



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)
- Completing the Go and Do sections on the student guides (see specifics below)

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

Team Effort

Teams earn points as above, but all the points are tallied and scored for the whole team instead of the 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 and award prizes to the top one or two teams daily.

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.
- Another option that can be done in tandem with the contests (or as a stand-alone) is the Wonder Nuggets Treasure Hunt.

- Kids can receive points for being at VBS, learning their memory verses and bonus memory verses, finding Wonder Nuggets, and participating in the daily contests. The daily contests are as follows.

DAY 1—GUESS THE GOLD NUGGETS

Fill a transparent jar with “gold nuggets” (Rolos or gold foil-wrapped chocolate coins). 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, slips of paper for kids to write one guess on, pens, and a small metal pail or basket somewhere near your assembly area. At any point in the day when they are passing by, each child can write a guess, with their name, and put it in the pail or basket. Have an adult determine whose guess is the closest and award the jar to that person during the closing assembly or at the next day's opening assembly.

DAY 2—SPIRIT OF THE WEST DAY

Each group comes up with a team cheer, song, or sign. Or they can each wear something depicting their group's name. For example, if a group's name is the Cowboys and Cowgirls, everyone wears a cowboy hat and bandana, or if they're the Cooks, each person wears an apron.

DAY 3—OLD WEST DRESS-UP DAY

Everyone wears Old West attire such as cowboy hats, bandanas, plaid shirts, pioneer dresses, bonnets, sheriffs' badges, and boots. Remind kids not to bring any toy guns or weapons.

DAY 4—NAMES OF JESUS CHALLENGE

Students hunt through the Bible to discover amazing names of Jesus and use clues to decipher a mystery sentence. See the [Resource Download](#) for the [Names of Jesus Challenge sheet](#) that will be sent home on Day 3 and returned on Day 4.

DAY 5—MISSION MONEY MANIA

Kids will 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 prizes available from AnswersVBS.com.

- Tubular bandanas (1221520; 1221530; 1221540; 1221550; 1221560)
- Wristbands (1220830)
- Stickers (1220880)
- Puzzles (1220940)
- Water bottles (1220810)
- Pencils (1220850)
- Carabiners (1220820)
- Pens (1220860)
- Puffy stickers (1221430)
- Child backpacks (1221440)
- Notepads (1221460)
- Scratch art (1221470)
- Foam figure (1221490)

You can also check online retailers, such as Oriental Trading Company (OrientalTrading.com) and Rhode Island Novelties (RINovelty.com), for inexpensive bulk prizes.

The following are some possible suggestions: golden chocolate coins, bandanas, cowboy hats, boot-shaped pencil topper erasers, train whistles, Western-themed key chains, horseshoe beaded necklaces, rubber or plastic snakes, horse finger puppets, barnyard bubble bottles, stretchy cowboys and cowgirls, fake mustaches, mini train maze puzzles, cow print slap bracelets, sheriffs' badges, North American TOOB animals, horse bouncy balls, play handcuffs, bandana pencils, cowboy hat pens, Western sticker sheets, barnyard animal squish toys, train stampers, sticky lizards, and Old West candy (e.g., licorice, rock candy sticks, lemon drops, gummy bears, or horse-shaped lollipops in mini drawstring bags). Also check local discount retailers that sell bulk individually wrapped candy or other edible treats.