



Feb 2025

Dear Pathfinders and Parents,

This letter is to provide information for our upcoming camp to Patonga.

Arrive at Castle Hill SDA church by 4:00pm on Friday afternoon, 14th March. We should be back around 4:30pm on Sunday, 16th March. 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.

There are toilets and showers at the campsite. The general plan for the camp is doing games and classwork at the campsite, swimming in the tidal river and having a professional surfing lesson on Sunday to complete the Surfing honour! All meals are planned to be had at the campsite. We are not planning on having a fire. Pathfinders will need a day pack/bag to carry everything they need for being at the beach for a few hours – towel / water / sunscreen / hat / snacks. A pool noodle or flotation device and mask and snorkel can be brought if desired for free time swimming.

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 \$60 per person. This includes the cost of the surfing lesson, which is \$45.

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

Please make sure that your Pathfinder is aware of the Camp Contract on the website and the information that he/she is agreeing to by signing it. If items are bought to the camp that have been banned, these items will be confiscated for the weekend. Remember all electronic devices brought to camp will be locked in a car for the weekend and handed back to the Pathfinder at the church.

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, 6th March 2025**.

Bring: Please consult the [Hiking Checklist](#) for what to bring. Even though we are not hiking you will need most of the items on this list.

- You must bring a packed dinner on Friday night to eat as we drive in the cars. You will not have time to cook a meal when you arrive at camp. You can, however, have a snack after tents are put up and everything is unpacked.
- Juniors and Intermediates will be sleeping 2-4 per tent, with separate boys' and girls' tents. We will be using the Club's base camp tents, so you do not need to supply a tent. Leaders will allocate 'tent buddies', which will be different for each camp. This means that you may be with some new friends this camp, but it will change for next camp.

Seniors will be sleeping under a large tarp, supervised by male and female leaders. Tents for changing are provided.

- Camping t-shirts – as this is a public campsite, there will be other groups from the public camping alongside our group. Pathfinders must wear their ‘camping shirts’ (not the polo) so that we can easily identify them. A Pathfinder hat (labelled of course!) is also a great asset.
- Please remember to limit the lollies to just a few. The children do not need multiple packets of lollies for the weekend. Good, healthy, nutritious food is best.
- Please pack everything in ONE soft duffle-style bag. Each Pathfinder will need to carry and manage his/her own gear for the weekend. One duffle-style bag should hold all items except food and a camping chair. It is best if things are in a bag and not attached or tied onto the bag. Please ensure that everything is labelled.

As this is a base camp, you may find it easier to pack all food / cooker in a Coles “blue cooler bag” or similar. Please label it with the child’s name. All cooking is done outside the tent as a group, whilst sitting on your camping seats. We will have rubbish bins at this camp. There are washing up facilities at the campsite, and fresh water to fill up water bottles. Start practicing now with your Pathfinder on how to use their cooker and cook their food for the weekend. A sample menu is on the last page of the Hiking Checklist.



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 myself. Remember, if you are buying new gear for this camp – think “light and warm” as you will need to carry it a lot further on a hike.

Kind regards,

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