

# CREW LEADER SUCCESS TIPS

## Understand Connection is KEY:

- **Know Your Kids:** You get to be with a small group of kids who you will call by name, and help them feel seen and loved in a crowd of kids.
  - Get on their level by kneeling or sitting with them to make eye contact
  - Play name games to help everyone learn each other's names
- **Keep Kids Engaged:** Use transitions and down-time intentionally
  - Help conversations move towards Christ-connections.
  - Share who Jesus is to you! Nothing is more powerful than your personal testimony.
  - Create challenges to help everyone in your crew memorize the Bible verse!
  - Ask open-ended questions
    - Examples: "What has been your favorite part? Which worship song do you like the most?"
- **Listen Actively:** Show genuine interest in the kids' responses and encourage them to share more by asking follow-up questions.
- **Create a Safe Space:** Ensure that kids feel comfortable sharing by being non-judgmental and supportive. Help other kids to be good listeners when their peers talk.
- **Share Your Own Experiences:** Relate to the kids by sharing your own stories and experiences that connect to the Gospel and to our daily truths.
- **Encourage Reflection:** Help kids think deeper about their answers and how they relate to God's truth.
- **Create Group Discussions:** Encourage kids to listen to and respect each other's responses, promoting a sense of community.
- **Explain expectations:** Take time to talk about what the day will look like, what rotations kids will go to, and how they will be moving around the building.
  - Be patient with kids who don't know "church" rules, like being quiet while someone is praying, focusing during Bible story time, following safety guidelines, etc
- **Correct Behaviors Individually:** Speak one-on-one when guidance is necessary. Avoid labeling behaviors. (For instance: instead of calling inappropriate language "bad words," just remind kids that "we don't say those words here.")
- **Connect with Parents:** Remember that the way to a parent's heart is through their kids!
  - Celebrate something specific about their child during drop-off and pick-up.
    - Reassure any kids who might be nervous at drop-off. Ask parents questions about their child's likes and dislikes to help create a peaceful hand-off.
- **Remember our First Time Guests:** Stay away from "church-ese." Speak their language. Define church words often. Some won't know who Jesus is, or about sin or baptism.



## Prepare for Success

- **Read through the resources at [rockbridge.cc/awvbs](http://rockbridge.cc/awvbs)**
  - Familiarize yourself with the worship songs and be ready to worship alongside your crew! They are looking to YOU to model worship just as much as the worship team on the stage.
- **Know your backpack**
  - Small first aid kit - band aids, cotton balls, small hand sanitizer, gloves
  - Pen
  - Attendance Sheet
    - You will have a blank attendance sheet to fill out & document the **FIRST and LAST names** of every kid in your crew.
  - Crew Leader Connection Cards
  - Prewritten Crew # round stickers (enough for Monday-Wednesday)
    - One round colored sticker for each kid with your crew number on it for each night
    - As kids arrive in their crews, you will check your attendance sheet and give each kid a round sticker on their name tag.
    - \*\*If a child arrives without a round sticker & isn't on your attendance sheet, please take them back to registration.
  - Tokens!!
    - Use them to encourage behaviors that you want to see repeated!
    - Learning the memory verse, worshiping, participating well, the fruits of the spirit on display, etc.
- **Prioritize Safety**
  - **Attendance:** Know who is in your crew at all times. Use the provided attendance sheet every night. If a new kid joins, check their name tag to see if the crew number written matches your crew number. If not, take them to the registration team to get it fixed.
  - If you have a kid on your roster that is not physically present in your group, please let us know. The person I will tell is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **Pick-up Tags:** Parents will pick up their kids from your assigned row each night. You'll check their tag.
    - Check to be sure the code on the kids' name tag and the pick-up tag are an exact match. (Pictures of the pick-up tag are acceptable).
    - If there is no matching pick-up tag, the parent must take their photo ID to registration so we can verify that they are on the kid's pick-up list.
  - **Allergy Alert** - Please check your kids' name tags and know who has an allergy and what that allergy is. If you are unsure whether their allergen could be present in our environment, please ask!

## Have a GREAT Week!

- **Lead with joy and enthusiasm** that comes from an overflow of the time you spend with God!
  - Read our Leader Devotions in your handbook or via email to let the same lessons the kids hear apply to your life, too
  - Reflect on your personal decision to follow Jesus and let it reignite your passion for sharing Jesus with your kids!
- We want you to have just as much fun as the kids!
  - Pay attention to what fuels you to show up with your kids each evening!
    - You'll get tired as the days pass, but remembering why you're serving will help you enjoy the hard moments
- Create challenges to help everyone in your crew memorize the Bible verse!
  - Feel free to use non-food rewards to incentivize them
    - Examples: Being line leader, being first to get their snack, etc.
- **Assist the Station Leaders**
  - Take initiative - see a need and meet that need if you're able
  - Ask "What can I help with?" instead of "Can I help?" as your kids complete their activities
  - Be responsible for your crew by helping them meet the Station Leader's expectations
  - Help kids focus by sitting with them, participating alongside them, praising kids who are on task and giving out tokens!
- **Ask for help when needed!**
  - If we can support you in a specific way, let us know!
- **Pray!**
  - For your kids, their families, true discipleship following AWWBS and for yourself as you point kids to Christ!
  - Ask God to do great things for you and your kids this week!
  - Pray for the wisdom, words, energy and right heart as you lead your kids!

## Need to Knows:

- Know your arrival times and places and always communicate if you can't be there when you are expected. I will tell \_\_\_\_\_ that I'll be late or absent.
- Sunday arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_
- Monday-Wednesday Dinner time: \_\_\_\_\_
- Monday-Wednesday I should be in my place by: \_\_\_\_\_
- On Tuesday night, where should I go after kids are dismissed? \_\_\_\_\_
- What will clean-up look like on Wednesday?

- **Understand the Schedule**
  - Make sure you understand how to read the schedule. Know exactly where your crew will be and what'll be doing at any given time.
- **Walk the Route**
  - Physically visit the spaces you will be in so that you can confidently lead your kids through their rotations.
- **Know your Routine:**
  - What should you do with your backpack at the end of each night?
  - What should you do with your name tag at the end of each night?
  - Who is your contact person if you need something?

**Notes:**