

Pathfinder Leadership Initiative

for the April 2020 Camp



In 2018 the High Peaks Elite Distance Camp inaugurated the Pathfinder Leadership Initiative. The idea of giving experienced junior or senior male and/or female athletes, who have attended *at least one previous High Peaks Elite Camp*, an opportunity to become peer leaders at the High Peaks Elite Camp. The number of Pathfinder Leaders would be either three or four per camp, depending on how many Hiking Groups at that camp.

Their leadership roles would include:

1. assisting experienced coaches on hikes, [peer hiking leader]
2. assisting the coaches on runs [peer run leader]

In these roles, the Pathfinder Leader will be taking directions from an experienced coach, or coaches, whether out on a hiking trail or on the runs with other athletes. Acting as a leader in these roles would be similar, for example, to being a captain of the cross country team back home, but in this setting, the athlete would be a “camp captain” per se’.

One of our concerns is the separation of a few [the Pathfinder Leaders] from their peers, the other athletes. We do expect that the PL leaders will be inclusive of everyone, bringing everyone together harmoniously to encourage initiative with as many other athletes as possible. The key trait with the PL is shared responsibility and leadership.

Each of the Pathfinder Leaders would have the **Pathfinder patch** [embroidered] on a shoulder sleeve of the camp shirt. In addition, upon completion of the successful leadership at camp, the Pathfinder Leader will be given a \$25 Pathfinder Scholarship, and a handsome certificate of successful completion of his or her leadership at High Peaks Elite Camp. This **Pathfinder Leadership Certificate** can be used as evidence of leadership for a college resume’.

The Pathfinder patch has a long history with the US Army. In WW II, William Wheeler, a paratrooper from the 101st Air Borne Division, was the Pathfinder leader, the first to jump

onto Normandy Beach on D-Day. Since that time, the Pathfinder symbol has carried great significance and distinction with leadership in the U.S. Army. So it is with great pride the Pathfinder Leadership Initiative associates that distinction with the athletes chosen for camp leadership.

Within the camp website, on the Registration page, will be a separate section for the Pathfinder Leadership Initiative. To be chosen the following STEPS MUST BE MET:

1. The athlete is required to write an essay extolling his/her qualifications to be selected as a Pathfinder Leader. Send your completed essay to the Camp Director: Rick Guido by email: highpeakselite@gmail.com
2. An 11-question Leadership Rubric is required to be completed by one of the candidate's teachers.
3. Submission Instructions:
The Essay with the athlete's name must be emailed to the camp director, Rick Guido, highpeakselite@gmail.com.
The Leadership Rubric completed [confidentially] by the evaluating teacher, must be signed and dated, and mailed to the camp director, Rick Guido, 6 Timber Lane, Fairport, NY 14450.

TIME LINE: A Pathfinder Leadership promo will be displayed on the camp website's registration page [beginning early November], "Pathfinder Leadership Initiative became operational 15 December, 2017

4. All materials must be COMPLETED BY THE DEADLINES ESTABLISHED: A missed deadline likely would disqualify the application.
 - a. Each candidate's documents--Candidate's Essay and the Leadership Rubric by the evaluating teacher, ---must be submitted to the camp director by: **February 15, 2020** for the April camp and **May 15th** for the July camps Rick Guido, 6 Timber Lane, Fairport, NY 14450
 - b. Each Candidate's documents will be evaluated by the Pathfinder Leadership Initiative Selection Committee of camp coaches by: **March 1, 2020**
 - c. for the April Camp and **May 29th** for the July camps.
 - d. The athletes will be notified of the coaches' decision on the PL: **shortly thereafter.**