



April 2026

Dear Pathfinders and Parents,

This letter is to provide information for our upcoming camp to Asgard Swamp (close to Mount Victoria in the Blue Mountains) on Friday, 15th to Sunday, 17th May, 2026. This camp is a hiking camp, in preparation for Expedition on the June long weekend. 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 at night and possibly warm during the day (and rain is always to be planned for) <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](#)
- Long pants and sleeves - the tracks are narrow in some places, and bushbashing is also required in some parts so lightweight hiking pants and a lightweight shirt are strongly recommended. Leggings and/or a long sleeve top would also be ok but they aren't as durable.
- 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.
- There is a composting toilet where we arrive on Friday night, no showers.
- There is planned to be a fire at the Saturday night campsite.

Juniors (Level 1, Friend and Companion classes)

- They will be base camping on Friday night, then doing a walk of several kilometers to the campsite for Saturday night. Therefore they will need a full sized hiking pack to carry everything (50L+). On Sunday, they will do some walks to some scenic and historical points of interest with less in their pack, then hike several kilometers back to the cars with their full hiking pack.
- Pack weight - this will depend on your child's frame, strength etc. Under 10kgs without water is ideal.
- 2 x 1L bottles of water is to be carried. There will be water at the base camp on Friday night, and some water available at the Saturday campsite.
- Juniors will be sleeping 2-3 in hiking tents, which the club will supply.

Intermediates (Level 2, Explorer and Ranger classes)

- They will be base camping the first night and departing on Sabbath morning for an overnight hike. Approximately walking 10km each day. All gear should be in a hiking pack of 50L+.
- Intermediates will be sleeping 2-3 in hiking tents, which the club will supply.
- Some water will be available at the Saturday night site, but enough water should be carried from Friday night to last until returning to base camp on Sunday (3-4 litres).

Seniors (Level 3, Voyager and Ranger classes)

- They will hike 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 1-3 in hiking tents, which the club will supply.
- Some water will be available at the Saturday night site, but enough water should be carried from Friday night to last until returning to base camp on Sunday (3-4 litres minimum).

Arrival and return times - Arrive at Castle Hill SDA church at 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 \$50 per person (Pathfinders, Master Guides and Junior Counsellors). For this camp, a refund can be given if last-minute illness means they can't attend.

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

RSVP: We need to finalise numbers to ensure sufficient leaders and transport so please pay your camp fees and complete your forms no later than **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**. If your child is not attending, please advise Priscilla by email at chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com

Pack check for new hikers: All Pathfinders that have not done an overnight hike with our club are required to bring their packed packs to church for checking on Wednesday night, 13/5 between 6:30pm and 7:30pm. This includes everything you will be bringing - food, clothes, toiletries, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, water etc. We will give guidance on how to pack the pack and whether too much/not enough is being brought.

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 Priscilla. Remember, if you are buying new gear for this camp – think "light and warm" as you will need to carry it!

Kind regards,

Priscilla Cignarella (Secretary) chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com 0412 082 200

Stephen Coyle (Deputy Director) spcoyle@outlook.com 0413 453 351

Rachel Wegener (Director) pathfinderrachel@gmail.com 0423 489 358