

Dear VBS Worker,

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve in Vacation Bible School Boomerang Express 2009! We are confident that God has picked the best team for our VBS and we know that you're a very important part of that team! We've both been looking forward to this all year. God has some exciting things for all of us during our time in VBS.

Vacation Bible School is always a highlight of our church for us. It is a time for us to enjoy the children of our church, but also to reach out in our community to other children and their families. More prospects are discovered for our church each year through VBS than through any other short-term program. Each year, Southern Baptist report over 55,000 professions of faith through Vacation Bible School decisions. Another 10,000 professions of faith are reported as a result of follow-up. Thanks you for your gift of time, effort, and energy in being a part of this effort to reach our community for Christ.

We've created a VBS website just for our church and hope you'll take advantage of this by checking it often. We've listed many different websites and documents that will be of help to you as you prepare and lead VBS. We want you to be well-informed servants of Christ. If there is anything you think we need to add, please let us know.

The two most important things you can do to insure the success of our school are **prayer** and **planning**. Please let us know if we can be of any help to you as you prepare. If there are any questions, please get in touch with one of us. If you need any special materials, resources, or help in any way, please let us know. Our main responsibility during VBS is to make your job as easy as possible.

We have a week of hard work ahead of us. But it will be a week of service to our Lord, which He has promised to bless; and it will be a week that touches the lives of hundreds of children and makes a real difference in their lives for all eternity. Think of it as a week of opportunity, and rely on God for the strength you will need. Thank you again for allowing God to work through you in ministering the love of Jesus to others.

Always remember, no matter where you go or what you do.....IT ALL COMES BACK TO **JESUS!** (I tear up every time I write that, say that, think about that, or just see it! It should be an emotional week for me!!! ☺)

Yours and His,

Michelle Suarez & Hope Swanner
VBS Directors

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PURPOSE

Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church, Brazoria is a special week-long emphasis on Bible study that extends the ministry of our church beyond our walls to reach those children who live in our communities, yet may not be involved in ongoing Bible study. Our main objective is to share with them the love of God and prepare the way for them to come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way as Lord and Savior.

WHO'S INVITED?

VBS is designed for children from age five through completion of sixth grade. We also have an evening VBS for our Special Education adults. Age-group departments are organized as follows:

- Five Year Olds
- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade

(In each case, the school grade represents the year *just completed*.) Children ages birth through four years whose **parents** are working in VBS will be provided for in their own age-group departments. Any exceptions to this must be approved by Michelle Suarez and the department director before July 1st. Otherwise, children must be at least five years old by September 1, 2009 to participate.

WHO CAN HELP?

The members of First Baptist Church, Brazoria provide this special ministry once each year to the children of our church and community. All workers are required to have a background check on file at the church. If you have not done this yet, please contact Chuck Beem or Michelle Suarez as soon as possible. Our workers come from the men and women of our church, who participate in special training for their assignments. The ministry is funded through the budget of the church. *Non-church members must be recommended by Chuck Beem, Michelle Suarez, and the Nominating Committee and be approved by FBCB at a regularly scheduled business meeting.*

THEME

This year's Boomerang Express theme will be integrated into every area of VBS, from the publicity through the worship service and the classroom teaching. Every activity the children are part of during the day will reflect the theme and the day's Bible story.

SCHEDULE AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

All children from 3 years to 6th grade will participate in Music, Crafts, and Recreation rotations. The Bible study will still take place in the department session as usual.

Remember that you will need to send 2 workers with your class to their rotations. This allows both for building relationships with the children and for sharing the work among more staff.

OFFERING

One of the opportunities of VBS is teaching about stewardship and missions. Please encourage the children to bring an offering each day, but take special care to assure them that God knows their financial situations. Please be sensitive to children who may not be able to bring money for the offering. Students may place their offering in the buckets on their way to their classrooms.

WORSHIP RALLY

We will have our Worship Rally in the Sanctuary beginning at 8:30 a.m. sharp. We would like for you to be here by 8:15 a.m. Students will register in the breezeway and go directly to the Sanctuary. It would be helpful if you would make a large sign for your class.

SNACKS

Snacks will be prepared for you in the kitchen. I will post a list of all ingredients on the website the week before VBS. Please check for allergies and report those to the kitchen as soon as possible. Remember to fill out your Snack Request Form and turn it in to the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. each day. You must send someone to pick up your snack each day. We will not have an area designated for snacks. You are welcome to eat in the gym, but be aware that recreation will be happening in there as well.

END OF THE DAY RALLY

We will have our End of the Day Rally in the sanctuary beginning at 11:50 a.m. Offering totals, visitors and attendance totals will be announced during this time. Please have all teachers sit with your class to help with crowd control and the noise level.

FACULTY LOUNGE

The faculty lounge will be available again this year. Please remember to express your appreciation to those workers. Limit yourself and your workers to one trip to the lounge per day, in order to ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the food. The lounge will consist of snacks only, so make other plans for breakfast and lunch.

YOUTH WORKERS

You are in charge of your youth workers, but make sure they are looked upon as full members of the team. Youth are more likely to become discipline problems for the adult workers to have to deal with when they are not given meaningful ministry tasks and the opportunity to contribute to the VBS team with which they are working. Adult members of the team should assume a mentoring mentality as they work along side the youth leader, respecting the youth's ability to make decisions with some guidance. Give youth

opportunities to grow and stretch in their abilities. With a little discretion on the adult leader's part, youth should be allowed to experience what are sometimes seen as "adult teacher" roles. Let them know that they are important to the success of VBS and your class. Seek to avoid "dead time" when they might feel unneeded.

REGISTRATION

Pre-enrollment will take place in Sunday School on the two Sunday's before VBS, so we should have adequate information on our own church children. In addition, we will attempt to pre-enroll as many children as possible through our promotional activities. We will need as many workers as possible involved in promotion so we can publicize our VBS and get as much information in advance as possible. We will have a registration table set up in the breezeway to try to handle as much record keeping as possible before the children arrive in your department. We will be registering students and teachers on line through our church website. Please sign up at www.fcbrazoria.org.

RECORDS

Accurate records are essential to quality follow-up with the children who attend VBS and their families. Please get a registration form filled out completely for everyone who attends. Get as much information as possible. This is the single, most important detail you can take care of to ensure a successful VBS. When children register in the breezeway, they will receive a green bracelet. If a child arrives in the sanctuary without a green bracelet, please send them to the breezeway to be registered.

FAMILY NIGHT

Families of children enrolled in VBS will invited to the Family Night Program on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of Family Night is for the workers to get to know the parents of the children, especially those who are prospects for our Sunday School; and to let the parents better understand the work that their children have been doing through the week. Our focus is clearly outreach. Family Night will begin with an Open House and move to the sanctuary at 6:30 for the Worship Celebration, including brief remarks from some of our staff, after which we will share slides of the children during the VBS activities.

DECORATIONS

We are blessed with extremely talented and creative people here at First Baptist Church, Brazoria, but please remember that decorations are just the icing on the cake. The focus of VBS should always be on God's Word. You may begin decorations for VBS on Sunday, July 12th, after Sunday School and decorations must be taken down by Saturday, July 20th.

1. Contact the Sunday School teacher of the classroom you've been assigned to and ask for the approval before removing anything or putting up any decorations.
2. Take pictures of the room so you can return everything to its correct place.
3. You must completely clean up your mess each day – that means putting the room back in order and vacuuming.

4. Please check in with the office when you arrive each day so they'll know who's in the building.
5. Do not remove paper rolls from the dispensers. Cut off the amount of paper you think you may need. You can always come back for more!
6. Clean up after yourself in the supply room. Please remember everyone else needs supplies and it isn't easy to find things when the supply room is a mess.