

What is the main goal of Rocky Railway?

Our prayer is that each child and adult who participates in Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School will come away with a deeper understanding that God loves them and has given them everything they need to face even the most challenging circumstances in life and realize the community of support they can find among other people who follow Jesus. We invite all children ages 4 through entering grade five in the fall of 2021 to join us!

What Bible stories will be taught during the week?

Monday – Ananias helps Saul - Acts 9:1-19

Bottom Line: Jesus' power helps us do hard things.

Key Verse: "For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13

Tuesday – Paul encourages others in a storm and shipwreck - Acts 27

Bottom Line: Jesus' power gives us hope.

Key Verse: "So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24

Wednesday – Peter & John teach about Jesus - Acts 3:1 – 4:31

Bottom Line: – Jesus' power helps us be bold.

Key Verse: "He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless." Isaiah 40:29

Thursday – Jesus' death & resurrection - Matthew 26-28

Bible Line: Jesus' power lets us live forever.

Key Verse: "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you." Romans 8:11

Friday – The church is united, Acts 2, 4:32-35

Bible Line: Jesus' power helps us be good friends.

Key Verse: "Love each other in the same way that I have loved you." John 15:12

What does the schedule for the morning look like?

Children will gather with their Crews on the front lawn at 9:00. We will start the day all together at our large group opening session with fun music, skits, competitions and the daily bible story. Then, crews will rotate through different stations including games, music and crafts. We'll gather for a final closing session with music, silliness and a recap of daily fun before dismissal at 11:30 am.

Does my child need to bring anything?

Please be sure that they are dressed in clothes they can easily wear for outside games. Some of our projects might get messy, so clothing that is easily washable would be best. Sunscreen, since we will be outdoors is also essential. Otherwise, there is no need to bring anything.

Does your program pay special attention to allergies?

Yes. All children with any sort of allergy that could arise during the week of VBS has a discreet notation on their name tags. Small Group leaders are able to carry Epi Pens or any other

needed items with them in their crew bags. Our hope is that each child and their family can feel safe and comfortable at our VBS.

What sort of safety measures does your program take?

Our program seeks to have direct hand off between leader and child at the start and finish of each day. Participants are signed in by the parent or adult bringing them and has a chance to note who will be picking up the child that day. Each child also needs to be signed out upon pick up before being released. If it is not the parent or guardian picking up there is an approved list of people you can include in your registration. They will need to present ID the first time they pick up, if they did not drop off the child with their group leader that morning.

Background checked small group leaders will rotate with every group. Even though not all of our youth and adult leaders are background checked they always work in pairs and travel as groups. Even when an adult is working individually with a child they are never in a private space.

Does your program welcome kids with special needs?

Yes! We are working to develop a program that is able to allow all children to participate. If you have a child with special needs please reach out to us in advance to talk about what sorts of things we can do to help your child have a great week. Specifically, we would love to have an extra Buddy assigned to your child's crew and know in advance what things they love and what things are challenging for them. Our curriculum includes fun ideas and options for kids with special needs and we would love to incorporate those for your child.

Can my child bring a friend?

Yes! Please encourage your child's friend to register online before Sunday, July 18th, for speedy check-in on the first morning. However, walk-in registration will be available each morning of Vacation Bible School. Friends can join at any point during the week.

My child can't make it to every day of VBS. Can they still participate?

Yes! We will miss your child, but would love to have them join in on any days they are able to. Please note any expected absences in the "Comments" part of your registration.

Can my child who is turning 4 this summer participate?

We welcome all children who are 4 years old by the start of Vacation Bible School.

Is something going on Sunday morning, August 1st?

Yes! During the City Church worship service at 9:30 a.m., we will be celebrating children and our week of Vacation Bible School. All children are invited to sing a few songs from our week during the service. There will be a celebration immediately following the service. You won't want to miss it!

I've still got more questions! Who can I contact?

Shelley Gruling, Children's Pastor: shelley@citychurchmpls.org

I will be happy to answer all your questions!