



COOL CONTESTS

It never fails—announce a contest, and watch kids light up! At *Operation Arctic* 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 (Psalm 19:7–11 is suggested, doing one verse a day, but any verse or passages for the week can work)
- 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 need 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: Frosted Food Fun

Find a transparent plastic container and fill it with frosted oat cereal rings. 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 galvanized metal 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: Chilly Cheers

Have the kids make up songs, posters, cheers, or chants to show their team 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: Polar Dress-Up Day

Dress-up day is always a favorite! Kids can dress up as Arctic animals (animal headband or hat, animal print bandana, animal costume, etc.), or they can also dress up in Arctic/ winter garb of some kind (scarf, hat, 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. (Check the craft guide for a fleece headband that makes a good quick extra craft for this day. Get a group picture with everyone wearing them!)

Reminder: Announce Day 4's contest during the Day 3 closing assembly.

Day 4: Bible Books Challenge

For the Bible Books Challenge, see if the explorers can say the books of the Old Testament in order, the books of the New Testament in order, or all of the books. Anyone participating in the challenge gets credit on the team roster. You may want to give extra credit if they say both OT and NT.

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

Day 5: Mission Money Mania

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—in fact, it's fun to give double points today!

SUGGESTED PRIZES

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

- Tubular bandanas (11-5-152; 11-5-153; 11-5-154; 11-5-155)
- Wristbands (11-5-083)
- Stickers (11-5-088)
- Puzzles (11-5-094)
- Water bottle cover (11-5-081)
- Pencils (11-5-085)
- Carabiner (11-5-082)
- Pen (11-5-086)
- Puffy stickers (11-5-143)
- Child backpack (11-5-144)
- Coloring snow hat (11-5-145)
- Notepads (11-5-146)
- Scratch art (11-5-147)
- Snow goggles (11-5-148)
- Blizzard foam figure (11-5-149)

Check online with retailers such as Oriental Trading Company (orientaltrading.com) and Rhode Island Novelties (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.

- Snowflake items
- Metallic snowflake kazoo's
- Winter mitten hand clappers
- Paw print stampers
- Chapstick
- Cross items
- Bible trinkets
- Swedish Fish®
- YORK Peppermint Patties
- Rock candy on a stick in crystal or light blue
- Hershey's kisses wrapped in silver or light blue foils
- Teddy Grahams
- All white Sixlets®
- Christian stickers