



Working with Youth Volunteers

Youth volunteers are a wonderful resource and a blessing for VBS leaders. They are full of energy and passion, and the kids love hanging out with them! Build a healthy and fun relationship with your youth on the ride at VBS by following these pro tips:

Train them up!

Empower your teens/youth by including them in your teacher training sessions, and/or offer a special training just for them. Provide teens with the Bible Background information, Take-Home Pages and Leader Devotionals. Encourage teens to be familiar with the overall Bible verse and key learning phrases.

Safety-wise, follow your church policies that are currently in use. If your church has adopted the procedures of Safe Sanctuaries, offer a training session for your teens. Make sure they know and follow the rules used through Safe Sanctuaries.

Equip them early!

Equip youth with the correct tools to do the task. For example, if teens are assisting in your craft area, make sure they know how to do the craft. Provide supplies in advance of VBS in order for teens to observe key leaders doing the craft, science experiment, or recreation activity.

Make sure youth have their own copies of the music tracks and/or access to the videos. Encourage them to listen in advance so they can be familiar with the Rolling River Rampage songs and help teach Rafters the motions.

Come to a healthy agreement on phone use!

Does your church have a policy concerning mobile phone use while supervising Rafters? If so, follow the policies of your church. Otherwise, remind Rafters (and ALL leaders!) to limit phone use during VBS teaching times.

Tips!

- ▲ Use the **Youth Leader** book to offer VBS for the youth. This material includes VBS discussion and games that are upscaled for youth, as well as practice opportunities for Bible Story, Craft, Science, and Recreation station activities.
- ▲ Remember to model the same behavior you expect from your volunteers, and thank them every chance you get!
- ▲ Communicate clearly what roles and responsibilities are. Be specific about job tasks and expectations.
- ▲ Remind teens to focus their energies on engaging Rafters in the lesson and the fun!
- ▲ Give teens the same consideration as adults when making assignments. Find out what their strengths are, then assign them strategically!

Make copies of this helpful list below and distribute it to all your youth volunteers:

The Top Ten Habits of VBS MVPs!

1. Be on time and ready to have fun!
2. Talk with the Rafters! Learn their names and at least three things about each one/class.
3. Sit with the Rafters, and try to make them smile at least once!
4. Look for Rafters who may need help – then be a friend and help them!
5. Save phone and friends time for later so you don't miss a thing with these kids!
6. Model the behavior you want from the kids!
7. Help set up and clean up without being asked!
8. During transitions, keep track of the Rafters by counting to make sure all are still with you.
9. Have fun!
10. Smile!