

NEWS ARTICLES

NEWS MENU ▾

Adventist Education Shines at the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee

Camporee attendees learn and have fun at the North American Division Office of Education's Creation Station, located in Energy Hall at CAM-PLEX.

August 21, 2024 | Gillette, Wyo. | [Martha Ban \(https://www.nadadventist.org/nad_directory/staff/martha-ban\)](https://www.nadadventist.org/nad_directory/staff/martha-ban).

The 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming, was a vibrant event, drawing approximately 33,000 Pathfinders, young and old, with a passion for learning, to the North American Division Office of Education's Creation Station, located in Energy Hall at CAM-PLEX. The station was a hub of activity, offering patches, prizes, and scholarships that added to the fun.

Artie the Dinosaur, Southwestern Adventist University's animated model T-Rex, and the highly sought-after NAD pins attracted a great deal of attention. The NAD Education booth, formed by back-lit panels depicting the seven days of creation, was a popular spot where visitors could receive one of the five NAD pins (Bermuda, Canada, Guam-Micronesia, NextGen Leader, or United States) and an Adventist Education Believe the Promise patch.

NAD Education also introduced a Guinness World Record attempt. The [camporee made history on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. \(https://www.nadadventist.org/news/record-broken-needs-met-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee\)](https://www.nadadventist.org/news/record-broken-needs-met-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee), by setting a world record for the most people simultaneously filling backpacks with school supplies.



A replica dinosaur skeleton is one of the standouts among the education exhibits in Energy Hall at the Believe the Promise International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming. Photo: Cerron Pollard

According to Hannah Ortman, an adjudicator for Guinness World Records, the goal was to surpass 250 participants, each of whom had to pack at least one backpack with five items independently. Camporee attendees packed a total of 255 Pathfinders backpacks. After breaking the record the packers continued until 6,200 bags were stuffed with supplies.

The colorful backpacks, filled with a variety of school supplies and outreach materials tailored to different grade levels, will be distributed within the Gillette community through the city's Blessings in a Backpack program and the Salvation Army. The remaining backpacks will be distributed by Pathfinder clubs in their local communities.

Key supporters of this initiative, including ADRA, [Adventist Community Services](https://www.communityservices.org/) (<https://www.communityservices.org/>), NAD vice president for evangelism's office, the NAD's union education departments, and renewable energy company Circuit Electric Solar, were excited to participate in a project that would set a new record and benefit students on their educational journey.



Left to right: Ruth Horton, Lake Union Conference director of education, Nicole Mattson, Lake Union Conference associate director of education, and Ruth Nino, Columbia Union Conference assistant director for elementary education, pose at the NAD Office of Education's successful world record attempt for most backpacks stuffed simultaneously. This record was set on Wednesday, August 7, during the 2024 "Believe the Promise" International Pathfinder Camporee. Photo provided by NAD Office of Education

The Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (NAD Higher Education) also played a significant role at the camporee, collaborating to recruit, engage with Pathfinders, and plant seeds of interest in Adventist education. The following AACU institutions took part:

- AdventHealth University
- Andrews University
- Burman University
- Kettering College
- La Sierra University
- Loma Linda University
- Oakwood University
- Pacific Union College
- Southern Adventist University

- Southwestern Adventist University
- Union Adventist University
- Walla Walla University
- Washington Adventist University

Two international universities also joined the effort: Antillean Adventist University (Puerto Rico) and Sagunto Adventist University (Spain).

Through our AACU institutions, union education departments, and several of our academies, NAD Education provided more than 30 honors and activities at the Creation Station in Energy Hall. Honors were as wide-ranging as African-American Seventh-day Adventist history, Bible markings, blacksmithing, photography, and dinosaurs/fossils. Activities included the art of film-making, a climbing wall, basic rescue obstacle course, coding for kids using robots, a photo booth, doodling with Ms. De, first aid and fire safety, and of course, the backpack challenge.

Throughout the week, the energy generated by all the Pathfinders was palpable and made for an incredibly fun experience!



Pathfinders get ready to attempt world record for most backpacks stuffed simultaneously at the Believe the Promise International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming.

Photo by Dawin Rodriguez

Numbers Matter

A Look at the NAD Office of Education Camporee Offerings and Accomplishments

- 21 honors
- 33,000 Pathfinders
- 13 Adventist academies
- 13 NAD colleges/universities
- 2 international universities
- 1 Guinness World Record
- 39 booths
- 22 volunteers
- 9,200 NAD pins distributed
- 500+ NextGen Teacher patches taken

MOST POPULAR STORIES

[\(/news/southern-tidings-hosts-live-stream-show-camporee\)](/news/southern-tidings-hosts-live-stream-show-camporee) [Southern Tidings Hosts Live-stream Show at Camporee \(/news/southern-tidings-hosts-live-stream-show-camporee\)](/news/southern-tidings-hosts-live-stream-show-camporee).

To highlight stories from the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee in an efficient way, the Southern Tidings hosted two live-stream shows on YouTube from Tuesday through Friday (Aug. 6-9) called the “Gillette Breakfast Club.”

[\(/news/record-broken-needs-met-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee\)](/news/record-broken-needs-met-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee) [Record Broken, Needs Met at 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee \(/news/record-broken-needs-met-2024-international-pathfinder-](/news/record-broken-needs-met-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee)