



# Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes

## Sanctuary



### Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thank you for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise.

Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. *(On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required)*

### Additional Reference Material

#### Acknowledgements

These notes were based on [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist\\_Youth\\_Honors\\_Answer\\_Book/Outreach/Sanctuary](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book/Outreach/Sanctuary)  
This has been a most useful source. Please be aware that any material on this site **or** any other site is beyond the control of the SPD.

# Sanctuary Honour

## INTRODUCTION

Leaders, thank you for sharing the important part that the sanctuary plays in giving an insight into what God has done for us humans in the past and the exciting things He has planned for the future. Encourage your students to check things out for themselves by referring to the relevant parts of the scriptures.

Making a physical layout of the sanctuary and its contents is a most useful exercise; whether it a scale model or a full size – a wonderful Sabbath exercise on a campout.

## REQUIREMENT 1: Describe and discuss the events leading up to the construction of the original sanctuary ie the Tabernacle in the Wilderness:

### a. What group of people were involved and what were they doing at the time?

Many centuries before, God made a special promise to the great man Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation and that the Redeemer would be a direct descendent.

Abraham's descendents certainly increased in number but things appeared to go horribly wrong as these people were enslaved by the Egyptians and were treated very badly.

However, God was always in control and He chose a leader called Moses to lead these people – the Israelites – to the Promised Land.

After a series of miracles, the Pharaoh of Egypt finally let the Israelites leave Egypt. God's power and love for His people was further demonstrated by more miracles – the parting of the sea and the destruction of the pursuing Egyptian army; the pillar of fire and cloud leading the way; the provision of food (manna) to name just some.

After about three months, the Israelites were led to Mount Sinai, where God issued the Ten Commandments and other laws. Here God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle.

### b. Why was it constructed?

This is best answered by checking out what the scriptures say: Exodus 25:8 *“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”* (NKJV)

### c. Who specified the design and the materials to be used?

Again this is best answered by the scriptures: Exodus 25:9. *“Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you”.* (NIV) For more details read Exodus 25: 10-40 and chapters 26 to 35.

### d. Where did the materials come from?

Exodus 36: 3 - 6. *“They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done.” Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary. And so the people were restrained from bringing more”* (NIV). For more information, read Exodus 35: 4-29.

### e. Who constructed it?

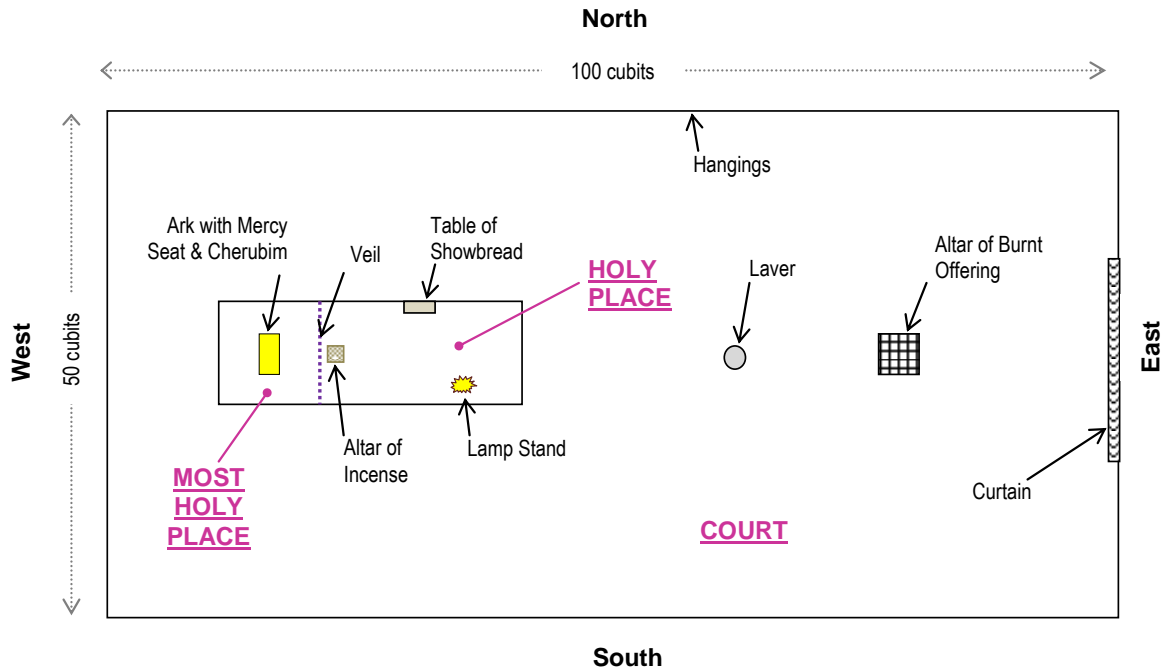
Ex 36:1-2 *“So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded. Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work.”* (NIV)

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## REQUIREMENT 2: Name the three parts of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness

The three parts were the Court, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place as shown in the following diagram (Information from SDA Bible Dictionary, Revised Edition 1979 p1083).

All dimensions and positions were specified by God. The unit of measure was the cubit (ie forearm) - the distance between the tip of a man's outstretched fingers to his elbow. There are a number of possibilities as to the exact size of a cubit. In today's measurements, one (1) metre (39.37 inches) is approximately 2 cubits. We will use this approximation throughout these Trainer's Notes. Thus the courtyard was approximately 50m by 25m.



### a. Tell what was in each part

- The Court: The Altar of Sacrifice (or Burnt Offering), the Laver
- Holy Place: Table of Showbread, Seven-branched Lamp Stand, Altar of Incense
- Most Holy Place: - Ark of Covenant, Mercy Seat, Cherubim

### b. Briefly describe each piece of furniture and tell what each represents

The features and dimensions were specified by God; however we do know exactly what each piece of furniture looked like. Although not required by this honour, making models of each item is a great Sabbath activity.

#### In the Court

- Altar of Sacrifice (See Ex 27: 1-8; 38:1, 2.)  
It was made of shittim (acacia) wood, overlaid with bronze; 5 cubits (2.5m) square and 3 cubits (1.5m) high. Bronze horns extended from each top corner. A bronze grate was inside the altar. There were rings on opposite sides of the altar, through which poles were inserted to transport it from place to place.

It represented Jesus' sacrifice (Heb 10:5-10)

Laver (See Ex 38.8; Ex 30:17-21.)

The laver (ie basin) was made of cast bronze made from metal mirrors which were donated by Israelite women. As an expression of cleansing, the priests were required to use the water contained in the laver to wash their hands and feet before ministering at the altar or entering the sanctuary.

It represented the cleansing from sin, a form of Baptism. (Rev 1:4,5; Rom 6:1-4)

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## In the Holy Place

- Table of Showbread (See Ex 25: 23-30).

It was constructed of shittim (acacia) wood overlaid with gold; its size being 2 cubits (1m) long, 1 cubit (0.5m) wide and 1.5 cubits (0.75m) high. It had features such as gold borders around the table top and gold rings at the top of each leg through which gold plated poles were inserted to carry the table. On the table were placed plates, dishes and pitchers of pure gold.

It represented Jesus, the Bread of Life (John 6:32-35)

Seven-branched Lamp Stand: (See Ex 25: 31-40)

It consisted of a base and a shaft with six branches, beaten out of a talent (about 34kg) of solid gold. The six branches curved to the height of the central shaft so that all seven lamps at their apexes were in a straight line. Only pure, consecrated olive oil was used as fuel.

It represented Jesus, Light of the world; Oil is the Holy Spirit. (John 8:12; Matt 25:1-13)

Picture:

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/Menorah\\_0307.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/Menorah_0307.jpg)



- Altar of Incense (See Ex 30: 1-10)

It was constructed of shittim wood overlaid with pure gold. Dimensions were 1 cubit (0.5m) square and 2 cubits (1m) high. It had horns of pure gold. As with the table of showbread, it was transported by gold-covered poles inserted through golden rings. With the exception of one day – the Day of Atonement – only incense was burnt on this altar. On the Day of Atonement the high priest, placed the blood of the atonement sin offering on the horns.

It represented prayers ascending to Heaven and the intercession and merits of Christ (Eph 5:2; Heb 7:25)

## In the Most Holy Place

- Ark of Covenant (See Ex 25: 10-22)

The Ark of the Covenant was the central object of all the furniture in the sanctuary. It was the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place which was separated from the Holy Place by a magnificently crafted veil – again made to God's instructions.

The Ark was a chest (or box). It was 2.5 cubits (1.25m) long, 1.5 cubits (0.75m) wide and 1.5 cubits (0.75m) high. It was made of shittim (acacia) wood which was overlaid, both inside and outside, with pure gold. It had a decorative border of pure gold, plus carrying rings of pure gold were attached to each side. Carrying poles – acacia wood covered in pure gold – were permanently inserted through the golden rings. The tables of stone on which God inscribed the 10 Commandments were stored in the Ark. Later, Aaron's rod that budded, and a pot of manna were added. In a pocket on the side of the ark Moses placed the ceremonial law.

A cover – the Mercy Seat (or atonement cover) was made to fit on the top. It was made of pure gold.

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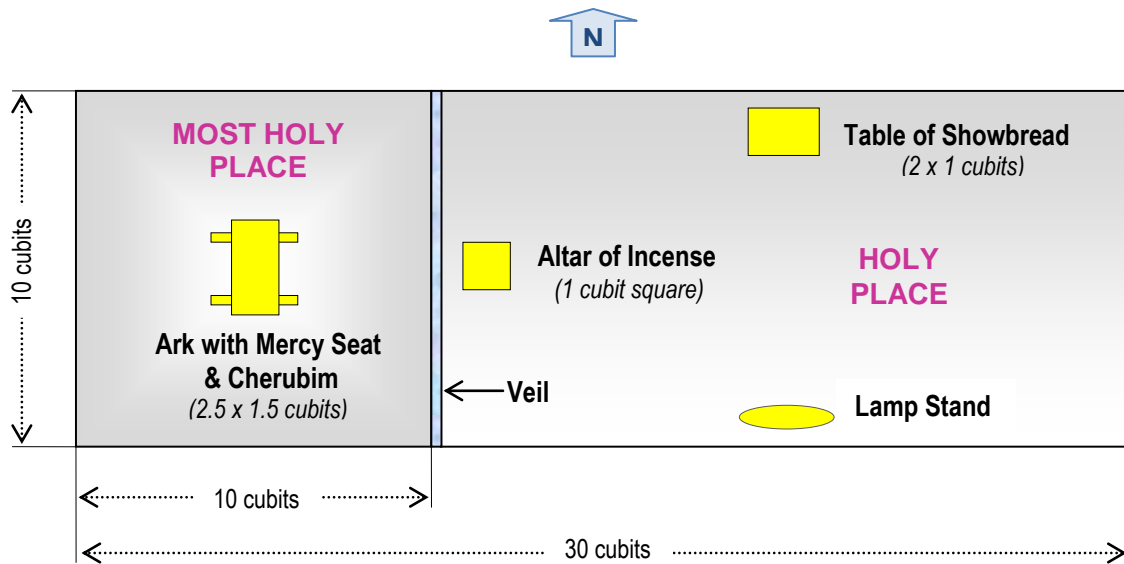
At each end of the cover was a cherub. Each was made of pure gold. The two cherubs faced each other with their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover between them. They looked down at the Mercy Seat.

God promised to dwell, or sit between the cherubim, on the mercy-seat. There He would give His law and hear supplicants as a prince on His throne.

In summary the following represented:

- Ark of Covenant: The presence of God (10 Commandments - Christ the end/purpose of the law (Rom 10:4). They are the character of God.
- Mercy Seat: Meeting Place (Heb 10:19-22) Mercy comes between God and the law)
- Cherubim: God's messengers (Heb 1:13,14)

**REQUIREMENT 3: Draw or construct a scale model of the sanctuary, the court yard and the position of all the furnishings. The scale model may be a group effort. Remember to add N, S, E and W.**



**REQUIREMENT 4: Starting in order from inside to outside, list each of the four coverings over the sanctuary and tell what each covering represented.**

See Ex 26:1-14

- Inner royal liner: It was made of red, blue and purple linens. Angels were embroidered in gold throughout the fabric. The inner royal liner represents Jesus. Red represents Christ's sacrificed life (John 3:16). Blue represents His obedience (1Peter 2:22). Purple represents royalty (Judges 8:26). Gold represents purity and love (Rev 3:18).
- Goat's hair: bleached white. The woven goat's hair represents Jesus' perfection and purity. (Heb 9:12-14)
- Ram's skin: dyed red. It represents the blood of Jesus. (Isa 63:1-3)
- Badger's skin: plain and brown. The SDA Bible Commentary and others note that the outer cover was made from the skin of the sea-cow or the dugong which was common around the Red Sea in those days, not that of the Badger of our modern times. The skin represents Jesus covered His divinity with humanity. (Isa 53:1,2)

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**REQUIREMENT 5: The following colours were used in the sanctuary and in the priests' clothing. Tell what each colour represented.**

- a. **Red:** Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:11, 12)
- b. **Blue:** Obedience (Numbers 15:38, 39)
- c. **Purple:** Royalty (John 19:1-3)
- d. **White:** Righteousness, Purity (Revelation 19:8)
- e. **Black:** Sin (1 John 1:5, 6)
- f. **Gold:** Divinity in Heaven (Job 22:25)
- g. **Silver:** Longing Desire (John 4:34)
- h. **Brass:** Divinity clothed in humanity on Earth (Philippians 2:5-8 - Fully God and fully man - Amalgamated) Brass is a dim reflection of gold.

**REQUIREMENT 6: Discuss and memorize 1 John 1:9, Daniel 8:14, and Exodus 25:8.**

**1 John 1:9** – *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (NKJV)*

**Daniel 8:14** – *“And he said to me, ‘For 2,300 days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’” (NKJV)*

**Exodus 25:8** – *“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” (NKJV)*

**REQUIREMENT 7: The priests were from which of the 12 tribes of Israel? Why?**

They were from the tribe of Levi. They had refused to bow down and worship the golden calf. (See Ex28:1; Ex 32:25-26).

**REQUIREMENT 8: Describe the attire of:**

**a. The common priest**

The common priests wore linen breeches as an undergarment. The garments were woven of one piece, spotless and without any blemish. All the regular priests wore a plain, white linen robe and turban. They always removed their sandals before entering the Sanctuary. (See Exodus 28:40-43)

**b. The high priest**

Like all priests he wore linen breeches as an undergarment. The garments were woven of one piece, spotless and without any blemish. Next to the undergarment, he wore an embroidered linen coat, again woven of one piece of fabric. The coat was decorated with embroidery. The coat was tied with an embroidered girdle. Over this the High Priest wore a one-piece sleeveless solid blue robe on which hung tinkling little golden bells and bright pomegranates.

The ephod, a shorter garment of gold, blue, purple and scarlet, and fine twined linen, was worn outside the blue robe. The ephod was fastened at the shoulders with two onyx stones, on each were engraved the names of the six of the tribes of Israel.

On the ephod the High Priest wore a breastplate made of two pieces of fabric fastened together. In the breastplate, next to the heart of the High Priest, were two onyx stones called the Urim and the Thummim, through which God made known His will.

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On the outside of the breastplate were 12 precious stones. They were arranged in one row under another in four rows of three. Their sequence, from left to right and from top to bottom were: sardis (brownish red), topaz (yellow to yellowish red), carbuncle (red), emerald (clear green), sapphire (deep blue), diamond (sparkling clear), jacinth (bright yellow), agate (delicate blue), amethyst (violet), beryl (green-yellow), onyx (bright yellow), jasper (red, brown, or yellow).

On his head, a mitre or crown, fastened to the forefront of it with a ribbon of blue, was a plate of pure gold on which was engraved the inscription 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' (Exodus 28:4-39 and 39:1-31)



Picture: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Kohen\\_Gadol\\_vestments.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Kohen_Gadol_vestments.jpg)

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**REQUIREMENT 9: Read and discuss The Great Controversy page 488 and Hebrews 4:14-16.**

**The Great Controversy, page 488:**

*The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of days.*

*All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very centre of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asks them a reason of the hope that is in them.*

**Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)**

- 14 *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.*
- 15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*
- 16 *Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**REQUIREMENT 10: What kinds of animals were brought daily to the court yard?**

A young bull, rams, heifers, lambs, goats, and pigeons or doves were brought to the sanctuary daily. All were ceremonially clean, without spot or blemish. (See Lev chapters 1-7 also John 1:29)

**REQUIREMENT 11: Read Patriarchs and Prophets pages 343-358 then write a paragraph or tell how you see Christ represented in the sanctuary and its services.**

This is a personal requirement and no doubt folks will see things differently. Young students are likely to have difficulty expressing their thoughts eloquently.

A discussion in a small group is most useful. In the context of this honour, some useful discussion points are:

- What is sin? Where did it really originate? What can we do about it? What has God done about it and what is He doing about it.
- God's desire to 'dwell among' His people, the Israelites.
- The sacrifices of 'unblemished' animals and Jesus death on the cross.
- The 'escape hatch' –so to speak - that is available to us when we sin.
- The wonders of heaven.