

# 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

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 USB 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 home the student guide 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.

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

### DAY 1—LOLLIES GUESSING GAME

Prepare a see-through jar with “lollies” (candies in Aussie lingo). Any candy can work, or try Aussie favorites like Wiley Wallaby Licorice or Cadbury chocolates, both available at various stores or online. 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 sand pail somewhere near your assembly area. At any point in the day when they are passing by, each child can write their guess on a slip of paper, with their name, and put it in the sand pail. Have an adult figure out who is closest, and award the jar to that person during the closing assembly or at the next day's opening assembly.

### DAY 2—TEAM CHEERS

To excite team spirit, 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 Dingoes, everyone wears dog ears.

### DAY 3—DRESS-UP DAY

Today, mates dress up as Aussie animals or in Aussie-themed attire such as an outback explorer or a beach surfer. No swimsuits please.

### DAY 4—“BEAUT” OF A BIBLE CHALLENGE

The day before, print copies of the “Beaut” of a Bible Challenge, (“beaut” meaning fantastic or awesome) and pass one out to each child to be completed at home. Have children return this challenge today. This is an important and fun exercise to get kids in the Word.

### DAY 5—MISSION MONEY MANIA

Bring in your 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](http://answersbookstore.com).

- Tubular bandanas (11-9-152; 11-9-153; 11-9-154; 11-9-155; 11-9-156)
- Wristbands (11-9-083)
- Stickers (11-9-088)
- Puzzles (11-9-094)
- Water bottles (11-9-081)
- Pencils (11-9-085)
- Carabiners (11-9-082)
- Pens (11-9-086)
- Puffy stickers (11-9-143)
- Child backpacks (11-9-144)
- Notepads (11-9-146)
- Scratch art (11-9-147)
- Paper masks (11-9-148)
- Foam figure (11-9-149)
- Boomerang (11-9-157)

You can also check online retailers, such as Oriental Trading Company ([orientaltrading.com](http://orientaltrading.com)) and Rhode Island Novelty ([rinovelty.com](http://rinovelty.com)), for inexpensive bulk prizes and local discount retailers that sell bulk individually wrapped candy or other edible treats. Some prize possibilities include plastic boomerangs; outback hats; sunglasses; plastic, rubber, or stuffed animals (fish, kangaroos, koalas, kookaburras, crocodiles, or snakes); sticky lizards; stretchy bugs; glow-in-the-dark stars; globe balls; water bottles; hand clappers; sticky hands; squishy “eyeballs”; gummy worms; Sour Patch Kids; Wiley Wallaby Licorice; Tim Tams; Cadbury chocolate; or Nestle Chokito.