

# The Nuts and Bolts of a Volunteer Huddle

- Gather your volunteer team 30 minutes before the service time for a 5–10 minute volunteer huddle.
- If possible, provide coffee and a snack.
- Once you've created the right culture for huddles, replace yourself by assigning volunteers the task of leading a huddle. (This is a great tool for leadership development and a fringe benefit is it also creates a healthy competition among your team for who can come up with the most creative ideas and activities for their huddle! So. much. fun!)
- Always include the Four Things Every Volunteer Needs: Support, Empowerment, Connection, and Significance.

## **Support & Empowerment – Make It Helpful**

- Include announcements and reminders about details for the day and future events/trainings.
- Drive home that day's Bottom Line.
- Remind them why they are here (e.g., *to love kids because they are made in the image of God and to help kids mature in their ability to relate to God and grow in their faith*).

## **Connection – Make It Memorable and Fun**

- Facilitate a fun activity or ice breaker that illustrates the Bottom Line for the day or reinforces a church or organizational value.
- After playing, drive the point home.
- Try to keep it to about 5 minutes. The point is to get volunteers pumped up and excited to SERVE!

## **Significance – Make It Meaningful**

- Share a story of life change that connects the role volunteers play to fulfilling the overall vision of the church: helping people follow Jesus! “What you do matters because . . . !”
- Close out your huddle with an uplifting and encouraging prayer for the team and for the people you serve.
- Create a team cheer and get to it! “Go Team!”