 4:30PM

Meet outside the Environmental Education Center (next to parking lot)

From 62nd Ave N: Turn North on 25th St N and continue to the end of the road where you will find the parking area and the Education Center. (South end of the park.)

* There are several ways to get to Sawgrass Lake Park, depending on where you are coming from. Please map the location ahead of time, so you know the best route for you. Thank you.



1310 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Phone: (727) 328-0300 Fax: (727) 328-0100
Email: info@pathfinder-ed.org Website: www.pathfinder-ed.org

