

Top 4 Crew Leader Tips

1 Participate!

- ◆ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ◆ Play the games.
- ◆ Be curious in Imagination Station.
- ◆ Use your imagination in Bible Adventures to interact with each day's story.
- ◆ Share your own God Sightings.
- ◆ Give your own insights during KidVid™ Cinema.

3 Lavish your attention on the kids.

- ◆ Turn off your cellphone—you can contact your friends *after* VBS!
- ◆ Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.
- ◆ Use eye-to-eye contact.
- ◆ Be a tuned-in, affirming listener during discussions. Paraphrase kids' answers in a response back to them to show that you've heard and understood what they've said.
- ◆ Give hugs or high-fives throughout the day.
- ◆ Be there for the kids as they arrive. Get there early. Check with your VBS Director to see when he or she would like you to arrive each day.

2 Support the Station Leaders.

- ◆ Quickly sit in knee-to-knee circles for Crew discussions.
- ◆ Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- ◆ Put the Crew bag out of the way during activities.
- ◆ Be enthusiastic.

4 Be positive.

- ◆ Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- ◆ Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No, that's the wrong answer," say "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ◆ Smile! Have fun!



Use Positive Words Like These:

- ◆ Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- ◆ Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- ◆ Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- ◆ That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that?
Let's try it this way.
- ◆ It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- ◆ Please move over here so you can see better.
- ◆ Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- ◆ Those Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.

What to Do If...

Most of the time, things will go smoothly for your Crew, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma.



If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.

If I have a clique in my Crew...

Cliques make the Crew experience unhappy for outsiders. Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well. Offer reminders that they're "all treasured" at Treasured and that means caring for each other and that no one is left out.



If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...

Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids with snack experiences and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids,

"[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"

If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as "That's really interesting!" Give children jobs such as finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone *really* doesn't want to participate in Jungle Gym Games, that's okay. Treasured can be tiring! Let children rest until they're ready to participate.

If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another.

If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself for partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. If those suggestions don't work well enough, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

If my Crew is out of control and unruly...

Be direct in calling out behavior, but maintain the fun in your voice. Avoid a battle of wills between you your Crew. Use these fun Treasured puns to call attention to behaviors that need to stop:

- ◆ Cheating in games or other activities: "We're going off-map; let's get back to following directions!"
- ◆ Not paying attention to Station Leaders: "Are we trekking along with the Station Leader?"
- ◆ Distracted by side conversations or horse play: "I know we're in the jungle, but let's not monkey around right now."
- ◆ Complaining about activities at stations: "Let's show all our leaders we treasure them with respect. You may not love everything we do, but if you don't participate, you might miss out on something you didn't expect to be *amazing*."

If my Crew gets too big...

Treasured VBS is a blast, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, the activities at Treasured are designed to work with a mixed-age Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, you'll welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five children, talk with your Treasured Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.



What Do I Do at Each Station?

Sing & Play Rock is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs. Your job at Sing & Play Rock is to

- ◆ greet your Crew members in your designated seating area.
- ◆ follow the motions and sing out loud.

Imagination Station is where kids can experiment, play, and discover as they use amazing Sciency-Fun Gizmos! Your job at Imagination Station is to

- ◆ listen carefully to the instructions because you'll most likely need to repeat them for your Crew!
- ◆ use *your* imagination and share your curiosity as kids explore their gizmos. It's time to play!
- ◆ help kids complete their activities (*only* when they need help).
- ◆ help clean up your area before leaving.

Bible Adventures is where kids experience the Bible story. Your job at Bible Adventures is to

- ◆ line up with your Crew outside the door.
- ◆ listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- ◆ encourage Crew members to participate.
- ◆ share your own discoveries during discussion times and your excitement during each Bible Adventures.

Vine Dining Snacks is where Crews come for a tasty snack. Your job at Vine Dining Snacks is to

- ◆ gather your Crew in a designated area.
- ◆ help your Crew focus on the snacks leader as he or she explains how snack time works.
- ◆ help a different child each day lead from the provided snack card, guiding a fun snack experience that connects to the day's Bible verse.
- ◆ help kids clean up your area before leaving.

Jungle Gym Games is where kids play team-building games. Your job at Jungle Gym Games is to

- ◆ listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- ◆ participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.
- ◆ participate during one day's game time in a "photo shoot" for the day's Spotlight VBS slideshow (a customized slideshow featuring the kids and leaders at Treasured)!

KidVid™ Cinema is where kids watch a daily video of *real* kids who have seen in their own lives that God treasures them. Your job at KidVid Cinema is to

- ◆ encourage kids to tune in and watch the video.
- ◆ lead your Crew in participating in the activities before and after the video.
- ◆ lead kids in discussion when it's called for. (Expect surprising insights and answers from kids. And don't be afraid of deep, personal conversations—those are where impact and transformation happen.)
- ◆ give kids a Bible Memory Buddy each day.

In KidVid™ Cinema, kids will discuss real-life examples of needing Jesus' power to get through hard things, to have hope, and to be good friends. Each of these is handled in a kid-appropriate way. The kids in your Crew may share very real experiences with you. Don't feel like you have to have all the answers! Use the Bible Points to reassure kids that even through disappointments or difficult times, God treasures us!

If a child brings up a serious issue, such as indicators of neglect, abuse, or violence he or she has experienced, say, "Thank you for telling me about that. It's very important, and we need to talk about it with our VBS Director [or children's minister if he or she isn't the VBS Director] to give you a chance to say everything you need to say—and help you with your feelings." Involve the appropriate person at your church who can follow through with necessary steps after the conversation, as there is not only a moral but a legal obligation to report circumstances where a child might be in danger.

Closing Quest is where kids experience an exciting review of the day's lesson. Your role at Closing Quest is to

- ◆ lead kids to your assigned seating area.
- ◆ participate in singing and other activities.
- ◆ remind your Crew to participate without being rowdy or disruptive.
- ◆ make sure each child leaves with his or her Sciency-Fun Gizmo from Imagination Station.
- ◆ collect Crew members' name badges and Bible Memory Buddies and store them in your Crew bag until the last day of VBS.