

# 5

## THINGS NOT TO DO WHEN FINDING VOLUNTEERS

*and what to do instead!*



1

Don't call people out during Sunday service. No one likes to be singled out in front of a large group, especially at church.

Instead, have former volunteers share a testimonial about the amazing time they had when they volunteered for the previous VBS.

2

Don't ask someone during or within 24 hours of serving on a crazy day of Sunday school, being a chaperone for a field trip, taking kids to a trampoline park, hosting a sleepover for eight 6-year-olds, or spending any time near the Chick-fil-A play area. It's all about timing. Obviously these people love kids, but give them a breather.

Instead, come back to them when they can look back on those moments fondly with the rose-colored glasses of far-off memories.

3

Don't stage a surprise attack. The surprise attack can happen in many forms. You can literally surprise people by jumping out from behind the greenery at church and scaring them into volunteering. Or you can ask them when they least expect it, taking them by surprise and making them feel like they have to say yes.

Instead, share why you think they'd be a good volunteer and then give them time to think about it. [Click here for an example of how to ask someone to volunteer in 90 seconds or less.](#)

4

Don't use a guilt trip. This is not the time to call in a favor for that time you dog-sat for your friend Jenny.

Instead, ask Jenny to be a part of VBS, but let her know it's because it's a great way to help change kids' lives and have a blast in the process.

5

Don't use the kids to ask. Actually, scratch that. Use the kids—how can anyone say no to kids? But defer to #4 (no Oliver Twist moments; have the kids keep it light, positive, and fun)