

NEWS ARTICLES

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"Night at the Camporee" Brings a World Premiere to Gillette Community

One Wyoming city experiences a first for the International Pathfinder Camporee.

August 6, 2024 | Gillette, Wyo. | [Christelle Agboka](#)

(https://www.nadadventist.org/nad_directory/staff/christelle--agboka).



The community, invited to "Night at the Camporee" held at Cam-Plex Park in Gillette, Wy., on Sunday, August 4, 2024, offers them a sneak peek into programming for the "Believe the Promise" International Pathfinder Camporee. Photo: Cerron Pollard

For the past few years, since it was announced that the 2024 "Believe the Promise" [International Pathfinder Camporee](#)

(<https://www.nadadventist.org/news/more-60000-youth-set-camp-gillette->

wyoming-week-long-event-filled-learning-worship-and) was moving west to Gillette, Wyoming, the event has generated significant community interest and curiosity. After all, it's not every day that a city of about 34,000 sees 60,000 young people from 100 countries transform its CAM-PLEX Multi-Event Facilities into a tent and RV city.

Camporee leaders thus decided to host "Night at the Camporee," held August 4 at CAM-PLEX Park, to showcase the week's nightly events and thank Gillette for welcoming them. A rapt audience of more than 1,000 guests — mostly community members — enjoyed a short praise set, ending in the camporee theme song (<https://vimeo.com/963174607>). Then, they witnessed a premiere presentation of night one of the camporee's theatrical production based on the story of Old Testament character Moses.

Attendees were transported to another world through historical costumes, memorable songs, and relatable performances. The production depicted the unique events of Moses' birth and early childhood, setting the stage for his eventual calling to lead Israel out of captivity in Egypt. A repeated theme was that no matter the challenge, "our God will make a way."

In his welcome, camporee organizer and Center for Youth Evangelism director Ron Whitehead noted that while camporee attendees had enjoyed Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the past 20 years, Gillette had won them over. "We heard about Gillette; how special it is. And the more we saw, the more we fell in love with your community. So tonight's for you!" he said.



At "Night at the Camporee," Ron Whitehead, the camporee's executive director, thanks the Gillette community for welcoming the Pathfinders to town. Here, he is pictured with Gillette mayor, Shay Lundvall, giving him a miniature of the Moses sculpture designed by Victor Issa as a token of appreciation. Photo: Ronald Pollard

The audience cheered in appreciation as the final curtain closed and Whitehead shared that they had just seen a world premiere. He was then joined by artist Victor Issa, who [unveiled a sculpture \(https://www.nadadventist.org/news/victor-issa-unveils-clay-masterpiece-moses-life-miracles-set-amaze-august-2024-international\)](https://www.nadadventist.org/news/victor-issa-unveils-clay-masterpiece-moses-life-miracles-set-amaze-august-2024-international) he had created for the 2024 camporee. Titled "Moses: A Life of Miracles," its centerpiece is a dying Moses on Mount Nebo, longing to see God's face directly, surrounded by key scenes from his life, including the baby in the basket and the burning bush. Whitehead later noted the sculpture would remain in Gillette's beloved [Mount Pisgah cemetery \(https://www.nadadventist.org/news/international-pathfinder-camporee-offering-more-10000-hours-volunteer-service-gillette\)](https://www.nadadventist.org/news/international-pathfinder-camporee-offering-more-10000-hours-volunteer-service-gillette) post-camporee. Coincidentally, Mount Pisgah is another name for Mount Nebo.

Whitehead then welcomed Mayor Shay Lundvall and other civic and business leaders, accompanied by Pathfinders, to the nearly completed stage to thank them for their support. They each received a miniature of Issa's sculpture, representing excellence in leadership.

Lundvall, who plans to attend the nightly programs in person, later expressed, "My first thought [of the production] was, its scalability is unbelievable. We're blessed to have camporee here. We think it's great. My perspective is that, in terms of the world, we need more positivity like this. I'm excited you guys chose Gillette, and I look forward to meeting as many people as I possibly can."



The audience is captivated by scenes of Moses' early life at "Night at the Camporee," a world premiere of night one of the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee. Pictured are pharaoh's daughter and her handmaidens right before they discover baby Moses in the river. Photo: Cerron Pollard

As the evening wound down, Whitehead shared a few facts about Pathfinders (<https://www.clubministries.org/pathfinders/>), including that it started in the 1940s; it's a faith-based "Boy Scout/Girl Scout-type organization;" and, just like Coca Cola, "Pathfinders are everywhere." He added that while the Seventh-day Adventist Church sponsors Pathfinders, children from all faith backgrounds, or even no religious background, can and do join.

Whitehead extended an invitation to watch the program's live stream from Tuesday to Saturday night, August 6 to 11, on camporee.org (<http://camporee.org/>). When asked how they found the night, some community guests shared that they were highly impressed and planned to tune in every evening.

He then prayed for the "five-star community" and the camporee, emphasizing the theme's significance. "We believe the promise. We believe You love us unconditionally and look forward to Your return. And all the people said, amen. Have a great evening!"

For more information or to watch a live stream of the camporee's nightly mainstage programs, visit <https://www.camporee.org/> (<https://www.camporee.org/>).

MOST POPULAR STORIES

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

On Wednesday, August 7, 255 Pathfinders, leaders, and representatives from around the world came together to achieve one goal: becoming the largest group to ever simultaneously fill backpacks with school supplies in under five minutes. It was as fun as it sounds, though a greater purpose undergirds this unconventional activity.

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

[\(/news/adventist-education-shines-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee\)](#)Adventist Education Shines at the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee [\(/news/adventist-education-shines-2024-international-pathfinder-camporee\)](#).

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.