

Pathfinders Summer Staff Support Guide

Supporting the Mission at Pathfinders Youth Camp

Serving at Pathfinders is more than a summer job — it's ministry. Each staff member raises personal support so that camp fees remain affordable and more students can experience life change.

This guide will walk you through the process in a clear, practical way.

Step 1: Begin with Prayer

Before sending a single letter or text, pause and pray.

Ask God to:

- Give you faith and confidence
- Provide the right ministry partners
- Grow you through the support-raising process
- Prepare the hearts of those you'll contact

Support raising isn't just fundraising — it's inviting others into what God is doing.

Continue praying throughout the process. Pray for the people you contact. Pray for the students who will be impacted. Pray for growth in your own life.

Step 2: Build Your Contact List

Start by listing people who know you and may want to invest in your ministry.

Potential contacts:

- Family members
- Extended relatives
- Church friends and leaders
- Teachers and mentors
- Friends from school
- Co-workers or former employers
- Neighbors
- Family friends

Not everyone on your list must receive a letter, but aim to send **at least 50 personalized requests**.

Pray over your list and ask God who to contact.

Step 3: Write Your Personal Support Letter

Your letter should sound like you. Authentic, personal letters are far more effective than generic templates.

Include These Key Elements:

- What Pathfinders is and why it matters
 - Your specific role this summer
 - What excites you about serving
 - Your total support goal
 - Your deadline
 - Clear ways they can partner (prayer + financial support)
-

Giving Options to Include

Make it easy for people to give.

Supporters can give in the following ways:

1. Check

- Make payable to: *Pathfinders*
- Do NOT write your name on the check
- Mail to you (include a return envelope)

2. Online via PayPal

- Visit: [Insert PayPal Giving Link]
- Select or note your name in the memo field
- Choose one-time or recurring gift

Offering digital giving increases response rates significantly.

Writing Guidelines

- Keep it to one page
- Be clear and specific
- Share your heart
- Set a clear financial goal
- Include a target deadline
- Personalize when possible
- Proofread carefully

Optional: Add a short handwritten note at the bottom.

Step 4: Prepare Your Support Packet

Each physical mailing should include:

- Your personalized letter
- Response form
- Pre-addressed return envelope

Make responding simple and convenient.

Step 5: Follow Up Thoughtfully

If appropriate, follow up 7–10 days after mailing.

Phone Call Tips:

- Ask if they received your letter
- Share briefly why this summer matters to you
- Ask if they would consider partnering
- Thank them regardless of their answer

Never pressure. Always express gratitude.

Step 6: Thank Your Supporters Immediately

When someone commits to support:

- Send a thank-you note within 48 hours

- Express appreciation for both prayer and financial support
- Add them to your update list

Before arriving at camp, send a short update sharing:

- How close you are to your goal
- Specific prayer requests
- Your excitement for the summer

After the summer, send a follow-up impact report.

Gratitude builds long-term ministry partners.

Sending Funds to Pathfinders

As you receive checks:

- Record each gift on your Support Contribution Report
- Send collected checks with your report to Pathfinders
- Do NOT deposit or cash support checks personally

Online PayPal gifts will be processed directly through Pathfinders.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much money can I raise for the summer?

You can raise up to \$500 per week for both day camp and training/prep weeks. For those weeks you must be on campus Monday-Friday from 9-5. You can raise up to \$600

for overnight camps. For those weeks you must be on campus Sunday night to Saturday morning.

What if I don't raise enough?

Most staff reach or exceed their goal by following this process. There are no penalties for not reaching your full amount, but you are encouraged to be proactive and diligent.

What if I raise more than my goal?

Additional funds help:

- Provide scholarships for students
- Support staff members who fall short
- Cover operational ministry costs

All contributions are donations to Pathfinders and are non-refundable.

My church took up a collection and gave me cash. How should I handle it?

Ask your church treasurer to convert the cash to a check from the church made payable to Pathfinders.

If you must accept cash, convert it to a "cashiers check" at your bank and mail it with your other support to Pathfinders. DO NOT send cash in the mail.

What if someone writes the check to me?

Return it and kindly ask them to make it payable to Pathfinders so they can receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Where should supporters send their gift?

- Checks: To you (made payable to Pathfinders)
- PayPal: Through the official Pathfinders PayPal link

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BGRGARL62C9XU

Sample Support Letter

Dear [Name],

I'm excited to share that I will be serving this summer at Pathfinders Youth Camp in Kingsport, Tennessee. Pathfinders exists to help students discover their God-given purpose in an environment of adventure, community, and faith.

This summer, I'll be serving as [role]. I'm excited to invest in students, grow spiritually, and be part of a team that is reaching the next generation.

To make this possible, I am raising \$_____ by [date]. Pathfinders asks each staff member to raise personal ministry support so camp can remain affordable for families.

Would you consider partnering with me?

You can support in two ways:

- Pray for me and the students we'll serve
- Give financially (one-time or recurring)

Ways to give:

- Check payable to Pathfinders (mail to my address)
- Online via PayPal at:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BGRGARL62C9XU (please include my name in the memo)

You can visit the Pathfinders website by going to www.pathfindersonline.com and go to their "Donate" page to make your donation as well.

Thank you for considering being part of what God is doing this summer. Your partnership truly makes this possible.

With gratitude,

[Your Name]

**SUMMER STAFF SUPPORT
CONTRIBUTION REPORT FORM**

Name _____

Please list the information requested below for each of your prayer and financial supporters. Make a copy for your records and return the original along with the checks to Pathfinders.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Relation to you _____

Prayer Supporter Yes No

Total Amount Financial Support _____

Total Amount Received _____

Thank you letter sent Yes

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Relation to you _____

Prayer Supporter Yes No

Total Amount Financial Support _____

Total Amount Received _____

Thank you letter sent Yes

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (_____) _____
Relation to you _____
Prayer Supporter Yes No
Total Amount Financial Support _____
Total Amount Received _____
Thank you letter sent Yes

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (_____) _____
Relation to you _____
Prayer Supporter Yes No
Total Amount Financial Support _____
Total Amount Received _____
Thank you letter sent Yes

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (_____) _____
Relation to you _____
Prayer Supporter Yes No
Total Amount Financial Support _____
Total Amount Received _____
Thank you letter sent Yes

Pathfinders Vision

According to George Barna, this generation is the most un-churched generation in American history. It is a day of acute transition in our society and as believers we have not effectively reached this generation.

Our vision as an organization is to be a part of the solution in reaching this generation. We will facilitate members of the emerging generation in finding their specific mission and purpose and enable them to fulfill that mission through understanding leadership and the principles of team-work.

Our vision is large and clear. We want to see a generation reached for Jesus and released as effective Christians and citizens to accomplish their God-given purpose in the world. Each summer through our camp programs hundreds of students are challenged with these truths in an atmosphere of fun, adventure, acceptance and love. Many make life-changing decisions.

To carry out these programs and our vision we involve the service of approximately 40 summer staff members. As we are a non-profit non-denominational organization we ask that summer staff raise their own support for the duration of their employment at Pathfinders.

Please consider joining us in our quest to reach this generation for Christ by pledging your support to our dedicated summer staff. Thank you for considering this request.



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Office phone: 423-483-2570
Email: ally@pathfindersonline.com

Contribution Guidelines

- Pathfinders is a non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Because of Internal Revenue Service regulations, your check must be made payable to Pathfinders. Please do not make checks payable to the individual staff member.
- A tax-deductible receipt will be mailed to you after checks are received and processed by Pathfinders.
- All staff support contributions are donations to Pathfinders and are non-refundable and non-transferable. In the event that a staff member raises contributions exceeding their required amount or withdraws from their assignment, these funds will be used to meet needs in other areas of the ministry. Financial disbursement is at the discretion of Pathfinders.

Instructions:

1. Make Checks payable to Pathfinders. The staff member's name should not appear on the check.
2. Complete the form below and return with your check to the staff member you are supporting. Do not mail to Pathfinders. Thank You.

Yes! I want to be part of the team.

I will support financially with an enclosed gift of: _____

I will pledge the following additional amount of _____

To be given by _____.

I will be a regular prayer supporter.

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST, Zip _____

Phone _____

Return this form to:

Staff Members Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____