



# Awana CLUBS

PARENT HANDBOOK





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Dear Awana families,

We are glad to have your child(ren) in Awana at LNBC! Awana is fun with a purpose - to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. Awana is an international ministry in over 110 countries. Participating in Awana is a wonderful way for your child to grow deeper in their faith and knowledge of God, and develop Bible skills that will help them for the rest of their lives. They will learn and memorize God's word (you'll memorize a lot too!).

This booklet is designed to provide information about the ministry and to answer some of the common questions parents ask.

Please check the weekly Awana email announcements for updates and activities or find the latest theme night information on [www.lnbc.com/awana](http://www.lnbc.com/awana). If you have any questions, you can stop by the Club specific information desks during Awana.

You can also contact Janelle Venters at (704) 892-0143 or at [janellev@lnbc.com](mailto:janellev@lnbc.com) for any questions or comments.

## **What are the Awana Clubs?**

Awana offers different clubs depending upon the age of the children. Each club uses age appropriate lessons and notebooks to help kids engage with Scripture, teach Bible literacy and navigation skills, memorize passages of Scripture and learn how to study and apply God's Word to their lives. Awana also provides incentives to learning! Students earn Awana dollars that can be spent quarterly during the Awana Store Popup Shop! As clubbers complete notebooks, they also earn Award Ribbons or Trophies!

**Cubbies** is designed for 3 and 4 year olds for the two years before attending kindergarten. Children must be 3 by September 1 of the current club year. Classes are co-ed.

**Sparks** is made up of kindergarten through second grade students. Children in kindergarten must be 5 by September 1 of the current club year and be enrolled in kindergarten. Classes are co-ed. If your child is not enrolled in kindergarten at school, please enroll them in cubbies and start sparks next year.

**T&T (Truth & Training)** is made up of third through sixth grade students. For this club year, we divide into 2 teams: Blue (3-6 grade boys), Purple (3-6 grade girls).

Home school children should be placed in class with children of the same age.

## **When & where does Awana meet?**

Awana is from 5:00 – 6:30 on Sunday evenings.

For security purposes, please be sure that ALL of your children are signed in each night. Please do not just send your children in from the parking lot. Cubbies & Sparks sign in books are located just outside your child's team classroom. T&T sign in books are located just outside of the Gym/Worship Center.

We do our best to start and end on time so please be prompt in dropping off and picking up your children. If you leave the building during Awana, we need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency. Please leave an emergency contact number at sign in.

During the club year, Awana may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If church services are cancelled, Awana is also cancelled. Awana leadership will send an e-mail once the decision is made to cancel. The children's ministry website will also carry this information: [www.lnbckids.com](http://www.lnbckids.com)

## **Volunteers:**

We do ask all families to be part of serving in the Awana program at the time of registration. Thank you in advance for participating with us. Not only does this create a safe and healthy Awana environment with adequate staffing, but statistics show that seeing their parent(s) serve is one of the largest impacts on a child's spiritual health. Look for group emails throughout the year on serving needs in Awana!

## **In case of an emergency:**

If we need to evacuate the building, do not attempt to pick up your child at their classroom. Instead please make your way to the grassy area on the west corner of the campus (the corner of Catawba/73). We will be bringing all the children to that location. There will be signs to indicate each club, so you can locate your child(ren). Please do not leave with your child until an "all clear" has been given and you have signed them out. We need to be sure that all children are accounted for, and avoid having rescue teams looking for children who are already out of the building.

## **What do kids do at Awana?**

The club meeting is divided up into three parts: Game Time, Handbook Time and Council/Large Group Time.

**Game Time** – The clubbers have fun while learning to be a part of a team. The games are designed to allow each child to participate and encourage team spirit.

**Handbook Time** – Each clubber will have a handbook to work in. Clubbers are encouraged to complete one handbook each year. Leaders work in small groups with the clubbers to listen to them recite the sections they have prepared.

No matter what age your children are, they will need help with their Bible memorization. Encourage your child to work on their books during the week, so they are prepared on club night. As you know, cramming in the car on the way to church may produce a verse for the short term, but usually won't be retained for the long term. The handbooks are also a great tool for family Bible memorization.

***Section Completion Standard:*** *A child needs to recite the required material in the handbook section to their leader. Children will be given a maximum of two helps or prompts per section. That means only two hints to complete all the required work and verses exactly as they appear in the text. A section may include more than one verse and the references must also be learned. A leader should not sign the handbook of his/her relative. Parents should not sign their child's handbook sections at home. The only exception would be in Cubbies books, or Sparks/T&T sections that specifically require a parent's signature.*

Clubbers must complete all handbook requirements to earn the book award. Many of the handbooks have 'bring a guest to Awana' requirements. Each child should attempt to bring the required number of guests. However, if at the end of the club year, the child has not been able to successfully complete the visitor/guest requirement, it will NOT count against the clubber, and they will receive their book award for completing the rest of their handbook.

**Council/Large Group/Bible Study** – The time when clubbers come together to learn a Biblical lesson. Clubbers regularly hear the gospel message, apply truths of Scripture to daily life, and gain tools for Biblical living.

## **Awana Leaders/Volunteers**

Awana leaders have completed a background check, and can be easily identified as they are wearing an Awana Leader Lanyard.

## **What does it cost to attend Awana?**

The registration fee for the club year is \$25.00. This fee helps to pay for awards, trophies, special incentives, and special events. Books and uniforms are additional purchases at \$12 each. During the Club year, we have mission projects such as canned food drives, Operation Christmas Child shoebox collections, and a spring mission focus that would all be optional participation opportunities.

If the cost associated with your child participating in AWANA is a financial burden to your family, we do have scholarships available! Please contact [janellev@lnbc.com](mailto:janellev@lnbc.com) before registration for available discounts.

## **Club Standards**

### **ILLNESS:**

Please follow the illness standards set forth by Lake Norman Baptist Church. Please make sure clubbers are fever and diarrhea free for 48 hours prior to coming.

### **COVID SPECIFIC:**

- If you or an immediate family member is still quarantining or isolating as a result of a positive Covid-19 test result (unless you are fully vaccinated, show no symptoms and have received a negative Covid-19 test result), or
- If you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 such as cough, shortness of breath, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss or taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea, or
- If you had Covid-19 symptoms (see bullet above) that began less than 10 days ago or have had a fever within the last 24 hours, or
- If you tested positive for Covid-19 less than 10 days ago, even if you had no symptoms.

### **BEHAVIOR:**

We expect our clubbers to follow the behavior rules set by Lake Norman Baptist Church. We expect them to stay with their group and not wander around the church building unsupervised. We expect our leaders and clubbers to be kind and respectful at all times to each other, the building and grounds, to participate with the different aspects of club night, and to not be a distraction to other clubbers. Children who are repeatedly unable to participate in a respectful manner will be removed from the classroom and their parents will be called to pick them up. Repeat behavior problems may result in a suspension of club activities and/or mandatory nightly parent participation.



## **Clubbers should:**

- 1. Be on time.**  
Club starts promptly at 5:00 and ends at 6:30 (unless there is an alternate schedule for special theme nights... see *weekly eblast*).
- 2. Be in Uniform.**  
Clubbers should wear their uniform vest or shirt and gym shoes. (T&T clubbers do not wear uniforms).
- 3. Be Prepared.**  
Clubbers should bring their Bibles & handbook, wear their uniform, and be ready to pass sections.
- 4. Be Respectful.**  
Clubbers are expected to listen to leaders and to follow directions.

## **Awana Year Calendar**

Please check our webpage for the current calendar.

[www.lnbckids.com/awana](http://www.lnbckids.com/awana)

***Dates are subject to change. See events p 17-18 for descriptions.***



## 3 and 4 year olds

Awana Cubbies is a two-year weekly club for preschoolers in the two years prior to kindergarten and they must be 3 years old by September 1, of the current year. Our purpose is to help your children take their first little steps on a lifelong spiritual journey.

In the Bible, parents are instructed to teach their children about God's ways...in routine activities...passing along their faith, little by little, day by day. The Cubbies program is designed to help leaders and parents in this critical role.

The teaching begins at home. Each week, the parents help their Cubby complete the scheduled Bear Hug. Each aspect of the Bear Hug reinforces the same Bible truth. At club, we will center everything we do on the same truth that you have worked on at home. Our story, games, activities, 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!

### **About the Cubby materials...**

#### **BEAR HUG BROCHURE**

This brochure contains two Bear Hugs as well as basic information about the Cubbies program. All Cubbies will complete this first before they start their handbook.

#### **HANDBOOKS-** Appleseed and Honeycomb

The handbooks include memory verses and activities divided into weekly Bear Hugs that teach basic truths about God. Cubbies complete each week's Bear Hug at home as background for the teaching at club the next week. They recite the memory verse to their leader at club. Completing every Bear Hug in the book is a requirement for earning a Cubby 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, and not required for book completion.

**Learning Level A** - Complete one Bear Hug each week. All children work on the same Bear Hug at the same time. If your child has missed a week of club, be sure to check the schedule or 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.

**Learning Level B**-Under the Apple Tree may be done after the current Bear Hug and any missed Bear Hugs are completed. When you complete an activity, sign it and have your child recite any verses to the leader at club. Your child will receive a special stamp on his hand, and apple stickers for his book.



### **Requirements for Cubby Memory Work:**

- \*Cubbies are allowed two “helps” per Bear Hug
- \* Bear Hugs must be recited at one session. If there are two verses in the Bear Hug, both must be recited at one session and in the order they appear.
- \* Four year olds must recite the verse AND reference. Three year olds are encouraged to recite the reference, if they are capable, but are not required.
- \* Cubby clubbers will recite the verses they have learned at home to their Cubbies leader during club.

### **Tips on How Parents Can Help their Cubby**

- Establish a regular time to work on the Bear Hug with your child...morning and evening
- Check the schedule and calendar for what Bear Hug to work on for the next week
- Read each week's Bear Hug to your child and follow the simple instructions
- Listen to your child recite the verse and sign your name. Be encouraging!
- Normally only one Bear Hug will be done per week, unless noted in the schedule on the inside of your Cubby Book. Cubbies will all recite the same Bear Hug each week.
- Find a special place at home to keep your child's book and uniform, so it can always be found on Cubbies night.
- Be sure your child wears their uniform vest to club. The uniform is where their awards are displayed. This motivates them to learn and work in their books.
- Bring your child to club on time, so we can begin and end promptly. Be sure to come to the Cubbies Room to pick up your child after club.



## **Kindergarten through Second Grade**

The Sparks ministry builds on the material taught in Cubbies. The aim of the curriculum is to take clubbers a step deeper into God's Word while giving them the opportunity to hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ. A Sparky must be 5 years old by September 1, of the current club year and enrolled in kindergarten to start. Please enroll your child in the correct grade. If your child is not attending kindergarten yet, please enroll them in Cubbies. It is a lot easier to repeat a year in Cubbies than in Sparks.

All students starting in Sparks (no matter what grade) need to complete the Flight 3:16 Entrance Booklet before they can begin their handbook. All Sparks, regardless of grade, start in the HangGlider handbook.

### **HangGlider Series**

The HangGlider handbook is the first in the Sparks series. The HangGlider handbook covers the old testament from Creation through Joshua. The handbook has an online audio download accompaniment which includes dramatic Bible biographies and a timeline.

### **WingRunner Series**

This is the second book in the Sparks series. This handbook explores Judges to the birth of Christ. The handbook has an online audio download accompaniment which includes dramatic Bible biographies and a timeline.

### **SkyStormer Series**

This is the third book for Sparks. This handbook covers the life of Christ to Revelation. The handbook has an online audio download accompaniment which includes dramatic Bible biographies and a timeline.

### **Kindergarten Progression**

Flight 3:16, HangGlider handbook, HangGlider review (either in the handbook or by purchasing the HangGlider Frequent Flyer Cards), Additional Frequent Flyer memory verses are contained in the HangGlider Frequent Flyer Cards purchased separately

A Kindergarten student must stay in the HangGlider series for the club year. They may not progress into the WingRunner Series.

## **First Grade Progression**

A new first grade Sparky must complete the Flight 3:16 Entrance Brochure. The Sparky then proceeds to work on the HangGlider handbook. If the Sparky wishes to complete additional material, he/she may go into the WingRunner Series. They do not complete the review or Frequent Flyer cards of the HangGlider Series.

A Sparky who is in first grade and who has completed the HangGlider handbook will start in the WingRunner series. Sparks complete the WingRunner handbook, WingRunner review (either in the handbook or by purchasing the WingRunner Frequent Flyer Cards), Additional Frequent Flyer memory verses are contained in the WingRunner Frequent Flyer Cards purchased separately.

A First grader may not move into the SkyStormer Series.

## **Second Grade Progression**

A new second grade Sparky must complete the Flight 3:16 Entrance Brochure. The Sparky then proceeds to work on the HangGlider handbook. If they wish to complete additional material, the Sparky may go into the WingRunner handbook. If time allows and the Sparky would like to work on additional material, he/she may complete the SkyStormer handbook.

A Sparky who is in second grade and who has completed the HangGlider handbook and the WingRunner handbook will start in the SkyStormer Series. Sparks complete the SkyStormer handbook, SkyStormer review (either in the handbook or by purchasing the SkyStormer Frequent Flyer Cards), Additional Frequent Flyer memory verses contained in the SkyStormer Frequent Flyer Cards can be purchased separately.

Any second grader who is “catching up” may complete any/all of the three of the handbooks one time through. If they complete all three they are eligible to earn the Sparky Plaque to be presented at the award ceremony.

## All Sparks

As Sparks work on their handbooks, they receive awards to be displayed on their uniform. Awards are described in the handbooks and they include patches, Sparks Pilot Wings, jewels, review patches and extra credit pins.

We ask that you pace your child to stay within the curriculum. Depending upon the amount of time left in the year will determine what supplemental memory work should be encouraged. Check with your child's leader for additional information. Please note: your child may not progress to the curriculum for the following year.





**Blue Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys**  
**Purple Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls**

The name Truth & Training reflects the passion of Awana to teach 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls the truth of God's Word and to train them to follow Christ in their daily lives. This ministry helps clubbers build a firm foundation for their faith, hide God's Word in their heart and apply the truths of Scripture in their life. This ministry will help clubbers see the world through God's eyes.

At LNBC, we separate our boy and girl clubs for handbook time only, and they are combined during game time and council time.

Regardless of age or grade, all clubbers work on the same handbook during the club year. The curriculum is designed for the clubbers to be able to complete their handbook in one year, then progress together to a new handbook the following year.

Throughout the book are extra credit sections – including silver and a gold level. There is plenty to keep your clubber busy!

## **Book Awards & Incentives**

All Cubbies & Sparks clubbers who progress in their handbooks will receive awards to be displayed on their uniforms. However, when any clubber completes a handbook, they are eligible to receive an award at the Awards Ceremony at the end of the club year.

All clubbers present at the ceremony will be recognized. Cubbies will receive their award on the last club night of Awana.

All clubbers must complete all sections in their handbooks by the last night of Awana in order to receive an award at the Closing Ceremony.

Please notify us at the Awana desk if your child has participated in an Awana club elsewhere and has received Awards. We may require documentation to order the correct award for your child. Please make us aware of this early in the year. We do not want your child to be disappointed at the ceremony when your child receives the wrong award because we did not know about their previous awards.

Please help to pace your children during the club year to avoid massive memorization in April. The goal is to encourage our children to learn God's Word and to get it as deep in their hearts and minds as possible! It is not about checking a box or receiving an award. Encourage your children to develop good habits of spending time in God's Word! It will come back to bless them in the years to come!

Special incentives are awarded throughout the year. Our Cubbies can choose a prize from their treasure box once each quarter.

Sparks and T&T clubbers earn Awana dollars each night for attendance, section completion, and for participating in special activities. These Awana dollars can be redeemed at our Awana store. This special store only opens three times each year, and they can save up for something big, or shop each time for small prizes of their choice!

### **Cubbies Book Awards**

Year one book award – a confetti-filled ribbon.

Year two book award – a confetti-filled ribbon. See your child's handbook for photos.

### **Sparks Awards**

First book award – a green ribbon for completing the HangGlider handbook.



Second book award – a blue ribbon for completing the HangGlider and WingRunner handbooks.

Sparky Award Plaque – awarded for completing the HangGlider, WingRunner and SkyStormer Handbooks. Clubber must be in at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

### T&T

Alpha Award – a medallion on a yellow ribbon and an award pin.

Awarded for the completion of their first T&T book. Clubber must be in at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Excellence Trophy – awarded for completion of their second T&T book. Clubbers must be in at least the 4th grade.

Challenge Award - awarded for completion of their third T&T book. Clubbers must be in at least the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Timothy Trophy – awarded for completion of a fourth T&T book.

## Special Theme Nights During Awana

During the year we have many fun theme nights to keep clubbers and leaders involved! Special treats are often awarded to those who participate. Check the calendar and the weekly email newsletter for updates, but below are some of our favorites!

**Crazy Hat and/or Crazy Hair:** Find a funky hat or do something wild with your hair. The crazier the better. Check out the non-permanent hair colors!

**Canned Food Drives:** These nights benefit our local food pantry ministries like Bread of Life and Angels and Sparrows. Bring in canned food items to help stock the pantry!

**Appreciation Nights:** These nights are times we show love to others. Pastors, Awana leaders, those serving in the military, missionaries... we want to pray for them and encourage them!

**Fall Festival Night:** This night usually occurs around October 31. Clubbers are encouraged to dress in costume for Club. During game time, clubbers will play festival games for candy! Please, no scary or demonic costumes since we serve preschoolers... let's keep it fun and uplifting!

### **BARF Night (Be A Real Friend, Bring A Real Friend):**

Clubbers are encouraged to invite and bring friends to Awana. This can be used to fulfill the "bring a visitor" requirement in the handbooks.

**Sports Nights:** Wear your favorite sports team jersey or uniform. Come dressed as an athlete from your favorite sport.

**Slime Time Live:** One word... SLIME. Bring a towel for the ride home, because we get gross during game time!

## Special Events

**Grand Prix:** Similar to the Pinewood derby in scouting, Awana has the Grand Prix. This is open to all Awana clubbers and their parents. Racers build, decorate, and race their Grand Prix cars against others in our Awana club.

You can purchase your car kit at the Awana store starting in early spring. In order to race you must use the kit purchased through Awana. We may offer car building clinics in the weeks leading up to the race.

All cars must be checked and weighed on race night. Look for parent emails on registrations, kit sales, workshop times, and other Grand Prix info.

**The Last Night:** On the last night of Awana, we hold a Closing Ceremony. This is for Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T students. During this time, all the children are recognized for their participation during the year, our T&T Clubbers are presented with their book awards, and we end the season with a party in the gym. All parents and families are invited to attend.

Cubbies book awards are not given out during the Closing Ceremony. Those awards are presented in their classroom on their last regular night of Awana.

Sparks book awards are also not presented during the Closing Ceremony. Those awards are distributed during the Awana year, as they are earned!