Day 1 Opening and Closing

Constellations

Introduction for the Station Leader:

Good morning! I wanted to start out by telling you the overall themes for the day. The main theme for the day is God guides us. This is shown through the Bible Story in Exodus. In Exodus, the Israelites are being led out of Egypt by Moses and God. God guides them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God sent His Son, Jesus, to guide us and Jesus guides us through his word. God continues to guide us today.

Back in history, as settlers were traveling out west in the hopes of a better life, the settlers were not going into the prairies and deserts blind. They were led by a guidebook or a guide, who was an experienced man who had traveled the route many times. This is the connection from the West to the overall theme.

Also, the cowboys and the settlers were guided by the stars above. These are also called constellations. These constellations are in different parts of the sky depending on where you are. That is how they guide. God also guides us through His Bible and also His Son, Jesus.

Supplies:

* Laptop
* Projector
* Constellations Video
* Different kinds of Bibles
	+ Children’s
	+ Youth Study Bible
	+ Adult Study Bible
	+ Bibles in different languages
	+ Old Bibles

Preparation:

* Retrieve the Pillars of Cloud and Fire from Elementary Bible Story before the Closing

Instructions for the Opening:

1. Have Western-type Music Playing
2. Welcome
	1. Greet children and welcome them to The Old West where they are going to learn about all the great things God does for all His children.
3. Sing a song
4. Introduce your Pastor/Minister
5. Have your Pastor/Minister do:
	1. Opening Prayer
	2. Introduce to Bible Story
6. You introduce Bible Character
	1. Oscar the Western Screech Owl
	2. Review theme “God guides us.”
7. Sing a song
8. Explain to children how they will be going to different stations to learn, explore, and have fun.
9. Check to make sure all the group leaders know where they are going next.
10. Dismiss groups one at a time to go to the next station

Instructions for the Skit:

1. Welcome children to the skit time
2. Sing a song
3. Introduce the Skit
4. Watch Skit
5. Talk about Mission

Instructions for the Closing:

1. Have Western Music playing
2. Welcome them to the closing
3. Review the Story
	1. Show the pillars they made in Elementary Bible Story
4. Ask how did the cowboys know where to go in the desert and prairie without a gps or cellphone? Discuss answers
5. Show constellations video
6. God provided the stars in the sky to help guide the cowboys. We have maps and gps to help us get around town and find neat places to visit but how do we know how we should behave and how do we learn what’s right and what’s wrong? Does God provide something for us to help us? (the Bible)
7. Show different kinds of Bibles. Does he provide anyone for us? (Jesus)
8. Closing Prayer
	1. The Lord’s Prayer
9. Sing a song