

https://www.gillette news record.com/news/local/article_2395f548-5b6c-5a56-867b-8624a0fcf651.html

FEATURED

Pathfinders set new world record for packing backpacks

By JONATHAN GALLARDO News Record Writer jgallardo@gillette news record.net
Aug 8, 2024

1 of 5



Pathfinders raise their hands up to signal that they've finished packing their backpacks during a world record attempt Wednesday afternoon.

News Record Photo/Jonathan Gallardo

The International Pathfinder Camporee set a world record Wednesday afternoon, and although it wasn't the record it had originally planned, it will still benefit thousands of students in Gillette.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, or ADRA, had donated 6,200 backpacks to Camporee for a world record attempt. The goal was to show the Pathfinders the importance of education while also helping students around the world, said Adam Wamack, manager for ADRA Connections.

Going into this week, the plan had been to break the Guinness World Record for most backpacks packed in one hour. The record was 6,026. Or it was, up until July 27.

A group in El Monte, California, packed 7,032 backpacks in an hour.

The logistics of ordering a thousand more backpacks in 10 days was impossible, said Nicole Mattson, associate director of education for the Lake Union Conference. So after talking with representatives from Guinness World Records, it was decided that a new record would be created for this event: Most backpacks packed simultaneously.

Sheila Kerinda, a Pathfinder from Minnetonka, Minnesota, said the world record is cool, but it's about much more than that.

"It's exciting that they're setting a world record, but with school opening up, you have to remind yourself that there's also some kids out there who don't have the supplies they need," she said. "It's very hard to imagine going back to school without those supplies."

It took a while for all 250 participants to get settled in and ready. But once they got started, it was over in a matter of seconds. When they were given the green light, the Pathfinders unzipped the backpacks, stuffed them with notebooks, colored pencils, highlighters and other school supplies and zipped them back up.

With the world record out of the way, the Pathfinders had to stay and pack the remaining 5,950 backpacks.

Out of the 6,200 backpacks, 4,000 of them will be distributed throughout the community through Blessings in a Backpack and the Salvation Army. The rest will be taken to various communities around the world.

Wamack welcomed any challenges at this new world record.

“Go on and break it, we’ll just break it again,” he said.

Jonathan Gallardo