



# Deep Waters

## CoVA KidsFest '26 Volunteer Guide

AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> 2026

**Theme: Deep Waters**

**Theme Verse: "Follow me." - Matthew 4:19**

**Core Idea: Kids become "Deep Sea Explorers," discovering how following Jesus brings peace, purpose, and adventure, just like navigating the deep ocean with a guide.**

**Day 1: Dive In: Jesus Calls Us**

**Story: Jesus calls the first disciples**

**Truth: Jesus invites everyone to follow Him.**

**Key Phrase: "Jesus Choose Me"**

**Day 2: Deep Waters: Jesus Gives Us Power**

**Story: Peter walks on water**

**Truth: Jesus helps us do big things when we trust Him.**

**Key Phrase: "I can trust Jesus!"**

**Day 3: Surface & Shine: Jesus Sends Us**

**Story: The Great Commission**

**Truth: We follow Jesus by loving others.**

**Key Phrase: "I can share God's love!"**

# **VBS LEADER SCHEDULE**

## **PRE-PROGRAM**

**5:00–5:15 PM – Arrive, Set up area**

**5:15 – 5:30 PM – Leader Huddle**

**5:30–6:00 PM – Registration & Pre-Party**

## **MAIN PROGRAM**

**6:00–6:15 PM – Welcome & Worship**

**6:15–6:35 PM – Large Group Lesson**

## **ROTATION BLOCKS**

### **Group Assignments:**

**Green Team: (Depending on number of kids in each age)**

**Blue Team: (Depending on number of kids in each age)**

**Yellow Team: (Depending on number of kids in each age)**

**6:40–7:00 – Rotation 1**

**Green → Snack/Small Group**

**Blue → Crafts**

**Yellow → Sports**

**7:05–7:25 – Rotation 2**

**Green → Sports**

**Blue → Snack/Small Group**

**Yellow → Crafts**

**7:30–7:50 – Rotation 3**

**Green → Crafts**

**Blue → Sports**

**Yellow → Snack/Small Group**

**7:50–8:00 PM – Large Group Closing**

**(Yth Room)**

**8:00 – 8:30 PM – Clean Up and Reset For Next Day**

# **GUPPIES (Ages 3–5 Years)**

**Our youngest group is designed for early learners and first-time VBS participants.**

## **What to Expect:**

- **Remain in their own room for the entire evening (no rotations)**
- **Simplified Bible lessons and activities**
- **Play-based learning and hands-on engagement**
- **Shorter attention spans accommodated with flexible pacing**
- **Higher level of care and supervision**

## **K-2ND GRADE**

**This group is designed for younger elementary kids who are beginning to engage more independently.**

## **What to Expect:**

- **Participate in full rotations (Snack, Crafts, Sports)**
- **Interactive large group experience**
- **Guided small group discussions**
- **Hands-on activities tied to the lesson**

# **3RD-5TH GRADE**

**This group is designed for older elementary kids who can engage more deeply with the content.**

## **What to Expect:**

- **Participate in full rotations**
- **More interactive and discussion-based small group time**
- **Opportunities for deeper questions and application**
- **Higher energy and independence in activities**

# **Age Group Placement Guidelines**

**To create the best experience for every child, we group kids based on the grade they just completed in the most recent school year.**

## **Friends & Sibling Requests**

**We understand that kids often come with friends or siblings and may want to stay together. We do our best to accommodate this while maintaining a great experience for everyone.**

## **What We WILL Do**

- If two friends fall into adjacent age groups (example: 2nd grade and 3rd grade),**
- we will place the older child in the younger group so they can stay together.**

## **Important Limitation**

- We will NOT place older children into the Guppies (ages 3–5) group.**

## **This means:**

- Siblings or friends in the Guppies group and older groups will need to be separated**

# **Volunteer Roles**

**Dive Captains: Small Group  
leaders**

**Marine Guides: Helpers for each  
age group**

**Reef Artists: Crafts**

**Harbor Check-In Crew:  
Registration**

**Currents & Waves Team: Games**

**Deep Sea Worship Crew: Music +  
motions**

**Guppies Team: Ages 3-5 year  
Leader**

**Snack Crew: Snacks Team**

**Safety Crew: Safety Team**

# **DIVE CAPTAINS (Small Group Leaders)**

## **Purpose**

**You are the primary leader and shepherd for your group of kids. You guide them through the experience and help them take a step toward Jesus.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Stay with your assigned group at all times**
- **Build relationships and learn kids' names**
- **Help kids engage during Large Group**
- **Lead Small Group Time during snack**
  - **Ask questions**
  - **Lead the short activity**
  - **Guide discussion**
  - **Pray with your group**
- **Guide kids through rotations**
- **Help with dismissal and transitions**
- **Assist with cleanup and reset**

## **Focus**

- **Connection over perfection**
- **Every child feels seen and included**
- **Create a safe space for kids to talk and respond**

# **MARINE GUIDES (Small Group Helpers)**

## **Purpose**

**You support the Dive Captain and help ensure every child is cared for and engaged.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Stay with your assigned group**
- **Help manage behavior and engagement**
- **Assist kids during activities and transitions**
- **Support during Small Group Time**
  - **Help kids participate**
  - **Assist with activity**
  - **Encourage quieter kids**
- **Watch for kids who need extra help**
- **Assist with cleanup**

## **Focus**

- **Be attentive and proactive**
- **Step in quickly to help**
- **Support both the kids and the leader**

# **REEF ARTISTS (Craft Team)**

## **Purpose**

**Help kids create a hands-on reminder of the lesson they can take home.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Set up craft supplies and examples**
- **Lead craft instructions clearly and simply**
- **Help kids complete their craft**
- **Encourage creativity (not perfection)**
- **Reset supplies between rotations**
- **Clean and prepare for the next day**

## **Focus**

- **Keep it simple and fun**
- **Encourage every child**
- **Reinforce the lesson through the craft**

# **CURRENTS & WAVES TEAM (Games / Sports)**

## **Purpose**

**Create a high-energy, fun, and safe environment where kids experience the lesson through movement.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Set up and organize game equipment**
- **Lead games with clear, quick instructions**
- **Keep kids active and involved**
- **Ensure safety at all times**
- **Manage transitions between groups**
- **Reset equipment between rotations**
- **Clean up and reset space**

## **Focus**

- **Energy + safety**
- **Keep everyone involved**
- **Connect activity to the lesson briefly**

# **HARBOR CHECK-IN CREW (Registration)**

## **Purpose**

**Create a welcoming and organized first impression for every family.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Greet families warmly**
- **Check kids in and provide name tags (planning center)**
- **Help direct kids and parents**
- **Answer questions calmly and clearly**
- **Handle late arrivals smoothly**
- **Handle Onsite Registration/Pre-Registration**
- **Help organize materials and reset**

## **Focus**

- **Warm welcome**
- **Clear communication**
- **Calm problem-solving**

# **DEEP SEA WORSHIP CREW (Music + Motions)**

## **Purpose**

**Lead kids in engaging worship that helps them connect with God through music and movement.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Lead songs with energy and enthusiasm**
- **Teach and model motions clearly**
- **Encourage participation from all kids**
- **Help maintain energy during Large Group**
- **Assist with transitions if needed**
- **Reset stage and equipment**

## **Focus**

- **High energy**
- **Clear leadership**
- **Help kids feel comfortable participating**

# **SNACK CREW (Snacks Team)**

## **Purpose**

**Provide a smooth, welcoming, and efficient snack experience that supports small group time.**

## **Responsibilities**

- **Prepare and organize snack area**
- **Serve snacks quickly and efficiently**
- **Keep area clean and organized**
- **Support small group time as needed**
- **Reset tables between groups**
- **Clean and prepare for next day**

## **Focus**

- **Efficiency**
- **Cleanliness**
- **Hospitality**

# **GUPPIES TEAM (Ages 3-5)**

## **Purpose**

**You create a safe, calm, and engaging environment where our youngest kids can begin to experience God's love in a way they understand.**

## **How This Area Works**

- **Guppies remain in their room the entire night**
- **No rotations**
- **The experience is brought to them in a simplified, age-appropriate way**
- **The schedule is flexible based on attention span**

## **Responsibilities**

### **Care & Environment**

- **Greet kids warmly and help them feel comfortable**
- **Help with separation from parents if needed**
- **Maintain a calm, safe, and structured environment**
- **Monitor bathroom needs (follow safety procedures)**

# **GUPPIES TEAM (Ages 3-5)**

## **Worship & Engagement**

- **Participate in worship (modified for attention span)**
- **Lead simple motions and repetition**
- **Encourage participation without pressure**

## **Lesson Time (Simplified Teaching)**

- **Share a short, simplified version of the Bible story**
- **Use repetition and simple phrases**
- **Reinforce the daily key phrase**

## **Example:**

**"Jesus chose me!"**

**"I can trust Jesus!"**

**"I can share God's love!"**

## **Activity & Play**

- **Lead a simple craft or activity**
- **Use play-based engagement (coloring, movement, toys)**
- **Keep instructions VERY simple**

# **GUPPIES TEAM (Ages 3-5)**

## **Snack Time**

- **Help kids with snack**
- **Use this time for simple conversation and connection**
- **Reinforce the key phrase casually**

## **Teamwork**

- **Work closely with other Guppies volunteers**
- **Communicate needs quickly**
- **Stay flexible (this age group requires it)**

## **Cleanup & Reset**

- **Clean toys, tables, and surfaces**
- **Reset room for the next day**
- **Restock supplies if needed**