



# History of the Adventurer Club Ministries

The Adventurer program was created to assist parents in their important responsibilities as a child's primary teachers and evangelizers. The program aims to strengthen the parent/child relationship and further the child's development in spiritual, physical, mental, and social areas. In this way, the church and school can work together with the parent to develop a mature, happy child.

**1939** – In order to help children learn more about the Bible, health, and nature, and to help them develop their people skills, the General Conference, in 1939, endorsed the idea of the Adventurer classes of Busy Bee, Sun-beam, Builder, and Helping Hand. In the following years, these classes were primarily taught as part of the Adventist School system curricula, often as part of spiritual activities and worships.

**1972** – the Washington Conference sponsored a club for children called "Beavers," the forerunner of Adventurers, under the direction of Carolee Riegel.

**1975** – The Northeastern Conference is reported to have had a children's club concept program by 1975.

**1980** – by this year, many conferences were sponsoring a club for children, though having various titles, including "pre-Pathfinders," "Adventurers," or "Beavers."

**1988** – the North American Division Church Ministries Department invited interested conferences and child specialists to study and evaluate the Adventurer Club concept.

**1989** – A committee met to update the Adventurer curriculum, develop Adventurer awards, and write guidelines for the Adventurer Club organization.

**1990** – The Adventurer program piloting process began in the North American Division.

**1992** – The Adventurer program became a full-fledged program.

## THE COMMITTEE

### **Involved:**

Children's Sabbath School leaders, educational personnel, conference and union Children 'Ministries coordinators, and child and family specialists.

### **Chaired by:**

Norman Middag, the committee membership included Debra Brill, Terry Dodge, Sarah Fanton, Merrill Fleming, Joyce Fortner, Donna Habenicht, Jasmine Hoyt, Noelene Johnsson, Kathie Klocko, Barbara Manspeaker, Kathy Martin, Dixie Plata, Julia Raglin, Toini Shobe-Harrison, Emily Tillman, Claude Thomas, Ruth Walker, Al Williamson, and Bob Wong.

**The Adventurer curriculum**, written by Teresa Reeve, is designed as a vehicle for sharing and discovery in preparation for life here and in heaven.

Adventurer Club Ministry continues to grow in the North American Division with many churches supporting this important ministry for families with PreK - grade 4 children.

**Resource:** <https://www.clubministries.org/adventurers/adventurers-history/>