3rd Grade Small Group Leader Information
VBC 2018

Who is in my small group? That will be decided on Monday. Kids will get to choose their own groups. Your group will have between 7-9 3rd graders.

Nametags for campers? You will make nametags for your campers on day 1 as part of your opening activity. Teacher and youth volunteer nametags are provided and will serve as your "VBC lanyard" for the week.

During VBC

Classroom Folder/Bin Is Important:

- Attendance/Roster Form (Fill this out on Monday once your group is created)
- Schedule (recreation, craft, missions)
- Curriculum
- Daily teacher note
- Small Group Supplies
- Other important stuff
- **TAKE THIS WITH YOU WHEN YOU GO TO THE SANCTUARY, or on a ROTATION!**

When do I need to arrive each day? Camp starts at 12:30 but we'd love to have you at the Foundry by **12:15**. We will open The Foundry up at 12:20 for free time. 3rd graders will check their name off at the check-in table each day. If you can come early to help check-in kiddos let Nick know.

Check-Out-At 3:30 check-out will take place in the foundry as campers are picked up they will check out from your group

What do I do when children arrive? Greet them help them check in and show them around the room! Play a game!

How do I know when it is time to rotate? Mr. Nick will tell you or your station leader.

How do I collect Missions offerings? There will be a big offering container in the foundry on the stage! We will collect each day!

Classroom Supplies-Don't worry about supplies all will be supplied to you each day!

Snack-Snack will be delivered will be available in the foundry during your small group time (2:20-2:50) You can eat it during your small group time or after, but be sure you don't rush the snack. 3rd graders love food!

Youth Volunteers -Youth volunteers are awesome! Give them a great experience at VBC to buy making sure you include them in any leadership opportunities. Ask them what they'd like to do. It's a fact kids love the youth helpers so utilize them to make the 3rd graders feel welcomed. They are here because they are excited to serve. Find their talents and let them use them! They can be great role models for the younger kids!

Tips for Being A Great Small Group Leader!

1. These are your kiddos all week. . . invest and get to know them.
2. During free time and station time hang with them!
3. Look for those kids that might need to connect with others. See if you can get them hooked up with a friend or two.
4. Avoid yes/no questions. Ask "why" or "how" questions that lead to discussion and when students give only short answers, ask them to elaborate
5. Don't fear silence. This may be the most difficult thing to do but it's absolutely essential. When we are responsible for facilitating a discussion, we tend to feel that a lack of response within one or two beats is stretching into an eternity. Kids need some time to think and formulate a response.
6. When possible, set up the room for discussion. A circle works the best. Leaders should sit among the students, not two leaders sitting side by side. Leaders should become a discussion participant rather than a teacher.
7. Get to know the students' names and who they are. Students are more likely to be engaged with the group if addressed by name.
8. Provide positive feedback. If a kiddo is reluctant to speak up and then they make a contribution that no one comments on, they are not likely to try again. A simple thank you for their contribution even works. But it's much better to build on what the student has said, add an insight, ask others how they would respond to what the student said, and otherwise weave that contribution into the discussion.
9. Show enthusiasm for the subject. You can't expect students to become interested in a discussion topic when the leader shows no enthusiasm.
10. Teach your students how to participate. Many of them may have had little or no experience with small group discussion, and most of those who have experience have never been taught how to do it well. Set some ground rules and behavior expectations during your time.
11. Ease students into discussion. One tactic is to engage the students to arrive in "chit chat" about the weather, a recent sports event, something in the news, summer activities, etc. The point is to get students comfortable and talking so that as you ease them into the subject for the day, you are not making a sudden demand for performance.
12. Make certain each student has an opportunity to talk. The longer a student goes without talking, the more difficult it will become.
13. Don't forget non-verbal communication. Smiling and nodding are great! Look at the student who is speaking to show that you are listening and appreciate his or her contribution.
14. Be careful not to get into private conversations with one or two students that might exclude the rest of the group.

WHEN FRIDAY ARRIVES.

Please take note that the schedule is totally different on Friday. We will have Sheridan's again this year so we'll assign you a time to stop by and grab your yummy treat! We are planning on having a shaving cream war day at the end of the day. You may want to bring extra towels to help dry off kids.

Thanks for being a part of VBC as we try something new with our 3rd graders. If you have any questions please contact Nick Ransom at nick.ransom@cor.org.