



Learn more about *Hosting* a BACKYARD VBS!

WHY BACKYARD VBS?

Vacation Bible School (VBS) has been the highlight of many kids' summers in our community and definitely a highlight of ours! Our mission through all that we do at Harbor Kids is to help children find their way back to God and build up a strong foundation of faith in Jesus. VBS has been one of the vehicles our church has used to do that. We believe that this new season provides us with a unique opportunity to be the good news where we are at and make a difference on the hearts of kids in our own neighborhoods and their relationships with Christ - perhaps ones who wouldn't come to just but they'd come to your backyard.

WHAT IS BACKYARD VBS?

BACKYARD VBS is a form of outreach where someone in a neighborhood invites kids in their surrounding area to come to their residence for a fun time of building friendships through playing games and hearing Bible stories together. The Harbor Churches Kids Staff will be providing low prep, easy to use lessons and instructions. Training, invitations and other materials are provided!

WHEN WILL BACKYARD VBS'S BE HELD?

All BACKYARD VBS's will be on July 18th-21st at a one hour time frame chosen by each individual Host.

WHERE IS BACKYARD VBS?

BACKYARD VBS is at homes in neighborhoods, but don't get hung up on "backyard". Maybe for you, your front or side yard is better to host your VBS!

HOW DO WE HELP KEEP BACKYARD VBS SAFE?

First, you must be 18 or older to Host a BACKYARD VBS. All Hosts and Co-hosts (assistants age 12 or older) will go through the Harbor Churches screening procedure that includes submitting an application, references and adults having a clear background check. In addition, all volunteers will attend training to learn more about having a safe and successful BACKYARD VBS.

(Note: While many Hosts call Harbor Churches their home church, this is not a requirement).

Additional safety precautions:

- There is a 1:10 ratio, meaning 1 Host for every 10 kids. A Co-host (age 12 or older) is required for each additional 10 kids. If you need help finding a Co-host, email a kids staff member!

- Parents of children with special needs are asked to note if their child needs a 1:1 buddy to stay safe and have the best experience possible. The Kids Staff will arrange buddies, if needed, and be in communication with you.

WHAT IF IT RAINS?

In case of inclement weather, a Host may decide to hold VBS in their garage with the garage door open or may cancel the event for that day. The Host is responsible for communicating a cancellation to the parents at least 30 minutes prior to the start time.

WHAT IF A CHILD NEEDS TO USE THE RESTROOM?

If a child needs to use a restroom, their parent will need to be called to take them back to their home to use their bathroom. It is up to the Host if you are comfortable with allowing the parent into your home to use your restroom. Regardless, a parent should be called and under no circumstance should the Host or Co-Host take a child inside.

**Parents will be made aware of this procedure and will be encouraged to have their kids use the bathroom before coming so they won't have to miss anything!*

HOW WILL KIDS BE INVITED TO A BACKYARD VBS?

The Kids Staff will be providing door hanger invites for each Host. You, as the Host will fill in your name, address, time frame you chose and your yard number given to you by the Kids Staff, all other information is on it! You can use these door hangers as a tool to invite neighbors by having a conversation and handing it to them, or hanging it on their door if they're not home! If you have a neighborhood Facebook group, you may want to invite through that as well, just be sure to include all the info that's on the door hanger! The door hanger has a QR code for parents to register their kids. The registration response sheet will be shared with each Host so you can view how many kids are signing up for your yard!