

OVERVIEW

The Master Guide (MG) curriculum has undergone key structural and content changes between 2015 and 2024. The updates reflect increased focus on leadership identity, community engagement, spiritual development, and alignment with North American Division (NAD) strategic initiatives, including risk management and mentoring.

1. PREREQUISITES

Category	2015 Curriculum	2024 Curriculum
Church Membership	Baptized SDA in regular standing	Same
Age Requirement	At least 16 years old to begin, 18 to complete	Same
Recommendation	Not explicitly required	Written recommendation from church pastor, elder, or clerk
Background Check	Not explicitly required	Required per Conference child protection policies
Initial Reflection	Not required	One-page report or 2-minute video on desire to become MG
Pre-Training Certification	Pathfinder or Adventurer Basic Staff training	Expanded to include Youth Ministry Intro option

2. LEADERSHIP IDENTITY & GROWTH (WISDOM)

Element	2015 Curriculum	2024 Curriculum
Workshops	Leadership, Communication, Evangelism, etc.	8 specific workshops: Vision, Leadership, Discipline, Youth Evangelism, Worship, Communication, Education, Creative Instruction
Reading: Ellen White	<i>Education</i> by Ellen White	Same + 2 Share Section options
Reading: Leadership Book	Conference-approved	Same + 2 Share Section options
Inventories	Not specified	Spiritual Gifts and Temperaments + Share Section
Staff Experience	One year in club ministry	Options expanded: ABG/PBE coach, Sabbath School teacher, club staff
Meetings & Teaching	Staff meetings attendance, teaching awards/honors	Same
Storytelling	Optional or integrated	Christian Storytelling honor required

3. LIFESTYLE DEVELOPMENT (STATURE)

Element	2015 Curriculum	2024 Curriculum
Physical Activity	Honor or personal program	Three options: earn/teach Physical Fitness, Sportsman, or doctor-recommended plan
Required Honors	Basic Water Safety, Camping Skills, etc.	Specific required: Basic Water Safety, Camp Safety, Camping Skills I-II, Temperance
Elective Honors	Several, any 3 from 10+ options	Same number, but clearly defined list including Backpacking, Orienteering, Nutrition, etc.
First Aid Certification	Required	Red Cross or equivalent required

4. SPIRITUAL GROWTH (FAVOR WITH GOD)

Element	2015 Curriculum	2024 Curriculum
Bible Reading	Desire of Ages & Gospels	Options: Gospels + Desire of Ages/Humble Hero OR Encounter Plan Series 1
Devotional Life	Encouraged	One-month journal required
Fundamental Beliefs	Understanding	One paragraph reflection on each of the 28 beliefs
Teaching Bible Beliefs	Not defined	Teach 3-month Bible class or 5 specified beliefs
Sanctuary Focus	Encouraged	Choose: Sanctuary honor or approved workshop
Adventist Heritage	Optional	Options: Pioneer Heritage honor, Tell the World, Keepers of the Flame, or approved book

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FAVOR WITH MAN)

Element	2015 Curriculum	2024 Curriculum
Leadership Skills	Encouraged via honors	Read a book on leadership + honors
Required Honors	Personal Evangelism, etc.	Required: Personal Evangelism + 3 from new list (e.g., Social Media, Cultural Diversity)
Social Events	Optional	Plan 3 church social/fellowship events
Community Service	Minimum hours or event	Expanded: 3 options including working with ACS/ADRA or disaster training

6. PORTFOLIO AND DOCUMENTATION

Element	2015 Curriculum	2024 Curriculum
Portfolio	Required	Required with more detail: includes Share Section, reflection pieces, proof of service
Timeframe	Minimum 1 year, max 3 years	Same
Final Review	Club/Conference approval	Final portfolio review by Conference + current background check

7. SHARE SECTION (NEW IN 2024)

Activity	Description
Inspirational Cards	Write 3 cards for non-church friends
Digital Sharing	Post quotes or summaries online
Evangelism Concepts	Share concepts or devotionals with group
Creative Option	Conference-approved sharing format

SUMMARY OF KEY DIFFERENCES

- Greater emphasis on structured mentorship and spiritual reflection.
 - Portfolio expectations expanded with detailed Share Section.
 - Increased specificity in required honors and electives.
 - Introduction of digital evangelism and cultural diversity content.
 - Risk management and child protection are now emphasized.
-

For further information, consult your Conference Youth Director or visit AdventSource.org for updated training resources.