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TOP STORY

Thousands of Pathfinders signed up for community service projects

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Volunteers assist with setting up a trailer Thursday morning. Trailers are being staged to surround the Pathfinders' main stage area. There are numerous volunteer projects lined up throughout Gillette during the week of the International Pathfinder Camporee.

News Record Photo/Susan Monaghan

While the International Pathfinder Camporee is in Gillette, it will hope to leave the community in better shape than when it arrived.

More than three dozen community service projects are planned from Tuesday through Friday. The Pathfinders will be cleaning up city parks, spending time with senior citizens and cooking and serving breakfast for veterans, along with many other projects.

Among the biggest projects they'll be doing is cleaning the headstones at Mount Pisgah Cemetery and picking up trash that blows off of trucks on their way to the landfill.

The Pathfinders will be supervised by their club leaders, and the projects will be led by a representative of the organization that requested the project. For example, with the trash pickup, Campbell County Public Works will provide Pathfinders with heavy duty plastic bags, gloves and grabbers.

Cindi Young, community service projects coordinator for Camporee, said between the Pathfinders and their club leaders, there are about 4,000 volunteers. All of the volunteer slots have been filled, but there's a long waiting list.

Young said she has about 2,500 Pathfinders who are on that waitlist, so if spots open up for whatever reason, there won't be a shortage of volunteers.

"We're very excited," she said. "We're very anxious to come and serve."

Campbell County Cemetery District

Cemetery cleanup (615 volunteers): The monuments and white vinyl veteran crosses at Mount Pisgah Cemetery accumulate hard water and mineral deposits from irrigation water. Pathfinders will be cleaning up the monuments and headstones, working in teams of two or three and making their way through different sections of the cemetery.

City of Gillette Parks Division

Planting seedlings along Donkey Creek (60 volunteers): Pathfinders will plant seedlings along Donkey Creek for beautification and to help prevent erosion.

Stain Fishing Lake boardwalk (106 volunteers): Pathfinders will stain the railings and deck of the boardwalk at Dalbey Memorial Park.

Transfer playground sand to volleyball court (120 volunteers): Pathfinders will dig out sand from the current playground in Dalbey Memorial Park, put it into wheelbarrows and take it to the volleyball court. Pathfinders will smooth out the new sand to freshen up the court. They will then replace the sand at the playground with an engineered wood fiber bark.

Weeding Sunflower Park (40 volunteers): Pathfinders will pull weeds around trees and in flower beds at Sunflower Park.

Cleaning up Dalbey Memorial Park (200 volunteers): Pathfinders will pick up trash, weed and rake around the Fishing Lake at Dalbey Memorial Park and along the Donkey Creek Pathway to Gillette College.

Mulching around trees (426 volunteers): Pathfinders will put mulch around trees at the Energy Capital Sports Complex and along the landscaped roadsides on South 4J Road.

Campbell County Conservation District

Cleaning up McManamen Park (40 volunteers): Pathfinders will be picking up trash around the lake. At completion, the Campbell County Conservation District will provide snacks and conservation education at the pavilion.

Council of Community Services

Food drive (216 volunteers): Pathfinders will go from house to house in selected neighborhoods to drop off information about a food drive for the Council of Community Services. Other Pathfinders will be taken to the food drop-off location to load donations, which will be taken to the council to be sorted and organized.

Gillette Rotary Club

Painting the concrete barriers at Dalbey Memorial Park (16 volunteers): Pathfinders will paint the concrete barriers that separate the parking lot from Rotary Point playground at Dalbey Memorial Park.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Sorting, packing and distributing food boxes (141 volunteers): A truck with 18,000 pounds of food will be unloaded, sorted and boxed by Pathfinders in family-sized boxes, which will be given out at a drive-thru.

Meadowlark Elementary School

Landscaping at Meadowlark Elementary (75 volunteers): Pathfinders will install landscape fabric, plant shrubs, and lay down bark in planters at the elementary school. They also will pick up trash and pull out weeds around the school.

Weeding and trash pickup (75 volunteers): Pathfinders will weed and pick up trash around Meadowlark Elementary and the surrounding area.

Primrose Retirement Community

Car wash (79 volunteers): Pathfinders will wash and hand-dry cars of the residents and staff at Primrose Retirement Community. The community also can bring cars in for a free wash.

Sweeping and washing garage floors (24 volunteers): Twice a year, the staff at Primrose Retirement Community of Gillette clean and wash the resident garage floors. Pathfinders will be able to do this for the fall by sweeping them out and then pressure washing the floors.

Primrose Senior Olympics (66 volunteers): With the Summer Olympics taking place in 2024, Primrose Retirement Community of Gillette is hosting its own Senior Olympics. Pathfinders will have the opportunity to assist the residents in participating in this three-day event.

Campbell County Rockpile Museum

Painting the museum's boxcar (15 volunteers): Pathfinders will give the historic boxcar a fresh coat of paint.

Campbell County Public Works

Litter pickup on North Garner Lake Road and North Gurley Avenue (164 volunteers): Pathfinders will pick up roadside litter on sections of these two roads. Campbell County Public Works Department will provide heavy duty plastic bags, gloves and grabbers. Once a bag is filled, Pathfinders will tie the top and place it off the roadway to be picked up by landfill staff. Water refills and bug spray will be provided.

Litter pickup on property next to North Landfill (311 volunteers): The high winds in Wyoming cause trash to be blown from the Campbell County Landfill onto adjacent properties. This new project has been requested by the Campbell County Public Works Department. They will provide heavy duty plastic bags and gloves for this service project.

Campbell County Senior Center

There are four different activities Pathfinders will be doing at the Senior Center, and with all four of them, they will be working on a time capsule with senior citizens. Pathfinders will answer a few questions about what state or country they are from, share a few things that are the same or

different when comparing Wyoming with their home state or country, and tell about the most important senior in the Pathfinder's life. These will be put into a time capsule.

Painting rocks with senior citizens (34 volunteers): Pathfinders will spend time at the Campbell County Senior Center painting rocks with acrylic paints and talking to seniors. Participants can choose to take them home or place them around Gillette for others to find.

Playing bingo with senior citizens (11 volunteers): Pathfinders will play bingo with the elderly at the Campbell County Senior Center.

Quilting hearts with senior citizens (33 volunteers): Pathfinders will work with seniors to attach ribbons, beads, lace and buttons to fabric hearts. These hearts can be placed around the community of Gillette or in the youth's hometown, to share a caring message of hope to those who find the hearts later.

Crocheting with senior citizens (33 volunteers): Pathfinders will learn from senior citizens about the basic stitches of crocheting using yarn provided by the Senior Center.

Wyoming Work Warehouse

Painting a logo on a new storage container at Wyoming Work Warehouse (48 volunteers): Pathfinders will paint and prime a storage container, as well as paint a logo on the container.

Downtown Gillette

Mural painting and sidewalk art in downtown Gillette (205 volunteers): Pathfinders will paint on a 4-by-48 foot mural depicting events in the founding of Gillette. They also will be creating chalk art on the downtown sidewalks.

Westwood High School

Cleaning up planters around Westwood High School (40 volunteers): Pathfinders will clean up the planters around the school by removing wood chips, installing landscape fabric and placing river rock on top.

Campbell County Veterans Council

Assembling care packages (16 volunteers): Items will be supplied for Pathfinders to assemble care packages for Wyoming active-duty military and retired veterans.

Delivering care packages to Wyoming veterans (13 volunteers): A van of Pathfinders will travel to the Veteran's Home of Wyoming in Buffalo to deliver care packages to the residents and spend time with them.

Veteran pancake brunch (46 volunteers): Pathfinders will help set up an appreciation brunch, cook pancakes and serve food to veterans, then clean up afterwards.

Gillette College

Clean Pronghorn Center bleachers, tables and chairs (36 volunteers): Pathfinders will clean the bleachers, tables and chairs at the Pronghorn Center, where the Camporee basketball tournaments will be held.

Clean tables and chairs at the college (50 volunteers): Pathfinders will clean the tables and chairs that are stored at the Tech Center and in the main campus building in preparation for the 2024 school year.

Clean the Pronghorns' buses and wash the college's vehicles (50 volunteers): Pathfinders will clean the inside of the team buses, including wiping down the seats and cleaning the windows. They'll also wash the college's fleet of vehicles.

Cleaning the High Plains Grill (20 volunteers): Pathfinders will clean the dining area tables and chairs at the High Plains Grill on the campus of Gillette College. Window cleaning will also be done.

Planting bulbs and plants around campus (100 volunteers):

Pathfinders will be provided with a variety of plants and bulbs to be planted around the campus of Gillette College. Small shovels and wheelbarrows will be provided.

Re-landscaping of plant and tree beds (25 volunteers): Pathfinders will work in the landscaped beds at the Nursing Center on Gillette College's campus to update them with fresh plants and trees.

Trash pickup at Gillette College (100 volunteers): After Pathfinders have used many buildings and outside spaces on the Gillette College campus for off-site activities during the week, they will pick up trash on the campus along Donkey Creek, sidewalks, parking lots, the main campus building and the Pronghorn Center and Tech Center.

Weeding at Gillette College (178 volunteers): Pathfinders will be weeding around several locations at Gillette College.

From Me to You Clothes Swap

Sorting donated clothing (10 volunteers): Pathfinders will bring bags and boxes of donated clothing from the shed into the "From Me to You Clothes Swap" building. Clothing will be sorted and put in assigned boxes by size and gender. The sorted clothing will be neatly put on hangers and transported on racks to be put out.

Besides these dozens of official community service projects, Pathfinders will be participating in other projects that will be done on-site at Cam-plex but will still benefit the community, including:

Building grow boxes for the Salvation Army

The North American Division is teaching the Carpentry Honor at Camporee. For the hands-on portion of the honor, Pathfinders will build 20 grow boxes for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army will assign these to

families and teach them how to grow their own food. After a growing season, the grow boxes will be assigned to another family.

Putting together hygiene kits

The North American Division of Adventist Community Services will have Pathfinders put together hygiene kits for distribution in the community. The Boys & Girls Club of Campbell County, Council of Community Services, Salvation Army, Wyoming Department of Family Services and the YES House have requested these hygiene kits.

Blood drive

Vitalant, a nonprofit blood services provider, will be collecting 150 units of blood to support hospitals in the area. It will be parked at Camporee for three days.

Donating reusable camping equipment and leftover food

Many Pathfinder clubs will pre-order and pick up their camping gear in Gillette and won't be able to take it with them when they return home. These camping items, as well as unopened food, will be placed in one of the donation trailers when exiting Cam-Plex at the end of Camporee. These items will be given to the Salvation Army to distribute in the community as needed.

Packing backpacks for local schools

More than 150 Pathfinders will try to break a world record by packing 6,200 backpacks with assorted school supplies in one hour. These backpacks will be donated to the community of Gillette, surrounding communities, and other areas with students in need.

Repurposing lumber into the Community

With displays, exhibits, activities, prayer walls, climbing walls and decorative entrances being built for Camporee, a lot of the lumber that was bought locally will be donated back to Gillette.

Wigs for Kids Cut-a-Thon

Wigs for Kids is a non-profit organization that provides wigs to children and teens experiencing hair loss due to medical conditions at no cost to them. If Gillette has children or teens that could benefit from this project, Pathfinders are already growing their hair out to be able to donate 12 inches for this purpose. Pathfinders will be working with True Colors Cosmetology School on this project.

Jonathan Gallardo