



Décor Guide

Spy Academy Décor Guide

Introduction

This is a fun area and allows people to be really creative and imaginative. Putting up even just a few decorations can transform a space and allow imagination to flourish. Decorations help to set the mood for a fun week of spy training and growing to be more like Jesus! Designing fun decorations is also a great way to involve more people from the congregation. If you have artists in your midst, they can create backdrops and other fun decorations.

Spy Academy is a training school so decorate with lots of “how-to” posters and specialized centers (like a disguise area and gadget lab).

This guide isn't extensive. It includes some ideas to get your creative juices flowing and some tips to make the experience fun.

Décor Ideas

Lab for making gadgets

- Set up an area to look like a laboratory. Include interesting and unusual objects as well as everyday objects that have been repurposed.

Mission Control/Headquarters

- Include maps, computers, clocks, phones.

Footprints leading to stations or exit doors

- Simple footprints can be made by tracing a shoe onto paper and cutting it out. This is your template. Use this to trace as many footprints you want onto black construction/poster paper.

Agents around the World

- This is a fun décor idea that involves gives the agents-in-training a global perspective. A map of the world can be used to show where your agents are around the world. This idea can be adapted if you are including missions as part of your VBS. Rather than spies, the pictures and locations can be of missionaries that your church supports.
- Gather 5 or 6 clocks, a world map, photos of people kids will recognize from VBS or actual missionaries your church supports, ribbon, tacks, and labels.

Spy Academy Décor Guide

- The idea is to show the location of various agents who are on a mission or of various missionaries your church supports.
- Put a thumbtack into the location of an agent and string a piece of ribbon from that location to the corresponding picture of the agent/missionary. Label the picture with the name/code name and a mission description. Set the clocks to match the time zones for the marked locations around the world and write a label under each clock of the city it corresponds with.

Sign with handprint that says, "Scan to Enter"

- This would be fun at the entrance to your building or VBS area.
- Include a plastic bag with something squishy inside (ex. Hair gel with sparkles added for fun) for the kids to press their hands into.
- Or include a Dollar Store Scrabble Slate (Neon) for handprint scanning.

Disguise Area

- Include wigs and hats and clothes as well as cotton balls, scarfs, pillows, belts and anything else you can think of!
- Make a poster with these disguise tips:
 - Change the shape of your face by stuffing cotton balls or wads of gum in your cheeks.
 - Make your hair disappear with a swimming cap or hair net made from panty hose. Wear a hat to cover the disguise.
 - Use a belt to attach a pillow to your stomach. Wear a large shirt, sweatshirt, or jacket to cover the pillow.
 - Put wads of paper in your shoe under your heel to make you taller.
 - To change the way you walk:
 - Limp – put a small stone in one shoe to remind you.
 - Walk with a stiff leg – use a scarf to tie a ruler across the back of one knee so it won't bend.
 - Take long strides, point your toes in, hunch over, or shuffle.

Restricted Access – Agents Only

- This could be a sign at the entrance to your main meeting area or it could be a fun idea to an actual off-limits area like the kitchen. The sign could read "Restricted Access – Food Service Agents Only"

Spy Academy Décor Guide

Spy Silhouettes on the wall

- Cut out silhouette shapes out of black paper - people, footprints, flashlights with yellow beams

Giant Fingerprints

- These can be hung from the ceiling or put on the wall in the hallway.
- There are a lot of fingerprint images available on Google Images. Download one you like and enlarge it.

Hang magnifying glasses from the ceiling

- Real magnifying glasses are available at dollar stores or you could make them out of poster paper.

Décor Tips

Making decorations ahead of time is one great way of getting the congregation involved. People who may not be available during VBS can still be involved before VBS by designing, creating, or setting up the decorations. You may have an artist who would be willing to paint a backdrop; you may have a carpenter who would be willing to build a console for the mission headquarters; or you may have shoppers willing to do the circuit of garage sales and thrift stores to find gadgets, disguises, and other fun décor items.

Don't forget to include easy to understand signs for the main stations, bathrooms and off-limit areas.

Ensure that all fire exits remain clear and all exit routes are open.