

Mariners Church Vacation Bible School

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL

When does registration close?

VBS registration for kids, student and adult volunteers closes on Sunday, June 5, 2016.

How much does it cost?

\$60 per child for the week.

What should my child wear?

Please have your child wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes each day to VBS (no flip-flops or Heelys). On the first day of VBS, your child will be given a VBS t-shirt and name tag when they check in with their Guide at their assigned group. Your child should wear their VBS t-shirt and nametag or wristband every day.

Where do I drop off and pick up my child each day?

Doors open at 8:45am each day. An adult must walk your child to their group and check in and check out your child each day. Kids cannot check in or check out by themselves.

Kindergarten kids have a separate program designed for them that will help them feel less overwhelmed with the large crowds in the Worship Center. All Kindergartners should be dropped off and picked up in Port Mariners in Room 221 or Room 230, depending on their group number (look for your group number in the information email or on signs posted outside the rooms).

1st – 5th graders will check in and check out of the Worship Center each day. All 1st – 5th graders should be dropped off in the Worship Center at their group's row (group number will be printed on their name tag). Your child's Guide and Assistant Guide will be waiting for you each day in the same place.

VBS ends each day at 12:30pm.

Note: For the safety and protection of all children attending VBS, we ask that you do not pick up your child early from VBS. If there is a special circumstance or situation that your child does need to leave VBS early, you must pick them up before 11:30am. For the safety of your child, he or she cannot leave their group on their own and you must walk to their location and check them out with their Guide. Parents must go to Registration, located on the patio outside the Worship Center, and you will be directed to the location of your child's group.

What is Wednesday night's BBQ and Family Celebration Program?

Families and friends are invited to Wednesday night's program in the Worship Center at 7pm. Admission is free. Come see what your child has experienced at VBS with a fun evening of music with Tim Timmons, a fun program and a time to celebrate all that is happening at VBS.

Before the program, join us for a BBQ dinner outside on the lawn. Tickets for the BBQ are available to purchase online when you register your child for VBS.

What happens on Water Day?

1st-5th graders will have water day on the Friday of VBS; Kindergarten and Preschool will have water day on Thursday. They should wear a swimsuit under their clothes, wear sunscreen and bring a towel. Your child will get completely wet as they enjoy sliding down inflatable water slides. If you have questions about water day, please check with your child's Guide for more information.

Where is the best place to park?

Please park in any lot that is open closest to the Worship Center or Port Mariners. Please do not park in the red zones.

Does the Mariners Café serve lunch during VBS week?

Each day after VBS, the Mariners Church Global Café offers quick and easy kid-friendly lunches to purchase on the patio or in the Cafe.

What if my child has an injury or medical issue?

Occasionally children get injured or sick while at VBS. We have a doctor and nursing staff on campus during VBS, located in the prayer room in the Worship Center. You will enter an emergency contact on the registration form should we need to contact you.

How do I make a donation for a scholarship or for a general VBS donation?

Mail or drop off a check in any offering box or in the office at Mariners Church. In the memo, please write "Port Mariners Donation" or "Port Mariners Child Scholarship". Or contact Karen at kmeier@marinerschurch.org

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

Our worship center will be full of kids and volunteers, which does not allow for parent seating. However, parents are welcome to stand in the Worship Center lobby and watch the program on the monitors.

REGISTRATION

Can my child be in a group with their friends?

Yes. You can request one friend request. We organize groups by grade and the friend request must be going into the same grade as your child and be registered by June 5th. While we cannot guarantee every child's request, we will do our best to accommodate your request if the above requirements have been met.

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

Yes, each child who attends VBS must have a completed registration form. This includes kids attending the preschool VBS and infant childcare (for the children of those volunteering at VBS).

Do you take credit cards?

Yes, we accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and eChecks.

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

No, only a parent or legal guardian may complete the form because we need to have the parent's signature on the medical and photo release.

I have two kids, one is entering Kindergarten in the fall and one is in preschool. Can they both attend VBS?

VBS is for Kindergarten through 5th graders. However, if you volunteer all 5 days during VBS, your preschooler may attend the preschool VBS. If you choose not to volunteer all 5 days, only your Kindergarten can attend.

My child has a friend but they are in a different grade. Can they still be together during VBS? What about siblings who are in different grades?

No, we group kids by the school grade they are entering in September 2016. This also applies to siblings. This helps kids make friends with their peers and ensures an age appropriate learning environment.

My child is inviting a friend that doesn't go to Mariners, what do I need to do to make sure they are in the same group?

When you register your child, write the friend's full name on the question where it asks for a "Friend Request". Please ask your friend's parent to register their child and request your child on their form. Both children need to be registered by June 5th to be placed in the same group. Remember that we group kids by grade. If the friend is in another grade, they will not be placed together.

What if my child wants to change groups during VBS?

For your child's safety, please do not randomly move your child to another group. Groups are formed so we know where your child is at all times. Guides are not authorized to move children to a different group. Any group changes must be approved by VBS Registration located on the patio outside on the Worship Center.

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

Please send your request to vbs@marinerschurch.org with any changes.

I have a special needs child, can they participate in VBS?

Yes, write down your child's special need and the type of assistance he/she will need so we can make sure to match a volunteer to that group who is capable to assist. If they have an aide, have the aide attend one of our training meetings so they know what to anticipate. All volunteers must be registered to participate in VBS.

Once I create my online login and password, can I use it for all my family members?

Yes. Once you have your login and password, you can navigate through the online process and register your kids as well as yourself, if you are volunteering, all at one time.

How do I know if I did online registration correctly?

Once you've successfully completed a registration through checkout, you will immediately receive a confirmation email. **If you don't receive a confirmation in your inbox, please check your spam folder. If you have no confirmation email, you are not registered and will need to try again.**

I have several kids; can I pay for all of them on one credit card transaction?

Yes, when registering online, simply choose "Register Another Person" before you go to the final checkout window. You must checkout to complete the transaction.

I need a scholarship - can I request one online?

Scholarship forms are available in paper only and you can get one at the Welcome Harbor in Port Mariners on the weekend or send an email to vbs@marinerschurch.org

If I need to write more information than the space allows me on the online registration form, what should I do?

You are welcome to email a note with the information to vbs@marinerschurch.org