



Cool Contests

It never fails—announce a contest, and watch kids light up! At *Ocean Commotion* there will be daily contests running 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
- Learning the daily bonus memory verse (your choice)
- 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. The Resource DVD-ROM contains a roster on which to tally the points.

Team Effort

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

Another option for team effort is to tally the team points and award prizes to the top one or two teams daily.

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.

Daily Special Contests

The suggested daily special contests are outlined below. Communicate these clearly the day before each occurs so the children know what they are to do to earn points. (The exception to announcing the contests the day before is the first one, which you'll announce in the Day 1 opening assembly.)

Day 1: Goldfish Guess

Find a plastic, see-through container and fill it with fish-shaped crackers. Count how many are in the container, and write the total on a piece of masking tape. Put the tape on the inside of the lid for safe keeping. The first day of VBS, place the jar in a high traffic spot, along with markers, slips of paper to write guesses on, and a sand pail to put the papers in. (Make sure names are on the papers!) Announce in the opening that the contest will be going on throughout the VBS day and that the winner will be announced in

the closing assembly. Allow kids to enter their guesses throughout the VBS day—one per person. Before the closing assembly, figure out who came closest to the actual number. Announce the winner in the closing assembly and have the winner take the jar! Anyone participating in this contest by putting in a guess gets credit on the team roster.

Reminder: Make sure to announce Day 2's contest during the Day 1 closing assembly so they can work on it at home before the start of Day 2!

Day 2: Club Cheers

Have the kids make up songs, posters, cheers, or chants to show their club spirit. They can share these during the opening or closing assembly. Anyone participating in this contest should get credit on the team roster.

Reminder: Announce Day 3's contest during the Day 2 closing assembly.

Day 3: Animal Dress Up Day

Dress up day is always a favorite! Kids can dress up as animals (animal headband or hat, animal print bandana, animal costume, etc.). Or they can also dress up as Noah and family (Bible time dress up clothes), or in construction gear (play hard hats, play toolbelts, etc.). Anyone who wears anything thematic (even if it's just a headband or something small) gets credit on the team roster for participating in today's contest.

Reminder: Announce Day 4's contest during the Day 3 closing assembly. Pass out the Scripture Look Up sheet (see Resource DVD-ROM) and remind them to bring it back completed tomorrow.

Day 4: Scripture Look Up: Thankful Verses

For the Scripture Look Up, challenge the kids to see if they can find verses that have to do with thankfulness. (See the Resource DVD-ROM). Anyone participating in the challenge gets credit on the team roster.

Reminder: Announce Day 5's contest during the Day 4 closing assembly.

Day 5: Mission Money

Bring in your final mission offering today. No amount is too big or too small! Anyone participating in this contest should get credit on the team roster.

Suggested Prizes

A small sampling of available prizes includes the following (available from answersbookstore.com):

- Tubular bandanas (11-4-152; 11-4-153; 11-4-154; 11-4-155)
- Silicone bracelets (11-4-083)
- Stickers (11-4-088)
- Puzzles (11-4-094)
- Water bottle holder (11-4-081)
- Pencils (11-4-085)
- Carabiner (11-4-082)
- Pen (11-4-086)
- Flying disks (11-4-157)
- Umbrella Hat (11-4-158)

Check online with retailers such as Oriental Trading Company (orientaltrading.com) and Rhode Island Novelty (rinovelty.com) for inexpensive, bulk prizes such as the following. Also check with local discount retailers that sell bulk, individually wrapped candy or other edible prizes.

- Sand pails and shovels
- Individual packs of fish-shaped crackers
- Seashells
- Gummy sharks or worms
- Blue glow sticks
- Blue squish balls
- Salt water taffy
- Go Fish cards
- Swedish fish
- Splash balls or sponge balls
- Squirt guns
- Goggles
- Mini or regular-sized beach balls
- Rubber ducks
- Beach tote bags
- Plush ocean animals
- Sunglasses
- Animal masks
- Animal puppets
- Christian stickers