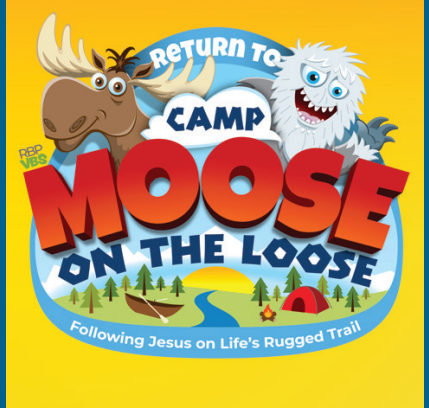


INTRODUCTORY SCRIPT
NO APP FOR THAT

Bruce the Moose enters excitedly. NOTE: See the bottom of page 15 for instructions about using prop rods to handle props. You also may want to attach some props to the puppets' hands (e.g., Dusty's phone).

Bruce: Hello, everybody! My name is Bruce—Bruce the Moose. Welcome to the great outdoors! You know, I've always thought we need a better name than that. How about instead of calling it "the great outdoors," we call it "the amazing, fantastic, colossal, stupendous outdoors"! I think that's much better.

After all, there's so much of God's amazing creation to discover out here. Plus, you can hike the trails, paddle a canoe on the lake, and roast marshmallows over the campfire.

This really is a beautiful place to be, but it's important to be prepared. Sometimes folks come out here to the forest and think they know everything they need to know. They find out pretty quickly they still have a lot to learn.

Hey, that reminds me. Ranger Beth has some new ranger cadets. In fact, I think I hear them coming this way. I'd better get out of sight! *(Bruce exits.)*

Ranger Beth enters, carrying a backpack. She assumes that Aspen and Dusty are following her, but they have fallen behind and aren't yet in the scene.

Beth: All right, you two, let's pick up the pace. We've still got half a mile to go before we reach the ranger station. *(Stops and looks back, then realizes nobody is behind her.)* Now, what is taking them so long? *(Calling into the distance.)* Aspen! Dusty! Hurry up! We're going to be late!

Aspen and Dusty enter, moving slower than Beth and clearly winded from the long hike.

Dusty: We wouldn't be running late if she didn't stop to take pictures of *everything*!

Aspen: But nature is so photogenic. There's so much to take pictures of that we don't see in the city. *(Moves to take a photo as if she suddenly spotted something.)* Ooh, like this! *(Takes a photo.)* And like that! *(Spotting something else, Aspen takes another photo.)* And *wow,* look at this! *Takes another photo.)*

Dusty: See what I mean? Aspen stops to take pictures of *everything*. *(Waves his phone in several directions.)*

Aspen: Oh yeah? Well, Dusty keeps stopping to wave his phone around in the air. What's up with that?

Dusty: *(A little condescending.)* I'm trying to get a signal so the map app on my phone will open.

Beth: Wait a minute. You have a trail map on your phone?

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Dusty: More precisely, it's one of my phone apps. It's a map app.

Beth: An app map?

Dusty: Not an app map . . . a *map app.*

Beth: I see.

Dusty: *(Holding his phone up.)* I downloaded an app a while ago. But then my phone offloaded it to save space. If I can't get a signal out here, then I can't get to my map. Doesn't this forest have any Wi-Fi hotspots?

Beth: I don't think so. *(Brings a map into view.)* I just keep a good old paper map in my backpack. That way it's always handy . . . just like my Bible and my ranger handbook.

Aspen: Ranger handbook? What's that?

Beth: The book I sent to you before you came out here. You remembered to bring it with you, right?

Aspen: Well, not exactly. It didn't quite fit in my suitcase. But don't worry. I kind of skimmed through it.

Beth: Skimmed through it? It's important to have the handbook with you at all times. There's a lot of important information in there that you'll need when it's time to start earning your ranger pins. And if you don't earn any pins, then you can't earn your ranger badges.

Dusty: I downloaded a copy on my phone. So I'm good to go.

Aspen: Yeah, until the battery on your phone dies. What are you going to do then?

Dusty: I'll just plug it in. *(Looking around.)* There must be an outlet around here somewhere.

Aspen: I hate to tell you, but most trees and rocks don't have electrical outlets.

Bruce the Moose quietly enters the scene, but the others don't notice him yet.

Dusty: What's the big deal anyway? We don't need that old handbook. I mean, if the two of us can handle life in the big city, the great outdoors should be easy.

Aspen: Right! What could that book tell us that we don't already know?

Bruce: It could tell you what to do if you meet a talking moose in the forest.

Dusty: A talking moose! There's no such thing. *(Pauses.)* Wait a second. That moose just talked. That's a talking moose!

Beth: That's not *just* a talking moose. That's Bruce the Moose.

Bruce: That's me! Yep, I put the "wild" in "wild-er-ness" *(pronouncing "wilderness" with a long "i" sound).*

Dusty: Isn't it pronounced *"will*-der-ness"?

Bruce: If you say so.

Aspen: *(Still shocked.)* It's really a talking moose! I've got to get pictures of this.

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Aspen snaps photos while Bruce strikes a series of poses, enjoying having his picture taken. After the photos and posing go on long enough, Beth interrupts.

Beth: All right, that's enough photos. Bruce, what are you doing out here?

Bruce: I was helping Teddy find some pinecones.

Dusty: Teddy? Who's Teddy?

Bruce: Teddy the Yeti, of course. *(Looking around.)* He was right here a minute ago.

Dusty: A yeti? There's no such thing as a yeti.

Teddy enters from the opposite side of the stage from Bruce, behind Beth and the kids.

Teddy: Are you sure?

Beth and the kids spin around quickly, startled. They might let out a yelp or scream.

Aspen: It's a . . . it's a real yeti!

Teddy: *(Looking around.)* Where? Oh, you're talking about me.

Dusty: Wait a second. I thought yetis live in snowy mountains. Not in forests.

Teddy: Some folks say I'm a yeti; some say I'm a sasquatch; some call me bigfoot. I've never liked the name bigfoot personally. I mean, my feet aren't *that* big. I wear only size 23 sneakers. You should see my brother; his feet are a size 27 and a half.

Bruce: Last summer a few campers mistook his shoes for canoes and rode them all the way down the river.

Aspen: *(Getting her camera ready.)* This is amazing! Nobody has ever taken a clear picture of a yeti before! I'll be famous.

Teddy quickly ducks and moves around, while Aspen tries to take his picture.

Teddy: Oh no! Please don't take my picture. Yetis are very camera shy.

Aspen: *(Disappointed.)* Oh, all right.

Beth: *(To Teddy.)* What are you and Bruce doing out here anyway?

Teddy: We were just gathering pinecones so I could make my famous pinecone soup.

Bruce: He makes the best pinecone soup in the forest. Mmm. Crunchy.

Dusty: Um . . . I don't think soup is supposed to be crunchy.

Bruce: It is when he makes it.

Teddy: Come on back to my cave with us. There'll be plenty for everybody.

Aspen: *(A bit disgusted.)* We're not *that* hungry.

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Beth: I'm afraid we need to get to the ranger station. These two ranger cadets have to go through orientation, then they need to get some rest. They will start trying to earn their ranger pins tomorrow.

Teddy: *(To Aspen and Dusty.)* Sounds like you two have a lot of work ahead of you.

Aspen: It's no problem.

Dusty: Yeah, we can handle it.

Teddy: I'm sure you can, just as long as you keep reading your ranger handbooks.

Beth: You see? Even Teddy knows how important the handbook is. Luckily for you two, I've got more copies at the ranger station. Come on. Let's get moving. We still have a lot to do today. *(Starts to walk offstage.)*

Both kids: *(Somewhat unenthusiastic.)* We're coming. *(The kids slowly follow Beth offstage.)*

Teddy: *(To Bruce.)* Come on, Bruce. Let's go make pinecone soup.

Bruce: You go on ahead. I'll be right there.

Teddy: Alrighty! *(Teddy walks offstage.)*

Bruce: *(To the audience.)* Like I told you, some folks come out here to the forest thinking they know everything there is to know. Those two cadets should probably spend some time studying that ranger handbook. If they follow what it says along the way—and even more important, learn to follow Jesus—I think they'll do all right. But Ranger Beth has her work cut out for her.

Welp, I'd better get going. That pinecone soup is calling my name. I hope you join us on our adventure. See you again next time! *(Bruce exits.)*

CONCLUSION

For church

Narrator: Wow! Aspen and Dusty are in for a challenge if they think they know everything about the forest. Sounds like Aspen is on this adventure just for the photos, and Dusty seems like a know-it-all. Will they figure out that they need to follow instructions—before it's too late?

One truth will change everything about their lives if they learn and believe it—they need to follow Jesus over every trail. In this year's VBS drama, kids will easily grasp this important point. You won't want them to miss a single day of Return to Camp Moose on the Loose.

For a child audience

Narrator: Wow! Going on a camping adventure with Dusty and Aspen sounds like a lot of fun. But maybe they don't know as much as they think right now. Do you think Dusty and Aspen know everything about the forest? *(Kids respond.)* I can't wait to find out what happens on their adventure—far from civilization, with a yeti and a talking moose. Imagine that!

Will Dusty and Aspen figure out the secret to the wilderness—and every day of their lives—before it's too late? You won't want to miss a single day of VBS!

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