



**AWANA CLUBS
PARENT HANDBOOK
2015- 2016**



Grace Bible Fellowship Church
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ABOUT AWANA

Awana is an international youth ministry offered by our church as a positive influence in the development of our young people. With the emphasis on the Word of God, Awana seeks to train young people to serve the Lord effectively and biblically. The Awana name is derived from II Timothy 2:15 – **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed. Our club is one of over 10,000 clubs around the world!**

An Awana Club meeting consists of three parts: games, handbook time, and council time where a speaker provides a short story or lesson. Awana provides a Bible-oriented method to accomplish a twofold objective in keeping with Christ's command:

Objective 1:

To get as many young people as possible from the local community into the Awana Club program and under the sound gospel by the grace of God. By this means, they have the opportunity to accept Christ as their personal Savior.

Objective 2:

To prepare young people to accept the responsibility of spreading the gospel through leadership, service, and witness.

CLUB DESCRIPTIONS

CUBBIES is a program for preschool age children. These three and four-year-olds are eager and ready to learn about God's love and the importance of His Word. Parental involvement is an integral part of the program.



SPARKS is for children from kindergarten through second grade. Active, inquisitive clubbers are introduced to the unique club structure of Game Time, Green Meadow Time, and Sparkle Time. The friendly firefly cartoon character – Sparky – guides the children through colorful, exciting



materials to encourage achievement.

T&T is for third through sixth grade boys & girls. The exposure to God's Word and the godly example of Awana leaders make a meaningful impact on the lives of boys & girls at this age level. Books 1 & 2 teach basic biblical truths while books 3 & 4 teach them how to serve the Lord based on these truths. This is done through questions, answers & memorization.



CLUB SEGMENTS

HANDBOOK TIME consists of interaction between individual clubbers and their leaders. Clubbers learn and recite their memory work and discuss the Bible reading assignments for better comprehension. During your home preparation with your child each week you will help them memorize each Bible verse they are working on so that your child can recite it to an Awana worker with no more than two "helps" (either verbal or physical hints) on that section. When the leader is satisfied that the clubber has covered the material to the best of their ability, the leader will sign the handbook for awards.

GAME TIME offers clubbers the opportunity to participate as team members in physical activities. They will develop team spirit, good sportsmanship, coordination, and self-confidence. Although the games are competitive, the primary purpose is to build character.

COUNCIL TIME includes singing, announcements, and a brief gospel message. Messages typically relate to the weekly theme and always cover biblical lessons to help children to grow in their walk at home, school, and church.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that parents encourage their children to study their sections throughout the week so they come prepared to recite to their leaders.

The goal for each clubber is to complete one book each year. This cannot take place without **DEDICATED STUDY TIME THROUGHOUT THE WEEK!**

GENERAL INFO

CLUB TIMES: Club begins at promptly at 6:30pm and ends at 8:00pm

DROP OFF/PICK UP: Your child's safety is our top priority! Either a parent/guardian, sibling of 16 years or older, or AUTHORIZED adult must personally bring in their child to the "check in/out station" with the Secretary by the fellowship hall. Clubbers will not be permitted to leave the church until the authorized person comes to pick them up.

UNIFORMS: The uniform must be worn to all club meetings. Clubbers can only receive their awards while wearing their uniform.

FEES: Dues payments are required at the beginning of the year and are \$25.00 per child. Cubbies' and Sparks' vests are \$10.49; T&T uniform shirts are \$15.99. The cost of handbooks is included in the dues. Should your child lose his/her book, replacement books T&T are \$9.99. Replacement for Cubbies and books for Sparks are \$10.99. Review flip books for Sparks are an additional \$8.99 (optional). If there is a true financial need in your family, please contact the Commander for confidential arrangements.

AWARDS: Clubbers receive awards for finishing each section in their handbook. To keep the pace required for finishing one handbook during the Awana year, clubbers will need to keep a pace of about 3 sections per week, with regular attendance.

Clubbers receive a Club Attendance award each quarter if they have no more than one excused or unexcused absence from Club. They also receive an award twice a year if they have two or fewer excused or unexcused absences from Sunday School. Illness, family emergency, and being out of town will be counted as excused absences.

DISCIPLINE: Awana institutes two discipline systems, called the "five count" and the "three count". The five count is used to bring a group of clubbers to silence. The group must come to silence as soon as they hear any leader begin counting. If the group does not quiet down, the directors or Commander may require the group to sit quietly until the end of the activity. The three count is an individual approach in which the child is first given a warning. If there is a second offense, the clubber is removed from the activity and taken to the Commander until the end of the club night where parents are informed of the offense. If a third offense occurs, the parent will be called to pick up their child early and the child may be unable to attend the club for up to four club meetings.

CANCELLATIONS: As a basic rule of thumb, if the local school systems have closed (Nazareth SD), Awana will be cancelled as well. We will also send an email from gracebfcawana@gmail.com.

AWANA STORE: Each week we reward your child’s various achievements with Awana shares (play money). Your child can trade in his Awana shares for games, toys, books, etc. The Awana Store will be open four times throughout the year.

EXPECTATIONS FOR CLUB NIGHT

- Clubbers will be expected to cooperate with all of the Awana staff.
- Kindness and respect to other clubbers and leaders is expected.
- All medicines are to be given to a leader upon arrival.
- Please keep sick children at home.
- No gum is allowed.
- Sneakers are required to participate during game time.
- Parents are expected to help & encourage their children with their Scripture memorization. Even reading through the sections once or twice before they go to bed each night will greatly help them in their memorization. Please do your best to explain the meaning of each verse. You will find that they memorize more quickly if they understand what they are memorizing.
- Leaders are only able to give two helps per section in order for the clubber to receive credit.
- If there is ever a problem with any of the staff, please see the Commander or Pastor immediately.

AWANA STAFF

Commander	Laird Thomas	(610) 462-7460	Cubbies
	Cindy Hendershot		
	Lisa Misiti		
	Talina Stackhouse		
Sparks	Heather Tremper		
	Geetha Kumar		
	Earl & Jackie Van Norman		
	Bob Burns		
T&T Boys	Dennis Fry		
	Rodney Plows		
	Chuck Roe		
	Henry Sandt		
	Bob Griffin		
	Shawn Hendershot		
T&T Girls	Tracy Ashworth		
	Archelle Ashworth		
	Annette Markle		
	Anna Maria Misiti		
Game Director s	Mark Duignam		
	Bill Ashworth		

Secretary
Awana Store
Church Pastor

Steve Markle
Ashley Burns
Steve & Annette Markle
Pastor Fischer (610) 759-7036