



Cool Contests

It never fails—announce a contest and watch kids light up! Daily contests run in one of three ways. Decide which option best suits your situation and plan accordingly.

Individual Effort

Each child earns points daily for the following:

- Attendance
- Learning the daily memory verse
- Bringing a visitor
- Participating in the daily special contest (see specifics below)
- Doing the daily Go and Do section in the Student Guides

These points are tallied, and the child receives a prize if he or she reaches a certain point total.

Team Effort

Kids earn points as above, but all the points are tallied and scored for the whole team instead of each individual. When the team reaches a certain point total, they receive a special prize.

Another option for team effort is to tally the team points daily and award prizes to the top one or two teams. Group guides can use their team rosters to keep track of points.

Whole Group Effort

All the children in VBS work together to reach a certain number of points. If they reach the goal, they receive a prize. This could be something for them or for someone else, such as a special gift given to a mission organization.

Other Contest Info

- Send the Student Guide home daily and encourage the kids to do the Go and Do sections. They will receive 1,000 points for each Go and Do they complete. They do not have to bring these back. Just take their word for it.
- Our test churches include the Pre-Primaries in the contests, but they don't keep score for that age group because they don't really understand or care about the points. They just enjoy the fun of everything.

- Kids can receive points for attending VBS, bringing a friend, learning each memory verse plus bonus memory verses, doing their Go and Do sections, and participating in the daily contests. The daily contests are as follows:

DAY 1—GUESS THE RAINBOW SKITTLES

Prepare a see-through jar with rainbow-colored Skittles candy. Count how many are in the jar and write the number on a piece of masking tape. Put the tape on the inside of the lid and put the lid on the jar. Place the jar, some slips of paper for kids to write their guesses on, some pens, and a small basket somewhere near your assembly area. At any point in the day when they are passing by, each child can write their guess (just one guess per person) and name on a slip of paper and put it in the basket. Have an adult figure out whose guess is closest and award the jar to that person during the closing assembly or at the next day's opening assembly.

DAY 2—GROUP SPIRIT DAY

Each group comes up with a group cheer, song, motion, or sign. Or they can each wear something depicting their group. For example, if a group's name is Golden Eagles, everyone wears something gold.

DAY 3—DRESS-UP DAY

Everyone dresses up in any attire related to the VBS theme—shepherds, farmers, farm animals, Irish animals, Vikings, King David, or other Irish-themed costumes.

DAY 4—BIBLE CHALLENGE

Have kids take home the [Bible Challenge Sheet](#) on Day 3 and bring it back completed on Day 4. Encourage them to use either an online Bible or a print Bible in ESV or KJV, depending on which version you are handing out.

DAY 5—MISSION MONEY MANIA

Encourage everyone to bring in their final mission money today. Double points for anyone who brings in any amount.

Suggested Prizes

If you are interested in giving out prizes for any of the contests or for anything else, here is a list of items available from AnswersBookstore.com.

- Tubular bandanas (1231520; 1231530; 1231540; 1231550; 1231560)
- Wristbands (1230830)
- Stickers (1230880)
- Puzzles (1230940)
- Water bottles (1230810)
- Pencils (1230850)
- Carabiners (1230820)
- Pens (1230860)
- Puffy stickers (1231430)
- Child backpacks (1231440)
- Notepads (1231460)
- Scratch art (1231470)
- Squishy Highland cows (1231490)

You can also check online retailers, such as Oriental Trading Company (OrientalTrading.com) and Rhode Island Novelties (RINovelty.com), for inexpensive bulk prizes and local discount retailers that sell individually wrapped candy or other edible treats in bulk. Some prize possibilities include lamb bouncy balls, sticky shamrocks, green glow sticks, shamrock rings, green bubble tubes, mini squishy farm animals (especially cows or sheep), border collie Squishmallows, shamrock necklaces, mini green footballs, shamrock water bead squeeze balls, sheep key chains, potato squishies or stress balls, mini Highland cow figurines, Highland cow plush backpack clips, assorted Irish stickers, shamrock lollipops, shamrock silicone wristbands, green play dough, rainbow slap bracelets, mini rainbow erasers, rainbow silly straws, mini farm character bendables, barnyard animal stampers, wool felt balls, orange and green mini inflatable balls, cheese squeeze toys, and green yo-yos.

Fun Candies

Candy can be used as prizes too. Here are some thematic possibilities.

- Gold coins
- Rainbow Skittles
- Rainbow Sour Straws
- Rainbow Twizzlers
- Rainbow Airheads
- Peppermint sticks (shepherds' staffs)
- Andes Mints
- Toffee
- Cadbury Dairy Milk Chocolate
- Tootsie Roll Lime Fruit Chews