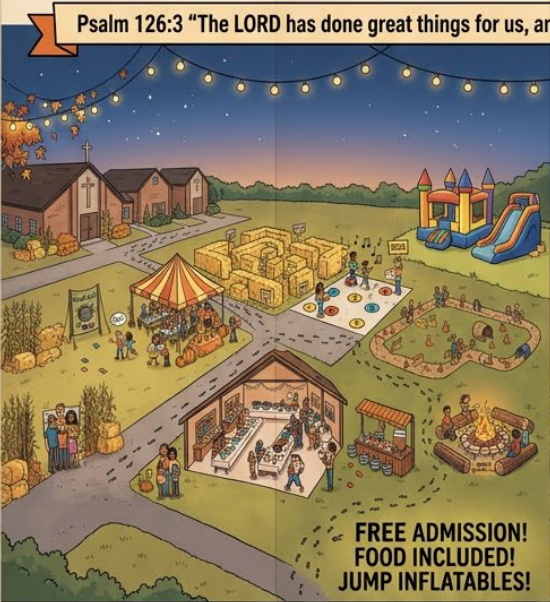


To orchestrate a seamless **Christian Harvest Festival** from **5:30 PM to 9:30 PM**, your schedule must account for the transition from daylight to evening. This four-hour timeline balances high-energy outdoor activities with a cozy, structured finale around the fire.



Psalm 126:3 "The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."



**FREE ADMISSION!
FOOD INCLUDED!
JUMP INFLATABLES!**

HARVEST FEST 2026

A Faith & Family
Autumn Celebration!



WELCOME

START HERE!
SET PHOTOGRAPHS

QUESTIONS?
Contact the Church Office:
[PHONE]
[EMAIL]



VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

**CHILI & PIE ENTRY!
SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY!
DROP OFF @ 5 PM!**

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 20th
TIME: 5:30-9:30 PM
LOCATION: [Insert Church Name Here]

**WELCOME CHURCH
FAMILIES & COMMUNITY!**





JUMP



EAT



CRAFTS



**GOSPEL
COLORS**

**Featuring 10 Fun
Activity Stations!**

**CHILI COOK-OFF
COMPETITION!**

**S'MORES & WORSHIP
AT THE CAMPFIRE!**

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The Master Timeline (5:30 PM – 9:30 PM)

- 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM: The Arrival & Welcome Window
 - Gates open. Upbeat, welcoming acoustic music plays over

the speakers. Families check in, grab their event passports, and take family photos while the daylight lasts.

- **6:00 PM – 7:45 PM: Main Event & Activity Stations Open**
 - All **10 activity spots** are fully operational. Food is served continuously during this block so families can eat at their own pace.
- **7:45 PM – 8:00 PM: Station Cleanup & Transition**
 - Volunteers close down the standard booths and gently direct families toward the central amphitheater or bonfire zone.
- **8:00 PM – 8:45 PM: Community Feast Competitions & Family Devotional**
 - Announce the winners of the Chili Cook-off and Pie-Baking contest. Follow this with a brief, high-impact 10-minute family devotion celebrating God's harvest, provision, and faithfulness.
- **8:45 PM – 9:30 PM: Bonfire, Worship & S'mores**
 - Wind down with interactive acoustic worship, cider, and s'mores around the fire pits.

To successfully execute this 4-hour Harvest Festival for **approximate sizes of 150 to 200 attendees** (a typical vibrant church family demographic), you need a careful breakdown of space, logistics, and personnel.

Here is the exact blueprint for your venue footprint, volunteer scheduling, and operational management.

Venue & Space Requirements

To host all **10 event spots** safely without families feeling cramped, you need a minimum of **10,000 to 12,000 square feet** of usable outdoor and indoor space. A standard church property with a mid-sized parking lot and an adjacent grassy field or fellowship hall is ideal.

Space Breakdown by Station

- **The Inflatable & High-Energy Zone (Spots 6 & 9):** Requires a **50' x 50'** flat, grassy surface clear of low-hanging tree branches, power lines, or pavement. This keeps kids safe if they slip exiting the bounce house or running the obstacle course.
- **The Campfire Circle (Spot 10):** Position this at least **30 feet away** from any permanent buildings, vehicles, or inflatable structures. Ensure it is on dirt or gravel, or use elevated, heavy-duty portable fire pits on grass with water fire extinguishers immediately on hand.
- **The Food & Gathering Hub (Spot 7):** Requires roughly **1,500 square feet** (ideally an indoor fellowship hall or a large covered pavilion). You will need space for 6–8 long banquet tables for the chili crockpots (requiring heavy-duty extension cords and dedicated electrical breakers) and enough seating for families to eat comfortably.
- **Game and Craft Booths (Spots 2, 3, 5, 8):** Can be grouped in clusters of **10' x 10' canopy tents** spaced 15 feet apart along your main walkway or parking lot perimeter to create a seamless "festival street" feel.

Volunteer Personnel & Shift Scheduling

To prevent volunteer burnout and keep energy levels high, **do not make anyone work the entire 4-hour block**. Divide your team into two shifts: **Shift A (5:15 PM – 7:30 PM)** and **Shift B (7:30 PM – 9:45 PM)**.

To run all 10 stations safely and handle logistics, you will need a total pool of **34 distinct volunteers**.

Core Team Leads (Full Event: 5:00 PM – 9:45 PM)

- **1 Event Director:** Oversees operations, manages the master clock, and coordinates transitions.
- **1 Safety & Float Lead:** Constantly walks the grounds with a first-aid kit, manages trash overflow, and steps in if a booth volunteer needs a quick bathroom break.
- **1 AV / Media Tech:** Manages the main sound system, plays background music, and handles microphones for the 8:00 PM devotion.

The 10 Event Station Spots

Transform your campus into an interactive journey. Provide every child with a "Harvest Passport" to get stamped at each of these 10 distinct areas:

- **Spot 1: The Welcome Corral & Photo Backdrop**
 - *The Setup:* Positioned right at the main entrance. Set up a festive fall backdrop with straw bales, corn stalks, and pumpkins.
 - *The Activity:* Welcome teams check families in, hand out passports, and offer to take family photos on parents' phones.
- **Spot 2: The Sower's Seed-Sling (Slingshot Game)**
 - *The Setup:* A safe, netted-off area with large, stable triple-slingshots.
 - *The Activity:* Kids launch seed-bags (small beanbags) at large painted targets representing "good soil," "thorny ground," and "rocky soil" to visualize Jesus' parable of the farmer sowing seed.
- **Spot 3: Creation Station Craft Tent**
 - *The Setup:* A long rows of tables under a canopy with markers, crayons, and stamps.
 - *The Activity:* Kids color autumn-themed coloring pages featuring bold scripture lines like **Psalm 46:1** ("God is our refuge and strength") or assemble mini pumpkin crafts to take home.
- **Spot 4: The Great Bible Scavenger Hunt (The Corn-Maze)**
 - *The Setup:* An area designated as a hay-bale maze or a marked walking path.
 - *The Activity:* Hidden throughout the maze are 5 distinct clues highlighting historical milestones of scripture. Kids find and write down the answers on the back of their passports to earn a special prize.

- **Spot 5: The "Gospel Colors" Cake Walk**
 - *The Setup:* A large circle painted on the ground with numbered spots, utilizing a speaker system for music.
 - *The Activity:* A traditional musical chairs-style game where kids step on numbers. When the music stops, a number is drawn. To win a cupcake or treat, the group briefly recites the meaning of the gospel color they are standing near (e.g., Gold for God's glory, Red for Christ's sacrifice).
- **Spot 6: The Iron Horse Rodeo (Obstacle Course)**
 - *The Setup:* A grassy field arranged with cones, small hay hurdles, and cardboard tunnels.
 - *The Activity:* Kids race through an agile obstacle course while riding stick-ponies or running on foot, learning about the endurance of runners and the beauty of God's animal creation.
- **Spot 7: The Chili Cook-Off & Sweet Pie Pavilion**
 - *The Setup:* The main food hub with long tables, power strips for crockpots, and voting boxes.
 - *The Activity:* Church families drop off their best chili and pies. Attendees sample the entries as their evening meal and cast anonymous ballots for the "People's Choice" awards.
- **Spot 8: The Apple Bobbing & Cider Press Bar**
 - *The Setup:* A well-lit station featuring contactless apple-bobbing (using individual matching buckets or using nets to scoop apples) alongside a hot cider dispensing station.
 - *The Activity:* A refreshing rest-stop where parents can chat over warm cider while kids try to catch floating apples.
- **Spot 9: The Harvest Inflatable Zone**
 - *The Setup:* A wide, open parking lot or field section featuring a rented bounce house or obstacle slide, powered safely by generators.
 - *The Activity:* A high-energy station monitored by dedicated safety volunteers where kids burn off energy before the evening devotional.
- **Spot 10: The Campfire & S'mores Circle**
 - *The Setup:* Safe, supervised portable fire pits surrounded by camp chairs or hay benches.

- *The Activity:* Serving as the final destination of the night, families gather here starting at 8:00 PM for the community prizes, family devotion, acoustic worship, and roasting marshmallows.

Station Volunteer Allocation (Per Shift)

Because Shift B handles the transition away from games and into the campfire program, their tasks shift mid-evening.

Station / Responsibility	Shift A (5:15–7:30 PM)	Shift B (7:30–9:45 PM)	Core Duties & Tasks
Spot 1: Welcome Corral	2	1	Check families in, hand out passports, capture guest contact info. Shift B transitions to a clean-up crew at 8:00 PM.
Spot 2: Sower's Seed-Sling	1	1	Retrieve launched beanbags, manage the line, stamp passports.
Spot 3: Creation Craft Tent	2	1	Hand out supplies, reset markers, help younger kids assemble crafts.

Spot 4: Bible Scavenger Hunt	1	1	Monitor the entrance of the maze/pathway to ensure kids do not get unruly or alter the clues.
Spot 5: Gospel Colors Cake Walk	2	1	One person stops/starts music and calls numbers; one hands out treats.
Spot 6: Rodeo Obstacle	1	1	Keep the starting line organized, reset knocked-over cones or hurdles.
Spot 7: Chili Cook-Off Pavilion	3	3	Manage ladle distribution, monitor crockpot power lines, hand out voting ballots, and keep drinks stocked.
Spot 8: Apple & Cider Bar	1	1	Pour warm cider into cups, restock fresh apples or scooping nets.

Spot 9: Inflatable Safety Zone	2	2	Strictly mandatory for insurance safety. Monitor capacity counts, keep big kids separated from toddlers, and enforce exit timing.
Spot 10: Bonfire Circle	1	2	Shift A builds the fire and monitors early wood. Shift B manages marshmallow/s'mores distribution and extinguishes the fire completely at 9:30 PM.
Total Volunteers Required	16 positions	15 positions	<i>Combined with 3 Core Leads = 34 total volunteers.</i>

Phase-by-Phase Preparation Timeline



4 Weeks Out: Foundations & Sourcing

- Reserve the church space and clear the electrical needs with your church facilities manager.

- Book your inflatable rentals and verify the rental company's insurance policy.
- Launch your **Chili & Pie Sign-up Sheet** in the church lobby or online bulletin so families can commit to bringing food.



2 Weeks Out: Volunteer & Donation Push

- Finalize your 34 volunteer slots using your online sign-up tool or direct messaging.
- Place a "Candy & Prize Donation Bin" in your church lobby. Request nut-free candies, mini play-doh packs, and fall-themed stickers.
- Print out 150 "Harvest Passports" and assemble the game signs.



Day of the Event: Execution

- **12:00 PM – 3:00 PM:** Set up heavy structures (canopy tents, tables, hay bales, and inflatable delivery).
- **3:00 PM – 4:30 PM:** Run extension cords, test electrical breakers with the chili crockpots plugged in, and test the outdoor sound system.
- **5:00 PM:** Host a mandatory **15-minute All-Volunteer Huddle**. Pray over the evening, hand out passports/stamps to booth workers, and verify everyone knows their shift transition partner.
- **5:30 PM:** Open the gates and let the festival begin!