



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)

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.

The [Resource Download](#) contains a sample team roster.

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, learning each memory verse plus bonus memory verses, and participating in the daily contests. The daily contests are as follows:

DAY 1—GUESS THE BEETLE BUGS

Prepare a see-through jar with “beetle bugs” (M&M’s). 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 name and guess 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—TEAM SPIRIT DAY

Start jammin’ in the jungle as each team comes up with a team cheer, song, motion, or sign. Or they can each wear something depicting their group. For example, if a group’s name is Green Parrots, everyone wears something green.

DAY 3—YAD SDRAWKCAB

Everyone wears their clothes backwards, mixed-up, upside-down, or inside-out. Any confusing combination works!

DAY 4—7 C’S SCAVENGER HUNT

Have kids take home the [7 C’s Scavenger Hunt](#) ([Answers-VBS.com/junglresources](#)) and bring it back completed tomorrow. 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

Make our jungle jingle by bringing in 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 prizes available from AnswersBookstore.com.

- Tubular bandanas (12-1-152; 12-1-153; 12-1-154; 12-1-155; 12-1-156)
- Wristbands (12-1-083)
- Stickers (12-1-088)
- Puzzles (12-1-094)
- Water bottles (12-1-081)
- Pencils (12-1-085)
- Cube keychains (12-1-082)
- Pens (12-1-086)
- Puffy stickers (12-1-143)
- Child backpacks (12-1-144)
- Notepads (12-1-146)
- Scratch art (12-1-147)
- Foam figure (12-1-149)

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 bulk, individually wrapped candy or other edible treats. Some prize possibilities include rainforest animal pencil wrap erasers; rainforest friends finger puppets; rainforest TOOB animals; stretchable flying monkeys or frogs; neon monkey bendables; stuffed or plastic animals (monkeys, frogs, bears, tigers, snakes, sloths, flamingos); mini umbrella hats; tropical bird gliders; tropical stick pens; tropical bird sticker sheets; sloth bendables; watch-it-grow sloth water toy; sequin butterfly masks; sticky snakes; fruit mochi squishies; candy, such as gummy bears, frogs, or snakes; chocolate or vanilla anything (chocolate and vanilla both originate in the rainforest).