



**June 2024**

Dear Pathfinders and Parents,

This letter is to provide information for our upcoming camp to Mill Creek and the surrounding Dharug National Park on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. This camp is a hiking camp, in preparation for Expedition in late September. The Pathfinders will be doing different walks based on their class level and hiking ability.

## **Hiking levels and required gear**

### **All levels**

- Consult the Hiking Checklist for what to bring and be extra sure to pack all the required items, as it will be cold and possibly wet - <https://castlehillpathfinder.club/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/hiking-equipment1.pdf>
- Bring a watch so you will know the time and can be ready when asked. Nothing expensive in case it gets lost, but something that can be taken on all camps.
- Bring a packed dinner on Friday night to eat as we drive in the cars, as per usual.
- Camping t-shirts – Pathfinders must wear their ‘camping shirts’ (not the polo) so that we can easily identify them. If your Pathfinder does not have the new camping t-shirt, made of the breathable material, you may wish to order one at ASAP at [T-shirt \(new style\) – Castle Hill Pathfinder Club](#)
- A Pathfinder hat (labelled of course!) is also a great asset.
- Ensure quality socks are brought that are at least ¼ crew or crew length, not low-cut socks, as they may result in blisters.
- Please remember to limit the lollies to just a few. The children do not need multiple packets of lollies for the weekend (even for a hike!). Good, healthy, nutritious food is best.

### **Juniors (Level 1, Friend and Companion classes)**

- They will be base camping at the Mill Creek campground and doing day walks of 5-10kms each day. They will not be overnight hiking, so a 50L+ hiking pack is not required. Items can be packed into the soft duffle-style bag as per usual, and food in a separate cooler bag.
- A day pack of at least 25L is needed, that is large enough to carry 1-2L of water, lunch and snacks, rain jacket, torch, first aid kit etc. It should have a waist strap to help carry the weight on the hips. It should not be a fashion backpack.
- Juniors will be sleeping 2-4 per tent, which the club will supply.
- There is a composting toilet at the campsite, no showers. We will have rubbish bins and washing up facilities at the campsite, and fresh water to fill up water bottles.

### **Intermediates (Level 2, Explorer and Ranger classes)**

- They will be camping the first night at Mill Creek campground and departing on Sabbath morning for an overnight hike. Approximately walking 10-12km each day. All gear should be in a hiking pack of 50L+.
- They may also bring a chair to use on the first evening/morning before departing for their overnight hike.
- Intermediates will be sleeping 1-2 in hiking tents, which the club will supply.
- Water will not be available once departing base camp, so enough water needs to be carried from Sabbath morning to last until returning to base camp on Sunday (3-4 litres).

### **Seniors (Level 3, Voyager and Ranger classes)**

- They may be hiking a short distance to a campsite on Friday night. Then walking approximately 12-15km each day on Sabbath and Sunday. All gear should be in a hiking pack of 50L+.
- Seniors will be sleeping 1-2 in hiking tents, which the club will supply.
- Water will not be available at the overnight sites, so enough water needs to be carried from Friday night to last until returning to base camp on Sunday (4-5 litres).

Arrival and return times - Arrive at Castle Hill SDA church by 4:00pm on Friday afternoon. We should be back around 4pm on Sunday. Parents, please keep an eye on your email and Facebook over the weekend and we will update you on any events and ETA to church on Sunday.

Transport - We will be transporting all the children via cars. Your child will be allocated to a car to travel in. We will group friends together as much as possible.

Cost – The cost for the camp will be \$35 per person.

Camp Forms – Please go to our website and complete the [Registration for camp](#).

RSVP: We need to finalise numbers a week prior to the camp so please pay your camp fees and complete your forms no later than **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**. If your child is not attending, please advise Megan by email at [chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued commitment to Castle Hill Pathfinders. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel, Stephen, or Megan. Remember, if you are buying new gear for this camp – think "light and warm" as you will need to carry it when on a hike.

Kind regards,

Megan Lillo (Secretary) [chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com) 0424 504 935  
Stephen Coyle (Deputy Director) [spcoyle@outlook.com](mailto:spcoyle@outlook.com) 0413 453 351  
Rachel Wegener (Director) [pathfinderrachel@gmail.com](mailto:pathfinderrachel@gmail.com) 0423 489 358