



**PARENT HANDBOOK**  
**2022 - 2023**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME TO AWANA!

WHAT IS AWANA?

WHAT HAPPENS AT AN AWANA CLUB MEETING?

IS THERE A COST?

WHY UNIFORMS?

REGISTRATION

WHAT IS THE DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES?

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING EACH WEEK?

AWARDS & REWARDS

AWANA BUCKS & THE AWANA STORE

END-OF-YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

CLUB RULES

HANDBOOK REQUIREMENTS

PUGGLES "NEED TO KNOW"

CUBBIES "NEED TO KNOW"

SPARKS "NEED TO KNOW"

T&T "NEED TO KNOW"

ABC'S OF BEING AN AWANA PARENT

AWANA – A VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

# WELCOME TO

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are very excited to be starting an AWANA club here at First Baptist Church Edmond. We are so thankful for you and your family's interest in joining us on this journey. Helping you train up your child in the ways of the Lord is something that we as a ministry take very seriously, and we cannot wait to see how the Lord impacts you and your child's life through this program.

This handbook is designed to help you understand all facets of our AWANA program, and help your child(ren) be successful in every way. The help that you provide at home is VITAL to your child not only being able to memorize scripture, but for them to understand God's Word and how to apply to their lives. We pray this will be a tool added to your arsenal in your child's spiritual journey.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions or let us know how we can better serve you. We look forward to ministering to you and your family and pray that we all have an amazing year.

For the Kingdom.

Christian Lloyd

Erin Ramirez

AWANA commanders

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# WHAT IS AWANA?

For over 60 years, Awana has been a leader in children's ministry, equipping churches and parents worldwide to raise children to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Awana is a program for children ages 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grades that incorporates Bible teaching and scripture memorization with tons of fun.

The acronym Awana is derived from the first letters of

**"Approved workmen are not ashamed"** as taken from **2 Timothy 2:15:**

***"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."***



The Awana program is based on the concept of children learning about God by learning God's Word in a regular and systematic manner. Each club has age-appropriate handbooks for you and your 'clubber' to work on together. Clubbers are rewarded for remembering God's Word as they recite their verses with their club leaders on a weekly basis.

Think of Awana this way: it's like a combination of scripture memory from Bible drills, along with the incentives of Scouts, with the fun and excitement of VBS! Awana truly is a unique program and nothing short of experiencing it can tell what it is really like!

## AWANA CLUB NAMES:

AGES 2-3



PRESCHOOL



K — 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE



3<sup>rd</sup> — 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE



# WHAT HAPPENS AT AN AWANA MEETING?

An Awana meeting consists of 5 main parts:

- **Opening Time:** Clubbers recite the pledge to the Bible. We start off the evening with prayer too. *We finish with a brief Bible lesson for the Sparks and T&T clubbers.*
- **Handbook Time:** All clubs dedicate time to Bible Scripture memorization and application using age-appropriate handbooks. Clubbers complete sections in their handbook during handbook time and upon completing the handbook, they receive a new handbook to work on.
- **Bible Story Time:** All clubs are presented with an age-appropriate Bible message.
- **Game Time:** Sparks & T&T practice teamwork and good sportsmanship by competing in fun, organized games. Please have your children wear clothing appropriate for Game Time (*no flip-flops, etc.*)
- **Worship / Award Time:** Clubbers are recognized for completing sections in their handbooks.

## IS THERE A COST?

**Registration fee is \$40 per child (Cubbies, Sparks and T&T) and \$20 per Puggles**, which includes a handbook, shirt, entrance book, handbook, and handbag (Sparks & T&T). We encourage a weekly offering of \$1 per child attending Cubbies, Sparks or T&T (*or \$1/family if there is more than one child attending Awana*). Awana offerings help support the Awana Store and other Special Nights.

## WHAT IS THE DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES?

Awana drop off starts at 5:45 and Awana ends at 7:15. Parents must print tags for clubbers. You will get three tags; 1 tag goes on the child, one on the clipboard and a guardian tag for pickup.

Pick up will be same place as drop off.

# WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING EACH WEEK?

- BIBLE (*Cubbies are not required but are encouraged to do so.*)
- CLUB HANDBOOK (*or Entrance Brochure*)
- UNIFORM: Shirt
- TENNIS SHOES! It is very important for your child to wear tennis shoes due to the nature of Game Time. An injury may result if your child trips while participating.
- WEEKLY Offering of \$1

## AWANA AWARDS

The Awana curriculum is fun, but it is also a lot of work! As such, we like to award and reward our Clubbers for their achievements:

**Uniform Awards:** After reaching specific milestones in their handbook, Clubbers are presented with awards which will be displayed on the AWANA Achievement wall in the hallway.

**Book Awards:** At our End-of-Year Awards Ceremony, book awards are presented to all Clubbers who have completed their handbook for the year.

These Awards are only given when a child is in uniform. These awards should be worn proudly. They represent the good achievement and spiritual growth in the knowledge of God and His Word. We will encourage all young people to strive for their highest potential. Each child works at his/her own pace and will be guided and helped by a caring leader.



# HOW CHILDREN CAN EARN AWANA POINTS:

- Bring your offering (\$1, optional) 1 Point
- Wear your uniform 1 Point
- Bring your Bible 2 Point
- Bring your handbook 2 Points
- Scripture Memory (*Finish Section*) 2 Points
- Participate in theme nights 2 Points
- Finish jewel/discovery or challenge 10 Points
- Finish book 10 Points
- Bring a friend 10 Points

## Points:

- 50 Points: Candy Bar
- 100 Points: \$5 Sonic Gift Card
- 200 Points: \$10 Andy's Ice-cream Gift Card
- 300 Points: Dinner with Mr. Christian & Mrs. Erin
- 400 Points: Main Event / Chuck E. Cheese

Every 25 points clubber gets to pick out a prize from the AWANA box

\* Subject to change

# END-OF-YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

Our end-of-year ceremony is held the last Wednesday night in May. The ceremony allows all Clubbers to be recognized for completing handbooks and for being a part of Awana. It is our goal that all Clubbers complete one handbook during the Awana year. They'll earn various awards for completion of books, from ribbons to plaques to trophies.

## CLUB RULES

- Please be prompt! Club drop off starts at 5:45 pm Clubs begin at 6:00 pm.
- Quiet orderly conduct is required.
- Respect and obey your leaders and other staff members.
- Respectful language is expected always.
- Care and respect of church property is expected.
- Pushing, shoving and roughhousing are not allowed.
- Running is allowed. The exception is during certain games.
- Chewing gum is not allowed. It should be left at home.
- **"5-Count"**: After every activity, a Leader will begin counting from one to five. By the time number five is reached, each Clubber is expected to be waiting quietly for instructions for the next activity. In Awana, leaders and Clubbers are taught to respect the "5-Count."
- **"3-Count"**: If a Clubber is disrespectful or disruptive to the class, the following procedure will occur:
  - 1-Count: Verbal warning
  - 2-Count: Clubber will be counseled by leader
  - 3-Count: Clubber is taken by leader to the Commander. Parents will be called immediately. Clubber is sent home for the remainder of that evening's club.
- Awards earned are presented only to Clubbers who are wearing their uniform.
- GAME TIME IS A PRIVILEGE! In cases of extreme disorderliness, it may be revoked for a night by a Leader.
- VALUE YOUR HANDBOOK & UNIFORM!



# HANDBOOK REQUIREMENTS — General Info for all clubs

Handbooks are an essential part of the Awana program. Every club has its own set of handbooks, and every Clubber should be working to complete their handbook before the end of the year.

Any time a child enters a new club, the first thing they must do is complete an entrance booklet. Once completed, usually in 1 to 3 weeks, the Clubber gets their uniform and handbook during the Closing part of Club Night.

All handbooks (*even the entrance booklets*) are divided into sections. **Clubbers should study their sections at home during the week**, and at their next Awana meeting a leader will sit with them one-on-one and review their sections. The leader will sign off when a Clubber completes a section signifying, they can begin the next section.

Most sections involve memorizing Bible verses. Clubbers should be memorizing these verses (*including the verse reference*) **AT HOME**, and must recite these verses from memory when reviewing sections with a leader.

The leader may give the Clubber two "helps" per section (*not per verse*).

A "help" would be defined as giving the missed words (up to 3 words), producing the sound of the first letter of the word, or giving a second chance to correct the scripture reference. Once 2 helps have been offered, the child should restudy that verse and attempt it on another night. All verses included in a section must be completed successfully at the same time to pass the section.

All children work at different paces and some children can commit things to memory very quickly. Some children wish to complete several sections each time they come, but your child's leader may only allow them to complete 2 sections at a time. They do this to ensure equal time is given to all Clubbers who desire to complete sections each night. Once everyone has been given their turn and if time remains, your child will be given another opportunity to complete more. **NOTE:** number of sections completed per night is limited to 6. For Clubbers who desire to move more quickly, talk with a leader to set up another time to complete sections. Please remember, Clubbers are not allowed to work beyond their age-graded handbooks.

We help children a lot and often give them the benefit of the doubt, provided they are willing to try. We want them to succeed! Please don't stress if your child gets behind, just keep working with them. After all, it is not all about scripture memorization, but how to apply it, and only you can teach them this at home. Although memorizing God's Word is very important, it can be a struggle for some. Therefore, we recommend that parents assist and encourage their child in learning their weekly verse, but not to the point of stress. Learning God's Word should be an enjoyable and positive childhood memory, not a drudgery or conflict.



“NEED TO KNOW”

The teaching for **Awana Puggles** is built around four precepts:

- **God made everything**
- **God saw that it was good**
- **God is love**
- **Give thanks**

**Teaching cards:** The four precepts are spread across 32 teaching cards for lesson times. These large, colorful cards illustrate a simple lesson for toddlers to understand. Each week features a theme around one of the precepts and related core verses: **Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, Isaiah 42:5, Genesis 1:10, 1 John 4:15 and Psalm 105:1**. Puggles will need to be 2 years by August 31st. (Born Aug. 31, 2019 - 2020)



## “NEED TO KNOW”

Cubbies, 3 to 5 years old (Born Aug31, 2017-19), is a two-year weekly club program for preschoolers in the two years prior to kindergarten. Our purpose is to help your child take their first little step on a lifelong spiritual journey. Cubbies encourages parental involvement. Your child's handbooks feature parent/child activities for home. You will lead your child through handbook sections called **Bear Hugs**, to prepare for the next club gathering. Each **Bear Hug** includes optional activities, called "**Under the Apple Tree**," for reviewing Bible verses & lessons learned earlier. An audio CD included in your child's handbook has review material that you can listen to together. During club time, your Cubbie will review the verse you helped teach at home. Working through the handbook with your child develops your spiritual leadership & helps you instill your child with a lifelong biblical worldview.

The Entrance Booklet for Cubbies is called the **Apple Acres Entrance Booklet**. It includes Bear Hug A & B sections, Cubbies key verse and motto, fun activity pages, basic Cubbies info and a Gospel presentation. At the beginning of each year, all new & returning Cubbies will complete this brochure.

After brochure completion, all Cubbies will complete 2 Cubbie handbooks: **AppleSeed & HoneyComb**. Both are written in a fun, storybook style with read-aloud stories & lovable characters that appeal to preschoolers. The **AppleSeed & HoneyComb** handbooks combine basic Scripture memory with parent-child activities to help Cubbies grasp simple biblical truths. Each Cubbies handbook contains a helpful review CD to use at home. One handbook is completed in a club year. Each handbook contains 26 Bear Hug sections along with four special-day sections.

**This Awana year (2022-2023) is a AppleSeed year.**

Teaching begins at home. Each week, the parents help their Cubbie complete the scheduled Bear Hug at home in preparation for the teaching at club the following week. Cubbies recite their memory verse to their leader at club. The goal is for all Cubbies to progress at the same rate, one Bear Hug per week. Each week parents need to read the Bear Hug material to their children, help them memorize the verse at the end of the section, & sign off the section when they've learned it. At Club, we will center everything we do on the same truth you have already worked on at home. Our story, games, craft & even our snack will reinforce the teaching your child has received from you. By creating this partnership, we hope to really "cement" that week's truth into our Cubbies' minds & hearts.

### **Completing all 26 Bear Hugs in the book is a requirement for earning a Cubbie Book Award at the end of the year.**

Each Bear Hug also contains an Under the Apple Tree supplemental section. Under the Apple Tree fun activities are optional, & not required for book completion. All Cubbies work on the same Bear Hug at the same time. If your child has missed a week of club, be sure to check the Cubbie calendar for the current week's Bear Hug. After completing the current Bear Hug, work on making up any missed Bear Hugs. Do not do any future Bear Hugs.

The same shirt is used for both Cubbie years. Patches will be awarded for successful completion of handbook sections. Please refer to the back of the Cubbie Handbook for proper placement of patches on the Cubbie Uniform.



## “NEED TO KNOW”

For Wednesday nights ONLY kindergarten will be upstairs alongside the 1st & 2nd graders. Before working in a handbook, all newcomers to **Sparks** will complete an entrance booklet – **Flight 3:16** – that centers on the Gospel message of **John 3:16**. Flight 3:16 teaches basic Bible truths and the salvation message. After completing the entrance booklet, your child is an official member of the Sparks Club, and moves onto the **HangGlider** handbook.

From there, Clubbers work in three handbooks: (According to grade) **HangGlider**, **WingRunner**, & **SkyStormer**. Each handbook builds a foundation of biblical wisdom through memory verse drills, crafts, activities and review of key doctrine and Bible facts. These handbooks will take Sparkies on a chronological journey through Scripture – **Genesis through Revelation** – with regular layovers to meet important Bible characters along the way. Each book includes verse memory sections, Bible biographies, and activities. With a helpful audio included in each handbook, kids and their parents can listen to the biographies come alive through exciting dramatic readings, complete with music and sound effects!

Clubbers returning to Sparks continue in any unfinished Sparks handbook then proceeds on to the next appropriate handbook: **WingRunner** or **SkyStormer** (According to grade)

A Clubber cannot start the **WingRunner** book unless they are in 1st grade and cannot start the **SkyStormer** book unless they are in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Extra credit work is available for Clubbers who are eager to finish work early.

Clubbers progress at their own pace in Sparks, but in order to complete one book in a year their goal should be to complete 2 sections per week. Sections in each Sparks handbooks are grouped into a Rank Path, four Red Jewels and four Green Jewels. All sections in the book must be completed in order, section by section, with the exception of the Bring-A-Friend section. Clubbers can continue working through their books even if this section is not completed. *Please see the section in this handbook for some options if completing this section becomes a challenge.* In order to complete a handbook by the end of the club year, it is necessary to complete at least 2 sections per week.



## “NEED TO KNOW”

**T&T** engages 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders by answering their questions about God and the Bible, guiding them through this pivotal life stage to grow in Christ's grace. Handbooks and large-group lessons deepen a child's knowledge about God and His Word and teach how to put that knowledge into action in everyday life. T&T is different from other Awana programs.

The entrance booklet for T&T is called the **Start Zone**. Before working in a handbook, kids new to T&T complete this entrance booklet that explains God's plan of salvation. 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders coming up from Sparks or 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders who have never attended Awana will complete the *Start Zone booklet first*.

Once a Clubber completes the appropriate Start Zone, he or she will receive the current **T&T handbook**.

Clubbers progress at their own speed in T&T, but in order to complete one book in a year they should be working on at least 2 or 3 sections per week. Gold and Silver sections are extra credit and optional. Please see the back of a T&T handbook for award placement on the T&T uniforms. Sections in the T&T books are grouped into 8 Discoveries or Challenges. Each Discovery or Challenge must be completed in order. There are 2 exceptions: bringing friends to club and the missionary section. Clubbers can continue working through their books even if these 2 sections are not completed. Please see the Club Director, for some options if completing these sections becomes a challenge.

**MISSIONARY Section:** All T&T handbooks have sections that require your child to find out information about one or more missionaries. These sections are optional and can be completed early. We will try to schedule missionaries to come visit our clubs during the year to help with these sections, but feel free to find missionaries on your own.

**BRINGING Guests:** All Sparks and T&T handbooks have a section that encourages your child to bring a visitor to an Awana meeting. These sections may be completed at any time during the year and are optional. If your child is unable to bring a guest, here are some alternate activities:

### BRING-A-FRIEND ALTERNATIVES

Can't bring any friends to Awana? Here are some alternatives you can do. Let your parents help you pick one of these alternatives and let your leader know which one you're doing.

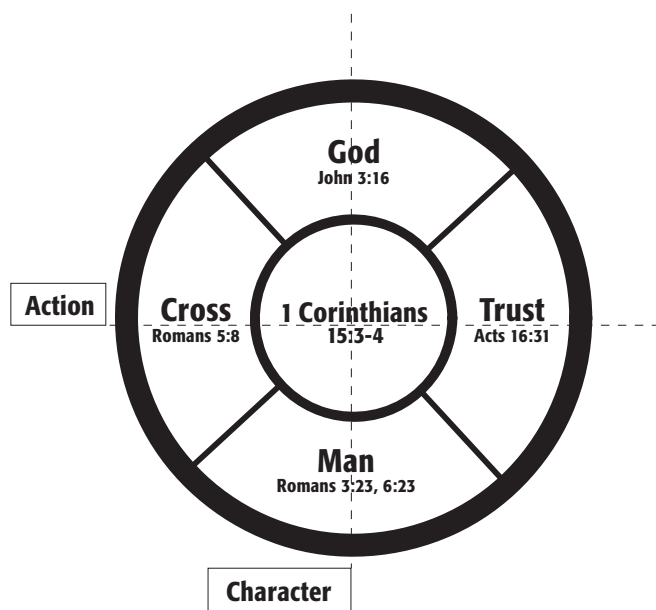
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### BRING-A-FRIEND ALTERNATIVES

Can't bring any friends to Awana? Here are some alternatives you can do. Let your parents help you pick one of these alternatives and let your leader know which one you're doing.

- Bring your parents (*if they aren't involved in Awana already*). They count as visitors!
- Write a letter to two of your friends telling them about Awana. Tell them what you do and what you've learned about God while in Awana. Show the letter to your leader before you send it but bring a note from your parent when you actually send it. You'll get credit after you send it.
- Bring 2 friends to VBS, Christmas program or Easter program, or other church activities. Have a parent sign a note explaining when and how you did this.
- Memorize the Gospel Wheel (*right*) & the verses it references. You should be able to draw the Gospel Wheel and recite all of the verses to your leader in one sitting.



# THE ABC'S OF BEING AN AWANA PARENT

**A**fter Awana, talk to your children to discuss what they learned in Council Time.

**B**e sure to say "I love you" to your child each day.

**C**onsider the possibility of serving in the Awana Club Ministry.

**D**euteronomy 6:7 ***"Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home & when you walk along the road, when you lie down & when you get up."***

**E**ncourage your children to invite their friends to Awana.

**F**ind time each day to help your children memorize their Scripture verses.

**G**uide your children in applying Biblical truths to everyday situations.

**H**elp your children remember to bring their Bibles, handbooks, and uniforms to Awana.

**I**f you have the gift of teaching, offer to present the message during Council Time.

**J**ump in and donate items or a monetary donation for our Awana store.

**K**eept the Awana calendar on your fridge to be prepared for the weekly theme nights.

**L**ook for special events that require volunteers and consider offering to help.

**M**ark your calendar for the Awards Ceremony that is held in May - bring the whole family!

**N**otify Awana leadership about your child's learning styles or special needs.

**O**ffer to memorize the same verse your child is doing.

**P**ray each day for your children.

**Q**uiz your children to help them reinforce their memorized verses.

**R**eserve time each day for family devotions.

**S**eek out times each week to pray for your child's Awana leader.

**T**ell your Clubber they must wear Tennis shoes to club!

**U**se the Bible and have your Clubber look up their verses!

**V**erify you have initialed your children's handbooks after they recite sections to you.

**W**ork together as a family to minister to those in your community.

**X**erox copies of verses and put them in various places to help with memorization.

**Y**es, as parents, you have the most influence on your child's spiritual development!

**Z**oom in on your children's accomplishments and look for ways to affirm them.

# AWANA SCHEDULE FOR 2022-2023

## Aug./Sept. 2022

Aug. 31	<b>Opening Night</b>
Sept. 7	<b>AWANA Shirt Night</b>
Sept. 14	Regular Club
Sept. 21	<b>Sports Night</b>
Sept. 28	Regular Club

## October 2022

Oct. 5	<b>Neon Night</b>
Oct. 12	Regular Club (Fall Break)
Oct. 19	Regular Club
Oct. 26	<b>Costume Night (Non-Scary)</b> Review Night

## November 2022

Nov. 2	Regular Club
Nov. 9	<b>Crazy Hair/Mustache Night</b>
Nov. 16	Regular Club
Nov. 23	No Awana (Thanksgiving Eve)
Nov. 30	<b>PJ, Hot Choc. &amp; Apple Cider</b>

## December 2022

Dec. 7	<b>Seeing Double</b>
Dec. 14	Regular Club
Dec. 21	<b>Hawaiian Christmas</b>
Dec. 28	No Awana (Christmas Break)

## January 2023

Jan. 4	<b>Mid week AWANA Celebration</b>
Jan. 11	<b>Dress Like Your Parents Night</b>
Jan. 18	Regular Club
Jan. 25	<b>LOL Night (Review)</b>

## February 2023

Feb. 1	<b>Pirate Night</b>
Feb. 8	Regular Club
Feb. 15	<b>Crazy Heart Night</b>
Feb. 22	Regular Club

## March 2023

March 1	<b>Freckle Night (Review)</b>
March 8	Regular Club
March 15	Regular Club (Spring Break)
March 22	<b>M&amp;M Night</b>
March 29	Regular Club

## April 2023

April 5	<b>Camo Night</b>
April 12	Regular Club (Review)
April 19	<b>Animal Night</b>
April 26	Regular Club

## May 2023

May 3	<b>Double Dip Night</b>
May 10	Regular Club
May 17	<b>Birthday Night</b>
May 24	<b>Red Carpet Night</b>



## **Fall 2022 Theme Nights**

**Sports Night:** Anything related to Sports

**Neon Night:** Wear your bright colors

**Costume Night:** Wear your costume (nothing scary)

**Crazy Hair / Mustache Night:** Wear your hair crazy, we provide the mustaches

**PJ's:** Wear your PJ's

**Seeing Double:** Dress like a friend & DOUBLE points night

**Hawaiian Christmas:** Wear Flip flops, sunglasses, and Hawaiian shirts

## **Spring 2023 Theme Nights**

### **Mid-Week AWANA Celebration**

**LOL Night:** Dress like an Emoji & bring your leader a gift  
gift card, candy, favorite drink)

**Pirate Night:** Dress like a pirate

**Crazy Heart Night:** Wear Pink, Red, or White

**Freckle Night:** Say verses to put freckles on leaders

**M&M Night:** Collect for EFBC missions & DOUBLE Points

**Camo Night:** Dress in Camo

**Animal Night:** Bring favorite stuffed animal or  
wear clothes with animal on them

**Double Dip Night:** Ice Cream Night

**Birthday Night:** Celebrate everyone's birthday /

Bring Commanders & Directors a gift card, Candy or drink Red

**Carpet Night:** Dress for Red Carpet (Parents Attend)

## **STAFF**

**Christian Lloyd**

Children's Pastor

**Erin Ramirez**

Preschool Director

**Makenzi Murray**

Preschool/Children's Assistant

## **AWANA VOLUNTEER LEADERS**

**Anita Bural**

Puggles Director

**Jennifer Womack**

Cubbies Director

**Roxanne O'Day**

Sparks Director

**Kenny Snider**

T&T Director

# RESOURCES