

Transforming Your Community Using the VBS Link-up Plan

The VBS Link-up Plan can help every church in the association conduct a Vacation Bible School. In the VBS Link-up Plan, a church that has the resources and the desire to help another church plan and conduct a Vacation Bible School is “linked” by the association to a church needing help. The associational VBS director is responsible for administering the plan.

Associational Actions

1. Identify churches that need assistance conducting VBS.
 - Associational VBS statistical printouts via the Southern Baptist Directory Services can assist you in identifying which churches do not report having VBS.
 - Contact churches not reporting a VBS to discover how the association might assist them and to offer assistance through the VBS Link-up Plan.
2. Determine churches that have the resources and interest to participate in a VBS Link-up. This could be a question on your clinic registration form.
3. Report VBS Link-up possibilities on an Associational VBS Team Planning Report form.
4. Promote the Link-up Plan in the associational VBS clinics and other associational meetings.
5. Coordinate and initiate the Link-up contact between churches. The associational VBS director serves as the contact person for churches needing help and for churches that want to provide help in a Link-up.
6. Maintain a list of churches that are in the plan.
7. Indicate the number of churches participating in a VBS Link-up on the Associational VBS Clinic Report that is sent to the state VBS promoter.
8. Encourage churches to report VBS Link-up Plan participation when they report their Bible School results.

Sponsoring Church Responsibilities

The sponsoring church should provide whatever resources and leadership are necessary to help the recipient church conduct a successful Vacation Bible School. These actions might include the following:

1. Make contact with leaders of recipient churches to establish a relationship.

2. Coordinate VBS dates and schedule.
3. Help establish an appropriate VBS organization.
4. Provide or supplement VBS faculty and/or materials.
5. Develop promotion activities and assist with publicity and promotion.
6. Conduct combined VBS faculty training sessions.
7. Lead or assist in daily VBS worship experiences.
8. See that appropriate follow-up actions are taken after the school, including appropriate reports, and addition of prospect names to the Sunday School prospect file.
9. Report involvement in the VBS Link-up Plan on the VBS Report.

Recipient Church Actions

The recipient church needs to take as much responsibility for the Vacation Bible School as possible. The following are some possibilities:

1. Elect a VBS director or VBS Link-up coordinator.
2. Work with the sponsoring church to establish suitable dates, schedule, and organization.
3. Enlist available faculty.
4. Participate in publicity and promotion.
5. Encourage workers to attend the associational VBS clinic.
6. Promote the school heavily through the Sunday School and in all church services.
7. Prepare the church building for the Vacation Bible School.
8. Cooperate with the sponsoring church in follow-up activities.
9. Report participation in the VBS Link-up Plan on the VBS Report.