



Leading Children to **KNOW, LOVE, & SERVE** Jesus Christ

2024-2025 PARENT HANDBOOK



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CALENDAR 2024-2025



2024

AUGUST

- 21 Leader Training**
- 28 First Club Night**

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Regular Club Night**
- 11 Parent Night/Airplane Night**
- 18 Regular Club Night**
- 25 Regular Club Night**

OCTOBER

- 2 All Club Fire Drill (60 Sec. Alarm)**
- 4 *T & T Girls Game Night**
- 9 Regular Club Night**
- 11 *T & T Boys B.A.R.F. Game Night**
- 16 Regular Club Night**
- 23 Regular Club Night**
- 30 Crazy Hair/Hat Night**

NOVEMBER

- 6 Regular Club Night**
- 13 Regular Club Night**
- 20 Cubbie Feast/Regular Night**
- 27 No Club – Thanksgiving!**

DECEMBER

- 4 Pajama Night**
- 11 Regular Club Night**
- 18 Awana Store/Cubbie Store**
- 25 No Club – Christmas!**

*** T&T Clubs only**

2025

JANUARY

- 1 No Club – New Year!**
- 8 Regular Club Night**
- 15 Regular Club Night**
- 22 Parent Night/Island Night**
- 29 Regular Club Night**

FEBRUARY

- 5 Sports Night/Tins for Grin**
- 12 Regular Club/Tins for Grin**
- 19 Nerd Rope Night**
- 26 Regular Club Night**

MARCH

- 5 Regular Club Night**
- 12 Regular Club Night**
- 19 Leader Fever Night**
- 26 Regular Club Night**

APRIL

- 2 No Club – Spring Break**
- 9 Regular Club Night**
- 16 No Club – Holy Week**
- 23 Regular Club Night**
- 30 Regular Club Night**

MAY

- 7 Awana Store/Cubbie Carnival**
- 14 Awards Night – Last Club**

Over the winter months, should we experience inclement weather on an Awana night, please check the church app/website for updates regarding a cancellation. If Gahanna Schools are closed due to weather, Awana is cancelled.

WELCOME TO AWANA



This Awana Parent Handbook is designed to introduce you and your child to our New Life Church Awana Club and provide important dates and communication. **Awana stands for "Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed"**, from 2 Timothy 2:15 - "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth."

Our prayer is that your Awana clubber will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to working together with you to achieve this goal. Thank you for entrusting your child to our care as we encourage him or her in their study and memorization of God's Word. Awana teaches teamwork and cooperation among clubbers through awards, recognition and affirmation.

To help your child grow in these areas through Awana, please:

- Encourage your clubber to come each week wearing their shirt or vest along with his/her Bible and Awana handbook!
- Help your child learn his/her handbook sections at home each week!
- Show an interest in your child's achievements!
- Be on time for drop off and pick up!

If there is anything I can do to help or encourage you or your clubber, please let me know!

Darcy Stelzer
KidzLife Director



Meeting Time

Wednesday evenings from 6:45pm to 8:15pm
Doors Open & Check-In begins at 6:30pm

Your kids will make new friends, play exciting games, enjoy challenging contests, earn awards, and learn Biblical truths. Below is a list of our clubs:



Puggles (2-3 Year olds): Children are welcomed each week with play time, songs, simple crafts, and activities. Leaders present age-appropriate lessons using colorful teaching cards, finger puppet plays, and more.

Available to kids of Awana volunteers only.



Cubbies (3-5 Year Olds): Cubbies celebrate the spiritual potential of preschoolers by helping them develop respect for God, His Son, and His Word. Must be 3 years old by August 1st and potty trained.



Sparks (K-2nd Grade): Sparks ignites the curiosity of early elementary-age kids to learn about the people and events of the Bible, which in turn helps them build a strong foundation of wisdom for knowing Christ.



Truth & Training (3rd-5th Grade): T&T engages kids by answering their questions about God and the Bible, guiding them through this pivotal life stage to grow in Christ's grace.

Our prayer is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.



CLUB ACTIVITIES



- **Small Group** is where clubbers recite the verses and sections they have learned to their leaders. It is a wonderful opportunity for leaders to teach clubbers the meaning of the verses they have memorized. Two "helps" per section (not verse) = "one or two word hints." No "helps" in the extra credit sections. Prayer time is also done at this time. T&T clubbers utilize time in small groups to dive further into the lesson learned during large group and to build new relationships with their peers and leaders.
- **Large Group** is where our clubbers hear a Biblical message and Gospel presentation. They are challenged to accept Christ and grow spiritually.
- **Games** is a fun time for Sparks and T & T Clubs. They participate in games for their age level for fun, to develop good sportsmanship, and to encourage clubbers to work as a team.





Secure Check-In and Pick Up Process

See the map on the next page. Look for the **KidzLife Entrance**, this is where you will enter the building to **check-in your child**. The security and protection of your child is of great importance to the Awana leadership Team. Check-In is the secure system we use for KidzLife and Awana at New Life Church. Please view the map and locate your child's club area and accompany them to their drop off location. One label is a nametag, the other identical label goes on the roster so we know they have checked into his or her club. All children must be wearing a name tag and have a label for the roster.

Parent(s), Legal Guardian(s), or a responsible party **MUST** check in all clubbers in the lobby of the Kidz Wing each night. Please do not allow your child to linger unattended in the lobby or classrooms before Awana starts.

Adult leaders will guide your child to the activities of the club night. Each Awana volunteer has completed a background check in order to work with the clubbers. All leaders will be wearing a nametag to help easily identify them as Awana leaders.

Parents are welcome to sit in the the lobby or café on most nights. Please sign the visitor book in the lobby and wear a nametag to show that you are a visitor.

With the exception of Parent Night and Awards Night, parents, or guardians may not stay with their children or accompany the clubbers to any other segments of the evening without prior approval from Awana Leadership.

Parent(s), Legal Guardian(s), or a responsible party (age 16 or older) must check out all clubbers from their classrooms each night. **A pick-up label must be presented.** If a tag is lost you must provide a picture I.D. A picture of the pick up tag can be texted to a designated person picking up at the discretion of the parent. See the map on the following page for each club's designated check-in and check-out areas.

Please do not allow your child to linger unattended within the church after pick up at the conclusion of the evening.

PROTECTION & SAFETY



- 1 Main Entrance
- 2 Cafe Entrance
- 3 KidzLife Entrance
- 4 Additional Parking
- 5 All Clubbers Check-in
- 6 T&T Girls Drop-off/Pick-up
- 7 T&T Boys Drop-off
- 8 T&T Boys Pick-up
- 9 Cubbies Drop-off/Pick-up
- 10 Sparkies Drop-off/Pick-up

In order to have a safe, enjoyable, and orderly environment, our club has established these guidelines. Please read and discuss the Awana Code of Conduct with your child.

Awana Code of Conduct

1. I will treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
2. I will treat personal and church property with respect.
3. I will create and maintain a positive and safe environment.
4. I will come to Awana prepared for learning.
5. I will act responsibly and accept consequences for my actions.
6. I will help everyone in Awana feel capable, connected, and contributing.

Awana Club Rules

1. Walk at all times (except during games).
2. Remain with your leader at all times during club.
3. Remain in the church building at all times. If you need to leave early, an approved parent or guardian must pick you up with pick-up tag.
4. Wear your Awana T-shirt or vest if purchased.
5. For fun and for your safety, we encourage you to wear tennis shoes because there will be running during Game Time. No flip flops or backless sandals.

Awana 3-Strike

1-Strike: Clubber will receive a verbal warning from Awana Leader.

2-Strike: Clubber will receive a verbal warning from Awana Leader and Club Director, and will inform the Awana Director of the issue.

3-Strike: Parents will be called by the Club Director and clubber will be sent home. The clubber may return to club the following week when he/she is ready to respect club rules.



NEW LIFE POLICIES



In order to have a safe, enjoyable, and orderly environment, the KidzLife Ministry of New Life Church has established these policies:

Electronics Policy:

For the security of your personal property, we are enforcing a NO electronics/toys policy. If your child brings any of either kind, it will be taken and given back at the end of the evening.

Sick Child Policy:

We are concerned for all children who attend Awana. Their health and safety is of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, we are asking that if your child did not attend school the day of Awana or is displaying signs of sickness including fever, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, any contagious disease, head lice, open sores, or a questionable illness, that you please keep them home. If a child becomes sick while at Awana, we will contact you to come pick up your child.



PUGGLES



Co-Leaders: Rebekah Campbell and Andria Castro

Puggles® recognizes the learning ability of 2- and 3-year olds by introducing Biblical precepts at church and equipping parents to teach them at home. Toddlers love having their very own Awana Club just like their older siblings.

In Puggles, children are welcomed each week with playtime, songs, simple crafts, and activities. Leaders present age-appropriate lessons using colorful teaching cards, finger puppet plays and more.

Lessons teach and reinforce four basic Biblical precepts:

- God Made Everything
- God Saw That It Was Good
- God is Love
- Give Thanks

Participating in Puggles will give your child a head start on the path to loving and following God for life.



PARENT ROLE

Parents have the awesome responsibility to guide little minds to big truths. We encourage you to ask your child what he/she learned that evening and try to reinforce those concepts.

CUBBIES



Directors: Dave & Sherri Draghi

Cubbies® celebrates the spiritual potential of preschoolers (3- to 5-year olds) by helping them develop respect for God, His Son, and His Word.

Preschoolers can hardly wait for their next Cubbies Club meeting. Whether it's the fun puppets, the exciting games, or all their Cubbies friends, they simply love it. At Lesson Time each week, preschoolers learn about God – the greatness of His love and His Word – and about His Son, Jesus Christ, the promised Savior.

Cubbies helps you lead your child to God early so your child will respect and trust Him for life.



PARENT ROLE

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, a review verse and an "Under the Apple Tree," activity to reinforce the lessons they are learning. These extra 'AT HOME' activities will earn your child extra points.

At club, your Cubbie will review the verse you helped teach at home. Working through the handbook with your child develops your spiritual leadership and helps you instill your child with a lifelong Biblical worldview.

CUBBIES CURRICULUM



The Cubbies curriculum features two handbooks. Both are written in a fun, storybook style with read-aloud stories and lovable characters that appeal to preschoolers.

The AppleSeed and HoneyComb handbooks combine basic Scripture memory with parent-child activities to help Cubbies grasp simple Biblical truths. One handbook is completed in a club year. Each handbook contains 26 Bear Hug sections along with four special-day sections.



Awards and Vest

Preschoolers love coming to church in their Cubbies uniform vests! And the opportunity to earn exciting awards helps children stay focused so they can learn God's Word.

1. AppleSeed Trail Emblem
2. HoneyComb Trail Emblem
3. Red Apple Achievement Emblem
4. Green Apple Achievement Emblem



CUBBIES DROP-OFF & PICK UP



Please note our Drop-off & Pick Up for Cubbies is different from T&T and Sparks. Here are the steps to follow:



Check in your child at the iPads in the KidzLife Lobby



Take your Cubbie to the restroom, then head to the Kidz Auditorium and locate your child's name on the table leader roster and place his or her label over it.



Give your Cubbie a bear hug and tell them to have fun!

Pick-Up: Take your tag to your Cubbie's table to pick up your child. Cubbies must stay in his or her seat until you get to their table.



AWARDS & POINTS



Awards

Each Awana Clubber has the opportunity to earn exciting awards or prizes. These represent 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 can work at his or her own pace and will be guided and helped by a caring leader.

Awana Points Each week clubbers have the opportunity to earn Awana points that they can “spend” at the Awana Store. This is to encourage children to give their full participation during club nights. The store will be held once a year for Cubbies (Winter only) and twice a year in the Winter and Spring for Sparks and T & T. Leaders will help clubbers shop during club time.



SPARKS CLUB



Director: Lisa Bentivegna

Sparks® ignites the curiosity of early elementary-age kids to learn about the people and events of the Bible, building a foundation of wisdom for knowing Christ.

To many children in kindergarten to second grade, Sparks is the highlight of the week! They love their red vests, the exciting games, and spending time with leaders and friends.

Sparks is divided into three years, each with a unique rank: HangGlider®, WingRunner® and SkyStormer™. Each year Sparks clubbers will:

- Explore the Biographies of People of the Bible
- Memorize Bible Verses
- Complete Handbook Activities

The handbooks, combined with Large Group lessons, take your child on a journey through the entire Bible!



Sparks curriculum is comprised of three handbooks. Each handbook builds a foundation of Biblical wisdom through memory verse drills, crafts, activities, and review of key doctrine and Bible facts.

Before working in the first handbook, all newcomers to Sparks will complete an entrance booklet – Flight 3:16 – that centers on the gospel message of John 3:16. WingRunner and SkyStormer handbooks challenge Sparkies to learn about 15 more verses than the preceding book.

***Clubbers will complete the books in consecutive order.**



Parents play a leading role in their child's spiritual development.

Invest in your child's growing faith by reading and discussing the Bible and the handbook sections with your child and by helping him/her memorize the verses. Use the Parent Ideas section in each handbook to help your child understand the biographies and see how they fit in the Bible. Sparks Bookwalks are online tools that walk you through your child's handbook to help YOU help your child. Optional parent handbooks (HangGlider, WingRunner, and SkyStormer) from Awana at Home correspond to your child's handbooks. These books make it easy to learn more about the Bible and answer your child's questions.

Parents can help their children prepare each week.

LISTEN: Each handbook includes a downloadable audio file with memory verses and character stories featuring Sparky the Firefly and his friends Chloe, Jacob, and Joel.

SPEAK: Help your child say the verse aloud. Repeat phrase by phrase. Review every night before going to bed. Say it together while driving.

ACTIVITY: Write out the entire verse and repeat. Create puzzles together to put the verse in the proper order. Create fun games and learn together.



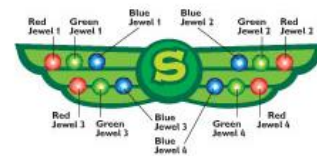
SPARKS AWARDS



Sparkies love the classic red vest and the awards they earn in Sparks that display their progress.

Here is a description of the items on the vest:

1. Sparks Emblem
2. HangGlider Rank Emblem
3. WingRunner Rank Emblem
4. SkyStormer Rank Emblem
5. HangGlider Pilot Wings and Jewels



Sparkies Award

Hanglider and Wing Runner now get a medal style award (not shown) and Sky Stormer will receive a Sparks statue.



Award Distribution

Jewels will most often be given on the nights that sections are completed.

The Sparks book awards, will be handed out at Awards Night at the end of the Awana year.

SPARKS SCHEDULE



6:45 Drop Off in Room 201

Begin the night with table games, any announcements and prayer

6:55 Large Group

You will sing songs and learn Biblical truths from God's Word and about His character.

7:20 Small Group

Say your verses, do a fun activity, and pray with your small group leader.

7:45 Games

Enjoy fun and challenging games. Sometimes participation earns extra points!

8:10 Return to Small Groups

Meet back in the classrooms for pick-up.

8:15 Pick Up

TRUTH & TRAINING



Director: Pam Aikens (Girls)

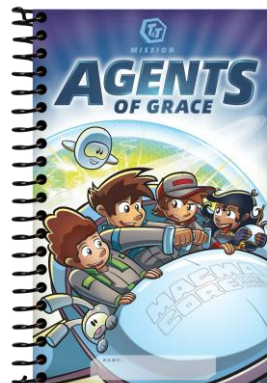
Director: Bill Wood (Boys)

It is highly encouraged that clubbers bring their Bible to Awana, as they will need one in both the small and large group setting. We will have extra Bibles handy for those who need one.

Small groups are assigned according to grade level with boys and girls meeting separately in groups with their respective male and female leaders. Our trained leaders will guide the clubbers through their handbooks focusing on relationship building and discipleship.

A Start Zone booklet will be given to all clubbers to complete. It consists of two sections. The first will walk students through the gospel and the second gives an overview of basic Bible information. Each section contains questions to answer and memory verse and must be completed in order to be eligible for a book award.

The handbook consists of lessons that each include an introductory activity, Bible study, prayer section guiding them on how to specifically pray for different countries in the world, and optional extra credit opportunities to dive deeper into their Scripture memory and study of God's Word. Clubbers will also be challenged to memorize the books of the Bible and bring a friend to club.





Small Group

ALL T&T clubbers will have the opportunity to say verses during small group.

Due to the number of clubbers needing to say verses, we ask that your child come fully prepared - ready to recite their memorized verse, including scripture reference and have the required book work completed. As per the Awana guidelines, two helps are permitted per section.

In addition to the memorized verse, there are other requirements that must be completed in order for a leader to sign off on a section. Please note that in the Start Zone and handbook the requirements are the same for each section. Most every section will require the "Start Here, Explore, Memorize, and Review" be completed prior to a section being signed off. If a clubber is not able to recite their verse or is missing any of the requirements necessary, they will be asked to study and try again later that night or the following week.

Gold and silver extra credit sections are optional to complete and are NOT required to have a listener sign off the clubbers book.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The T&T curriculum has been built to encourage parents or guardians to become involved in their child's spiritual development in greater ways. The handbook includes simple activities in the "Start Here" activity for parents to participate in their child's handbook experience. We also ask that you please work with your child each week to help them learn their verses so they are prepared when they come to club.



Awana Truth & Training Girls 3rd - 5th Grade

Club Points

There are multiple ways to earn points each week, which are spent 2x a year for Prizes!

- Earn 1 point each club night that you are here!
- Earn 1 point each club night that you bring both your workbook and your Bible.
- Earn 1 point for every section you pass.
- Earn 1 point each for Extra Credit Silver and/or Gold.

Club Awards

Awards are earned for completing sections, units and the entire book! Every four sections you pass earns a section award badge!

Every time that a clubber earns an award emblem (passing 4 regular sections or the entire unit for Silver or Gold) earns a treasure chest prize. More information on how your clubber can earn special badges and awards will be given to you on parent night.

Awards Night

At the conclusion of the Awana year, participation certificates or book awards will be distributed during our Awards Night.

Completion of one book: Alpha Award
Completion of two books: Excellence Award
Completion of three books: Timothy Award



T&T Girls SCHEDULE



Opening **6:45-6:50**

Begin in room 108-109 for announcements and hang time

Large Group **6:50-7:20**

You will learn Biblical truth from God's Word and about His character in fun, creative ways.

Awana Games **7:20-7:45**

Enjoy fun and challenging games

Small Group **7:45-8:15**

Say verses and get sections signed off by your leader. Work in your handbook doing activities, Bible study, and prayer time with your peers and leaders.

Parent Pickup **8:15**





Awana Truth & Training Boys 3rd - 5th Grade

Club Points

There are multiple ways to earn points each week, which are spent 2x a year for Prizes!

- Earn 1 point each club night that you are here!
- Earn 1 point each club night that you bring **both** your workbook **and** **your** Bible!
- Earn 1 point for every section you **pass** (complete the workbook section & memorize the verse.)
- Earn 1 point each for Extra Credit Silver and/or Gold. **(Gold Extra Credit also earns a Candy Bar!)**

Club Awards

Awards are earned for completing sections, units and the entire book!
Completing all Silver Extra Credits in any unit earns special badges!
Completing all Gold Extra Credits in any unit earns a gift card for Ice Cream!

Awards Night

At the conclusion of the Awana year, participation certificates or book awards will be distributed during our Awards Night.



Completion of one book: Alpha Award
Completion of two books: Excellence Award
Completion of three books: Timothy Award

T&T BOYS SCHEDULE



Opening Ceremony 6:55-7:00

Begin every evening in the church auditorium

Games 7:00-7:20

Enjoy fun and challenging games with your peers and leaders

Large Group 7:20-7:45

You will learn Biblical truth from God's Word
and about His character

Small Group 7:45-8:15

Say verses and get sections signed off by your leader.
Work in your handbook doing activities, Bible study,
and prayer time with your peers and leaders.

Parent Pickup 8:15





Awana Ministry Director: Darcy Stelzer
dstelzer@enewlife.com



Puggles Co-Leaders:
Rebekah Campbell &
Andria Castro



Cubbies Directors:
Dave & Sherri Draghi



Sparks Director:
Lisa Bentivegna
lisab@enewlife.com



T & Directors
Girls: Pam Aikens
Boys: Bill Wood



Go to enewlife.com/Awana
for weekly updates!