

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions about VBS at Calvary Church of Santa Ana

Traditionally, Calvary's VBS programs enroll 1000+ children and 500+ teen and adult volunteers. With that many people on campus, we have numerous policies and procedures designed for the safety of all participants. Please read through this list to see if your question has already been asked and answered. If it has not, submit your question to vbs@calvarylife.org

What will children experience at VBS?

At VBS, the Gospel is preached every day and lives are changed forever. Each day, 1st through 6th grade children start together in the Worship Center with high energy worship, live stage action, and a preview of the day ahead. Assigned in small groups (Crews - which are broken down by grade), they tour five stations: Bible Exploration, Missions, Recreation, Snacks, and Crafts. Each day concludes in the Worship Center for a time of worship and wrap-up. Crew Leaders remain with the same group of children each day.

When does registration open?

Registration for VBS opens months before to give everyone an opportunity to participate! God continues to provide volunteers to serve at VBS and for this reason VBS has yet to be filled to capacity.

When does registration close for children?

Online registration closes for all 1st through 6th grade children at noon on Thursday before VBS. This allows our super volunteers to spend their weekend assigning upwards of 1000 children to crews.

When does registration close for volunteers?

All volunteers must register online by Sunday, July 16th, one week before VBS. Training is required before serving in any capacity. Three trainings will be offered and attendance will be taken. The final training will be on July 17th.

Anyone NOT registered to volunteer by Sunday, July 16th, can visit VBS Headquarters on Monday morning, July 24, at 9:00 am to inquire about volunteer needs. If volunteer positions are available, a 90 minute training will be required the first day before serving.

Due to ratios, spaces are limited in our Volunteers' Children's Program. Volunteers with infants to kindergartners must register themselves and their littles as soon as possible while space is available. If volunteers wait to register in-person on the first day of VBS and they have younger children, it is highly unlikely space will be available for their infants to kindergartners. So, we recommend volunteers register early.

How much does VBS cost?

Because of generous donations provided by members of Calvary Church and our local community, Calvary's VBS is free and always will be. Yes, you read that correctly: VBS at Calvary is FREE!! If you would like to help keep Calvary free, you can find links to donate on our website at www.calvarylife.org/vbs

What should my child wear?

Please have your child wear sunscreen, comfortable clothes and sensible shoes each day to VBS (flip-flops, jelly-type sandals and Heelys are NOT recommended). VBS t-shirts are available for purchase while supplies last and are a great way to show your Calvary spirit, not to mention taking the guesswork out of what to wear each day. T-shirts can be purchased on Sundays in July in the Worship Center lobby and Wednesday mornings at the Calvary bookstore. During VBS, t-shirts can be purchased in the lobby during opening and after children have been released for the day, *while supplies last*.

How does my child check in each day?

Walk with your child to check them in each day. All elementary children entering grades 1 – 6 in the fall will check in at our Wellington Lot entrance between 8:45 - 9:00 am. Each child will receive one bracelet to wear all week.

This bracelet tells our volunteers which grade the child is in. Daily, each child will also receive a printed nametag. This nametag tells our volunteers what crew the child is in. Children and volunteers are required to wear nametags and bracelets at all times.

Once a child has their bracelet and name tag, parents can walk them into the Worship Center to meet the child's crew leader. Grades are designated by color; crews are designated by number.

Where is the best place to park?

With so many kids on our campus, the parking lots will be very congested at the beginning and end of each VBS day. We urge your cooperation during these times and ask that you show patience and grace to others. Carpooling is recommended. In an effort to allow traffic to flow as efficiently as possible, please make note of the following:

Park on Wellington Avenue.

Park in the Wellington Street Lot. The gate will be open behind the Worship Center so parking in the Fruit Street parking lot is also available. However, these spaces will be limited. If you park on the Fruit Street side, walk behind the Worship Center to enter campus at the Wellington entrance to check in your child. Check In will only happen on the Wellington side.

DO NOT park in the Tustin Avenue parking lot. This lot is for Calvary Christian School Day Camp drop off/pick up only.

DO NOT park in any of the parking lots designated for other businesses. These lots must be kept available for our neighbors and their clients, including the Heritage Building parking lot. Property owners in these neighboring businesses may tow at vehicle owner's expense.

What if my child has an injury or medical issue?

Occasionally, children get injured or sick while at VBS. We have a nurse on duty in S2, right next door to VBS Headquarters. Make sure to register your child with the correct emergency contact numbers should we need to reach you.

What snacks are being served?

We'll have fun and creative snack treats lined up for each day of VBS. If you have questions or your child has specific food allergies, please include that in their registration. You may also want to send them with a snack. For other food concerns, contact us at VBS@calvarylife.org and we'd love to help you out!

Monday: Graham Cracker (gluten free available), Apple Slices, Marshmallow, Pudding. **Tuesday:** Popcorn, Pretzel Sticks (gluten free available), Jellybeans **Wednesday:** Poprocks, Ice Cream Cones (gluten free), Marshmallow Fluff, **Thursday:** Pound cake (gluten free available), Strawberries, Whipped Cream **Friday:** Cuties, Carrots, Cheese Sticks, Candy Corn.

How do I check out my child each day?

We have a new check out procedure! To keep all of our kids safe, check-out will take place between 12:30 - 12:40 pm.

- 1st thru 3rd graders will be picked up in the Worship Center.
- 4th thru 6th graders will be picked up on the Patio.
- BRiDGE students will be picked up from S6/S7.

Non-volunteer teens and adults will only be allowed inside the Worship Center to check out children AFTER VBS has finished for the day and 4th through 6th graders have exited the Worship Center.

Until that time, parents and siblings will need to wait on the patio.

What if I need to pick my child up early?

If children need to be picked up before 12:30 pm, a parent or guardian will need to visit Headquarters and request early pick up. A volunteer will get the child from their crew and bring them to VBS Headquarters for you to check out.

As a parent, can I watch the closing program from 12:00-12:30pm?

All non-volunteer parents are invited to watch the closing program each day on the patio.

REGISTRATION

Can my child be in a group with their friends?

Yes! We will do our best to accommodate placing friends together. Registering EARLY helps us make this possible. Please indicate the name of the child with whom you would like your child placed during online registration. Groups are grade specific, so for the case of friends with different ages, the older child would be placed in the younger child's grade.

How do I register?

Registration is available online for both children and volunteers. You can learn more and register to volunteer at www.calvarylife.org/vbs. Remember, infants through kindergarten children may only attend if their parent is serving on campus during VBS.

Nursery through Kindergarten Registration

Our nursery/preschool/kindergarten program is offered ONLY for the children of volunteers serving on campus during VBS. Both the parent and child(ren) must be registered before child(ren) can be placed. Please register in advance as space is limited. If you are unsure if your child is registered, please email vbs@calvarylife.org. For child protection and adult to child ratios, nursery and preschool volunteers may only accept children into their room who have pre-registered and are on the rosters.

How do I know if I registered online correctly?

Once you've successfully completed registration, you will receive a confirmation email. Your correct email must be entered in the registration form so please use caution to enter that correctly. Check your spam and junk mail folders if you don't find it right away. If you don't receive the confirmation email, you did not complete the process and will need to try again. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We are happy to help you register on Sundays in July in the lobby before and after the worship service.

Do I need to fill out a separate registration for each child?

Yes. Each child who attends VBS must be registered. This includes children attending the nursery and preschool/kindergarten programs which are only available for parent volunteers who remain on campus. When each child is registered separately, it enables us to do our best to meet a particular need.

What if I need to change my information on a registration that I already submitted?

Please email VBS@calvarylife.org to update information or request a change.

Can I complete a kid registration form if I am not the child's parent or legal guardian?

We require the parent or legal guardian's e-signature on the different releases. So a non-parent or non-guardian cannot complete the child's registration. If you are inviting a friend's child, please share the registration link and ask the parent to complete the registration.

I have two kids, one entering 1st grade in the fall and one who is 3 years old. Can they both attend VBS?
VBS is for 1st through 6th graders. However, if you volunteer on campus all five days, your three year old may attend the volunteers' children's program each day. If you choose not to volunteer, only your 1st grader can attend.

My child has a friend but they are in a different grade. Can they still be together during VBS?
Children in the same grade are assigned to crews together. However, we want to work with you to ensure each child's VBS experience is fabulous so we will do our best to accommodate your request. In the case of friends/relatives of different ages wanting to be in the same crew, the older child will be assigned to the younger child's grade/crew. Registering EARLY helps us make this possible.

What if my child wants to change groups during VBS?
As a means of keeping track of each child's location, crew leaders are not authorized to move children to a different group. All changes must be made by our Registration Leads. When checking in your child, visit the Registration Help table where our Registration Leads will help you.

VOLUNTEER

Every year we depend on 500+ teen and adult volunteers during VBS. To volunteer, please [register as a volunteer](#) to participate in this incredible week. If you have any questions before VBS, please feel free to contact us at VBS@calvarylife.org. During VBS, a staff member will be available at VBS Headquarters (located in S1) to answer questions.

How can I volunteer at VBS?
There are many ways you can volunteer at VBS. The volunteer registration form lists all of the specific opportunities available.

Can youth volunteer at VBS?
Yes! Students moving into 7th grade are the youngest volunteers at VBS and we are so grateful for them. There are many opportunities for pre-teens/teens to serve. They can serve in our volunteers' children's programs, in most rotations, and as crew assistants. Please have your student register online at calvarylife.org/vbs as soon as possible to ensure a spot for them.

Can I volunteer if I am only available for a couple of days?
Our preference would be to have volunteers who can serve in the same position throughout the week of VBS. When you register online as a volunteer, let us know your exact availability. We may be able to match you up with another volunteer who is also only available for a portion of VBS.

If I volunteer and I have a preschooler or infant is there a charge for them?
Our volunteers' children's program is offered ONLY for the children of volunteers serving on campus during VBS, but it is FREE just like the rest of Calvary's VBS program.

My spouse and I are both volunteering, do we both need to fill out a form?
Yes, each person needs to register as a volunteer themselves.

I was a volunteer last year; do I have to register as a volunteer again this year?
Yes, each year we ask you to register as a volunteer.

As a volunteer, do I have to attend training?

All volunteers are required to attend training. If you are serving at VBS you will be able to choose one of three Volunteer Trainings to attend. For your convenience, these will be offered at three different times with two in-person trainings on campus, and one training online. You will choose which training you will attend when you complete your volunteer form. You will also be required to view our online child safety training and agree to follow our child safety procedures.

I can't serve during VBS. Can I volunteer before the event?

Yes! There are many ways you can help. We begin preparations months in advance. When you register online to volunteer, you can choose to help with set up, tear down or other preparations.

LOCATION GUIDES

CHILDREN’S CHECK-IN	Wellington Entrance to the Patio
OPENING + CLOSING	Worship Center
BIBLE EXPLORATION	Fellowship Hall
MISSIONS	Samsvick Chapel
RECREATION	Gym + Blacktop
SNACKS	Picnic Tables
CRAFTS	C200
PENNY PROJECT	Worship Center Lobby
VBS HEADQUARTERS	S1
MEDICAL	S2
REGISTRATION	Library
SNACK PREP	C Building
VOLUNTEER SNACKS	South Kitchen
SIXTH GRADE	The Underground
LOST + FOUND	Outside VBS Headquarters
BRIDGE VBS	S7

