



Oceans of Fun Carnival

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome trip to the ocean, so what better way to get the word out than to host your very own promo carnival? This is a great event to hold two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Oceans of Fun Carnival will be a good time, filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by mailing or handing out "You're invited to the Oceans of Fun Carnival!" invitations (see Resource DVD-ROM) to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your carnival, check the following pages. (Activities are also on the Resource DVD-ROM.)

Note: Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

Set Up

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multi-purpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (item 11-4-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table. Stretch a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A more simplified approach is to section off areas with rope or sidewalk chalk to make individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play the VBS music CD.

Staffing

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or theme-related clothing (sun hats or visors, sunglasses, etc.).
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

Registration

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra Oceans of Fun Carnival master tickets on bright cardstock. (See Resource DVD-ROM.) Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked at each location.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See registration forms on Resource DVD-ROM.)

Activities and Games

Note: Many of the games need a starting line, which can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, or chalk.

Shark "Scents"

SUPPLIES

- » Small photo canisters or cups with various spices and other strong-smelling items in them, one item per container

DIRECTIONS

- » Put a small amount of a distinct-smelling item in a container. Make 5–10 containers with covers (lids or foil), making sure they aren't see through but that they have holes in them so the child can smell what's inside. Suggestions can include lemon juice, pickle juice, ground cinnamon, onions, rose petals, grass, baby powder, baby food, etc.
- » Explain that God made sharks to live in the ocean and have a powerful sense of smell. In fact, their sense of smell is much better than ours!
- » Players try to smell some items and see how well their sense of smell is. Smell each container and guess what's inside.
- » Give one prize ticket for each correct guess.



Make-Your-Own Bubble Wands

SUPPLIES (FOR MAKING A BIG BATCH OF BUBBLE MIX)

- » Buy store-bought bubble mix or make your own (recipe to follow)
- » 6 c. water/distilled water
- » 1 c. Dawn or Joy dishwashing liquid
- » ¼ c. corn syrup
- » Throw pans
- » Pipe cleaners for kids to make bubble wands
- » Small plastic cookie cutters
- » Zippered baggies, 1 per child (to take their wands home in)

DIRECTIONS

- » Mix the water, dishwashing liquid, and corn syrup. Put the bubble mix in throw pans.
- » Kids will make their own wands for dipping. They can use cookie cutters and shape one pipe cleaner around it to get a star or a circle or some other shape, or they can just make a shape without using the cookie cutters. Once the shape is made, attach it to the top of another pipe cleaner with a few twists. Dip the Make-Your-Own bubble wands in the bubble mix and make bubbles! Take home any left over if you can seal it so it won't spill.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.



Fishy Face Painting

SUPPLIES

- » Face paints
- » Wet wipes
- » Face Painting Reference Chart (see Resource DVD-ROM)

DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the children's faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart. Talk to them about some of the amazing fish God created. Check answersingenesis.org/kids for more information!
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.



Origami Boats

SUPPLIES

- » Origami boat pattern/directions (see Resource DVD-ROM)
- » 8½x11 copy paper, 1 sheet per child

DIRECTIONS

- » Demonstrate step-by-step how to make a paper boat. Have the kids do each step with you as you demonstrate. Take the boat home!
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.



Win the Worms

SUPPLIES

- » A large plastic jar with lid
- » Gummy worms (sour or regular)
- » Paper and pens
- » Sand pail to put the guesses in

DIRECTIONS

- » Before the event, put the gummy worms in a large plastic jar. Tape a paper inside the lid that tells the number of gummies in the jar.
- » Explain that the worms we see in our yards can't hear or see, but they feel vibrations as they move along the ground. But there are also worms that live in the ocean. They're called giant tube worms, and they can be up to 10 feet long! They live by deep sea vents that are extremely hot—boiling hot, in fact! They are amazing creations of God!
- » Have each child look at the jar and write a guess of how many gummy worms are in the jar. Make sure each child has his name on the paper. Put guesses in the sand pail.
- » At the end of the carnival or during the opening assembly the first day of VBS reveal the answer. The person whose guess is the closest receives the jar.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.
- » Note: Substitute other ocean-themed candies in place of worms if you'd rather, such as gummy sharks or Swedish fish.



Dino Dig

SUPPLIES

- » Baby pool with play sand in it
- » Small plastic dinosaurs
- » Wipes/towels for clean up

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, hide the dinos in the sand.
- » Explain that land dinos were made by God on Day Six of Creation. Some were quite large, but the average size was that of a large cow!
- » Players enjoy digging for the dinosaurs in the sand.
- » Give each child one dino of his choice as a prize and also a ticket for completing this activity.



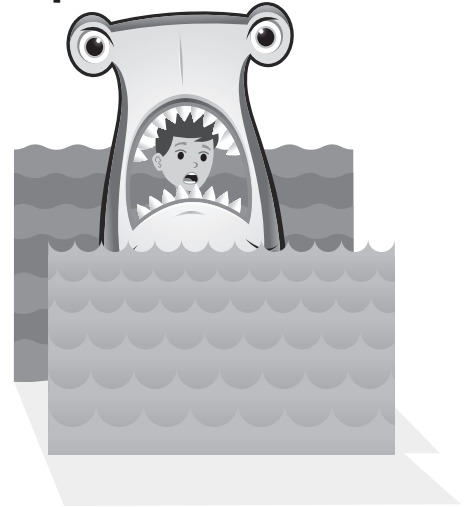
Shark Bite Photo Spot

SUPPLIES

- » Photo booth backdrop (see Resource DVD-ROM, 11-4-127)
- » Optional: Wave panels
- » Dress-up props such as pretend scuba gear or beachy shorts and shirts, sunglasses, and hats
- » Camera

DIRECTIONS

- » Explain that sharks are an incredible creation of God's. There are over 400 different types of sharks. A hammerhead is one that is well known. They never run out of teeth! If they lose one, another one grows in its place!
- » Children dress up and get behind the backdrop, as if inside the shark's mouth. They should make a shocked/scared face. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the carnival or later) to give to them.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.



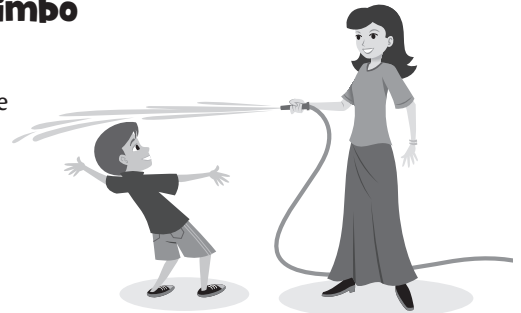
Lagoon Limbo

SUPPLIES

- » Garden hose with running water

DIRECTIONS

- » Turn on the water stream and hold it so the stream of water is going across in a straight line, up high. Have the child go under the water stream.
- » Try again, this time with the water stream a little lower.
- » Keep moving the water stream down lower and lower as the child tries to get under the water stream. See how low he can go!
- » Give one ticket after completing this activity.



Penny Drop

SUPPLIES

- » Large clear plastic bowl filled with water
- » Small glass jar sitting on the bottom of the large plastic bowl of water
- » Pennies



DIRECTIONS

- » Players stand over the bowl of water and try to drop pennies into the small glass jar that is within the large bowl.
- » Give one ticket for each successful penny drop.

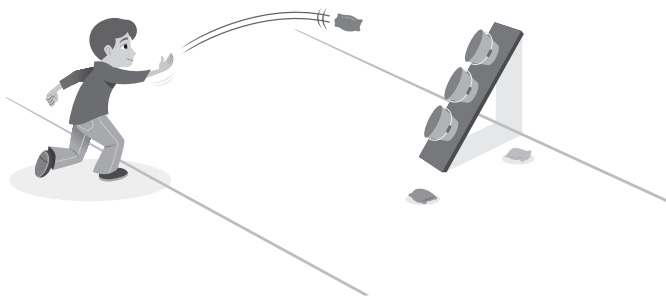
Beachy Keen Buckets

SUPPLIES

- » 3–4 sand buckets with bottoms nailed to a board
- » Beanbags or plastic rubber ducks

DIRECTIONS

- » Prop the board against a wall or tree.
- » If using rubber ducks, explain that God gave ducks special feet with webbing that work kind of like paddles. The webbing allows them to push a lot of water faster and more forcefully, which in turn helps them swim faster and better. Ducks live all over the world, except in Antarctica!
- » Players have 3 or 4 tries to get the beanbags or rubber ducks into any of the sand buckets.
- » Give one prize ticket for each beanbag/duck that lands in a bucket.



Flip Flop Frisbee



SUPPLIES

- » 1 flip flop
- » 2 or more flying discs (11-4-157)

DIRECTIONS

- » Put the flip flop at a distance from the start line.
- » Two or more players should play at a time. Each one throws the flying disc. The one who gets it the closest to the flip flop wins.
- » Give three prize tickets to the winner. Give one to the other players.

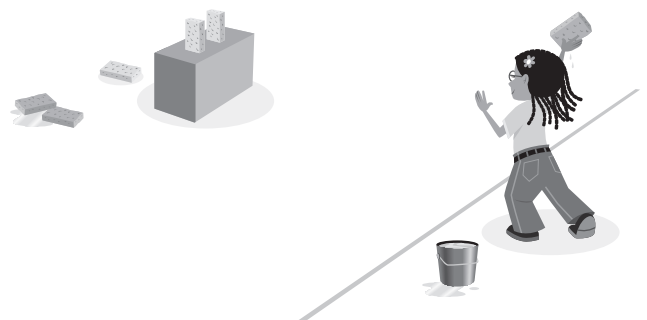
Sponge Knock Down

SUPPLIES

- » 6 sponges and a bucket of water
- » Crates to put 3 sponges on

DIRECTIONS

- » Set 3 sponges on their sides on the crates.
- » Explain that we use sponges to wash cars and wipe up kitchens. Usually when we do, we're using man-made sponges. But there are real sponges that are actually animals that live in the ocean. They eat by sucking water into their bodies through tiny holes. They're another amazing creature God has created!
- » Players take the other 3 wet sponges and throw them, trying to knock down the sponges on the crates.
- » Give one ticket for each successful hit. Give one for trying.



Baby Boats

SUPPLIES

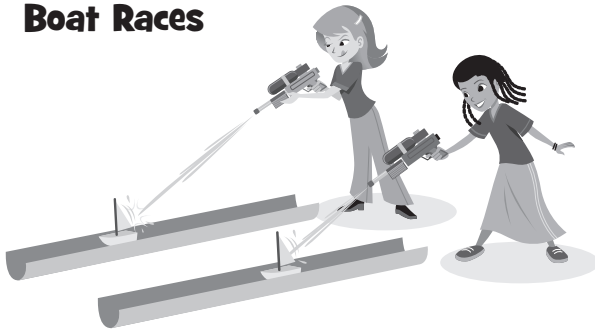
- » Baby pool filled part way with water
- » Small play boats

DIRECTIONS

- » Buy or make small play boats. (Paper origami ones can be made quickly and will float for a little while. You can also use foil formed into a boat shape or sponges cut into a simple boat shape.) Put a number on the bottom of each boat with a permanent marker.
- » Put the boats in the water. Have each child choose one boat and look at the bottom.
- » Whatever number they get is the number of tickets awarded.
- » Note: Substitute rubber ducks for boats. Rubber ducks can be bought from Oriental Trading Company.



Boat Races



SUPPLIES

- » 2 pieces of rain gutter (found at hardware stores)
- » 2 small play boats that fit in the gutter
- » 2 squirt guns and bucket of water to refill squirt guns

DIRECTIONS

- » Two players play at a time. They race their boats from the start of the track to the end, moving their boats by squirting them.
- » Note: The race could also be done in a baby pool.
- » Give three tickets to the winning boat and one for the other.

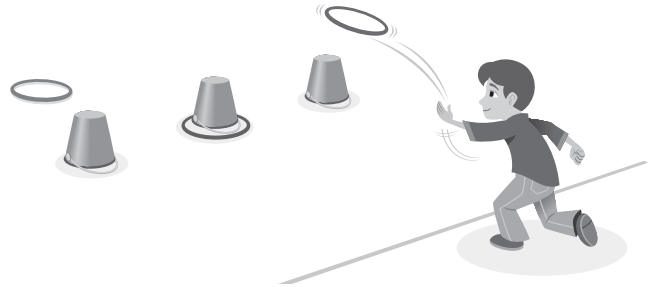
Sandy Dandy Ring Toss

SUPPLIES

- » 3 sand pails flipped upside down
- » 3 small toy hoops (a little bigger than the sand pails)

DIRECTIONS

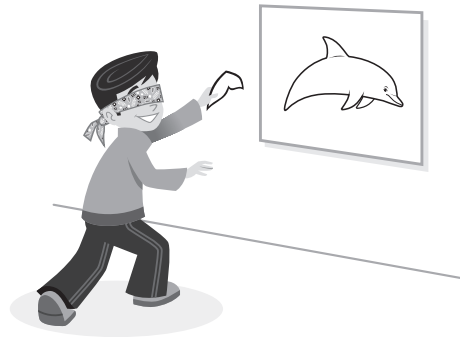
- » Players have 3 tries to ring the sand pails.
- » Give one ticket for each successful ring.



Pin the Fin on the Dolphin

SUPPLIES

- » Dolphin drawn on a piece of poster board or made out of roll paper and placed on a wall (see Resource DVD-ROM for a pattern to enlarge)
- » Blindfold
- » Fin cut outs made from construction paper (see Resource DVD-ROM)
- » Tape (one loop on the back of each fin)



DIRECTIONS

- » Explain that dolphins are fun and playful animals that enjoy jumping and spinning. God created them with a fin on their back called a dorsal fin. This helps them stay steady and not roll over. It also helps them make sudden turns.
- » Blindfold the player, give him a fin, and spin him around a couple times. Have him walk forward and put the fin on the dolphin's back.
- » Give three tickets if the fin lands anywhere on the dolphin. Give five if the fin lands on the dolphin's back. Give one for trying.

“Reel” It In!

SUPPLIES

- » Board or corrugated cardboard ocean “wall” that someone can sit behind (and be out of sight)
- » Homemade fishing pole
- » Prizes or tickets

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, set up the booth so the front of the ocean “wall” is blue, like the ocean. Also, make the fishing pole by taping a piece of rope to a dowel rod. Use packing tape to do so. At the other end of the rope, place a hook of some kind. Put the prizes back behind the ocean “wall.”
- » Explain that God made an amazing variety of fish, from the tiny dwarf goby, that’s the size of your little fingernail, to the whale shark, which is the size of two school buses put end to end! There are colorful ones, poisonous ones, fast ones (sailfish are the fastest), slow ones (seahorses are the slowest), and everything in between. God is so creative and made an incredible array of fish!
- » Each child takes a turn “fishing” by casting the “hook” over the ocean “wall.” The person behind the wall hooks on a prize or some tickets and gives a yank on the pole. The child then pulls the rope back up and discovers the prize or the tickets.
- » Note: Make sure the person behind the wall stays clear of the hook as it comes over!



Deep Sea Souvenirs

- » Set up a Deep Sea Souvenirs area with various prizes worth various numbers of tickets. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check Oriental Trading Company or Rhode Island Novelty for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are some possible suggestions: carabiners (11-4-082), flying discs (11-4-157), umbrella hats (11-4-158), puffy stickers (11-4-143), pencils (11-4-085), pens (11-4-086), wristbands (11-4-083), water bottle holder (11-4-081), bubbles, sand pails and shovels, sunglasses, individual packets of fish-shaped crackers, seashells, gummy sharks or worms, blue glow sticks, blue squish balls, gummy Lifesavers, salt water taffy, Go Fish cards, Swedish fish, splash balls or sponge balls, squirt guns, ocean-themed stuffed animals or stickers, goggles, mini or regular-sized beach balls, rubber ducks, or beach tote bags.
- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.



Snack Shack



Choose a fun snack from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

SNACK SHACK SNACKS

- » Serve a variety of items you may buy at a snack shack on the beach, such as ice cream treats, popsicles, candy, nachos and cheese, popcorn, snow cones, pizza, hot dogs, or other beachy treats.

PAPER BOAT SNACKS

- » Make origami paper boats as described in this section. Fill with fish-shaped crackers, Sun chips, or other snacks.

RAINBOW FRUIT KABOBS

- » Cut fruit into somewhat similar proportions. Thread on long plastic coffee stirrers in the order of the colors of the rainbow. Possible suggestions are: red—piece of strawberry; orange—piece of peach, cantaloupe, or orange; yellow—piece of pineapple; green—green grape or piece of kiwi; blue—two blueberries; indigo—blackberry; violet—purple grape.

CHEETOS CORAL REEF

- » Use spray cheese to “glue” together Cheetos into shapes reminiscent of a coral reef.

ELECTRIC EELS

- » Serve frozen ice pops that have two eyes and a tongue drawn on the end.

DEEP SEA SMOOTHIES

- » Make fruit smoothies and put in clear cups with a sea animal sticker on the front.

SEASIDE SODA

- » Make labels that say “Seaside Soda” to stick on or glue around pop cans or 2-liter bottles.

OCEAN WATER

- » Make labels that say “Ocean Water” to stick on or glue around water bottles.

Additional Ideas

- » Rent a dunk tank. This is awesome fun! Or make a version yourself by having someone sit on a chair with a bucket of water over his head. The bucket should be attached to a rope that someone is manning. If a child throws a sponge and hits the person who is sitting on the chair, the person manning the rope pulls on it, causing the bucket to tip over and spill water on the person on the chair.
- » Have costumed characters meeting and interacting with the kids. This can be people dressed in wacky beach attire, in ocean-themed animal costumes, or in the drama characters’ costumes.
- » Rent an inflatable.
- » Make ocean-themed balloon animals.
- » Do a Creature Feature. See the *Assembly Guide* to get an idea of how this works.