Pathfinder History in Brief:

1907 Missionary Volunteer Societies organized

1908 Junior Reading Course
   First MV Day, March 7 1909 Junior MV Societies organized

1911 MV Leaflet Series began

1922 JMV (now AJY) Progressive Classes introduced - Friend and Companion
   A. W. Spalding and Harriet Hold advocate basic idea of Pathfinder Clubs

1926 First junior camp held in USA (Town Line Lake, Michigan)

1927 Master Comrade (now Master Guide) officially approved

1928 Southern California's first youth camp, San Gabriel Canyon
   Vocational honors introduced

1929 "Pathfinder" name first used at a summer camp in Southeastern California

1930 Pre-JMV/AJY classes developed

1931 First Master Comrade Investiture

1932 First JMV Pathfinder Camp, Idyllwild, purchased

1938 Master Comrade Manual published

1946 First conference-sponsored Pathfinder Club (Riverside, California)
   Pathfinder Club emblem designed by John H. Hancock

1947 First North American Division Youth Congress as San Francisco

1948 Helen Hobbs makes the Pathfinder flag
   First area Pathfinder coordinators appointed (Central California Conference)

1949 Henry Bergh writes Pathfinder song

1950 General Conference authorizes JMV Pathfinder clubs for world field
   Pathfinder Staff Training Course and How to Start a Pathfinder Club booklet
   Explorer class added

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1951  First Pathfinder Fair, September 23, Dinuba, California
      Master Comrade changed to Master Guide
      Pathfinder Staff Manual published

1952  Pathfinder song copyrighted

1954  First Pathfinder Camporee, May 7-9, Idyllwild, California

1957  JMV Pathfinder Day added to church calendar

1960  First Union Camporee, April 11-14, Lone Pine, California

1962  MV Pathfinder Field Guide
      Pathfinder Drill Manual Published

1963  John Hancock elected World Pathfinder Director


1966  Pioneer Class added (later changed to Ranger)
      First North American MV Camp Directory published

1970  Pioneer Class name changed to Ranger (8th Grade)

1974  Pathfinder Staff Manual revised and expanded

1979  MV changed to AY (Missionary Volunteer --> Adventist Youth)
      JMV changed to AJY (Junior Missionary Volunteer --> Adventist Junior Youth)
      Pre-AJY changed to Adventurers (4 yrs. - 4th grade)

1980  Les Pitton elected NAD Youth Director
      MV Camp Directory changed to World Adventist Youth Camp Directory

1981  Pathfinders Sing Songbook published

1982  New Pathfinder World replaces MV World
      Voyager Class added
      NAD Pathfinder uniform revised

1985  Norm Middag appointed NAD Pathfinder Director
      First NAD Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Hale, Colorado
1987 Current NAD Pathfinder emblem designed by Norm Middag

1989 NAD Pathfinder Honors Manual revised, new honors added
Friendship Camporee in Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Columbia Union
New AY Classwork Curriculum integrated in Pathfinder curriculum
Adventurer Program becomes an independent program from Pathfinders

1993 Restructuring results in Office of Pathfinder Ministries

1994 "Dare to Care" International Pathfinder Camporee, August 2-6, Denver, Colorado

1995 Teen Leadership Training (TLT) Program established for training High school students (grades 9-12)
First Pathfinder Web Site established
First Pathfinder Club web page, Fort Worth Eagles, Fort Worth, Texas

1996 Basic Staff Training, Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA), & Pathfinder Instructor Award (PIA) curriculum developed

1997 Willie Oliver becomes NAD Director of Pathfinder & Camp Ministries
NAD Pathfinder Honors Manual revised, new honors added
NAD Pathfinder Staff Manual updated

1999 NAD Pathfinder Web Site established
Discover the Power International Camporee held in Osh kosh WI (USA) with an attendance of over 20,000.

2000 Elder James Black appointed to be NAD Youth Ministries director, overseeing Youth, Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Camp Ministries
Pathfinder Uniform changed to Black & Tan

2001 AY Honor Handbook adds 17 new Honors as well as several International Honors.

2003 NAD Youth Ministries develops Website Community ministering to Youth, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and Camping Ministries (YPAC).

2004 NAD Pathfinder Ministries under the leadership of James Black and Ron Whitehead hosts the Faith on Fire International NAD Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, WI (USA) with over 32,000 tickets sold, and close to 200 Pathfinders baptized at the event.

Read more about the history of Pathfinders in The Pathfinder Story by John Hancock. Available from AdventSource Catalog #000900.