



# AWANA Sparks Info and Pro Tips

**Disclaimer:** These tips are best case scenario! Please know you are not expected to do this perfectly; these are just things I've learned being a Sparks mom that I wish I had known starting out. Your children are always welcome every week, regardless of how much outside time you spend in the book. ~Shelley

## **Entrance Book Flight 3:16**

New Sparks begin in an entrance book called Flight 3:16. The kids will work on them in handbook time, then bring them home to share and practice with you. It is ideal if they bring this back the next week to continue working on them. Upon completion (which is reciting John 3:16 and attending for 2 weeks), Sparks receive their GREEN Hang Glider handbook and RED vest. **These go home every week and need to come back every week.**

\*\*ProTip: Have an AWANA bag for your child to keep vest, Bible and handbook in.

## **Handbooks**

There are 3 Sparks handbooks in this order: Hang Glider, Wing Runner and Sky Stormer. Each handbook is designed with enough sections to last your child through a school year. Some kids move faster, some move slower. They also increase in difficulty, so Hang Glider is for K-2, Wing Runner is for 1-2, and Sky Stormer is for 2. We have review and extra credit available for those who get ahead.

The handbooks are also designed for parents to introduce a section to their child at home; there is often a story that goes along with the verse to be recited. It is ideal to sit down with your child to look at the section they are on, read the story that goes with it and begin practicing the verse. All 3 handbooks begin with "Rank", which are verses that go along with the SPARKS acronym. We prefer for the child to complete the sections in order when possible.

In each book, there is a "bring a friend" section and a missionary section. If you cannot complete these, please let us know. We have missionary information from leaders who have been on short term trips that we can provide. We also have alternate choices for the "bring a friend" section.

*\*\*Pro Tip: Pick an afternoon to sit down to introduce the section. We often counted this time toward school reading minutes. Then, introduce the verse and practice it a little bit every day. Use a binder clip or magnetic bookmark to mark the section for easy access!*

*\*\*Pro Tip: Memorization is easier with MUSIC!! Every handbook verse has accompanying songs. These were a lifesaver for us. You can purchase the songs for each handbook on iTunes. Search "AWANA Hang Glider songs, esv". I would often put these on a loop while she was playing.*

If your child comes to club ready to recite a section(s), we listen to them first. Then, they either go on to practice the next section, help a friend or do an activity. With many younger kids being emerging readers, this help at home is very important. It allows them to learn with you and for the AWANA leaders to be able to help them recite quickly, so they can help other children.

*\*\*Again, this is ideal! Your child may complete more than one section a week—that's ok, we will listen to all they have prepared! Your child may not have a section ready on occasion; that is ok too! And, then, if you cannot do any at home work, that is ok too. We do our best to spend time with every child in handbook time, and if we need to do the section in class, we will.\*\**

Note on Wing Runner and Sky Stormer books: The Bible stories for these are not printed in the books but can be downloaded from the included CD. I am working on a pdf to post so you can quickly pull them up on a phone or tablet.

## **Points & Bucks**

Every week, your child earns points. Points can be earned for attendance, bringing materials, completing sections, attending Bible Life/Children's Worship on Sundays, etc. Points convert to bucks, which is what they use to buy toys and items at the AWANA store twice a year. Every 3300 points=1 buck. Kids average earning 10-15 bucks a semester. Additional bucks are awarded for bringing friends to club or receiving a caught being good award. A buck sheet is put in the handbook room as the end of the semester nears so kids can see what they have. The actual bucks are handed out on store night.

## Awards

Sparks earn awards to go on their **RED vests** for completing groups of sections in the handbooks. All books' awards go in this order: Rank emblem (patch), pilot wings, red and green jewels (4 each), end of book ribbon. There are also blue jewels for attendance and extra credit awards. The vest is designed to last all 3 years to collect the awards for all 3 books.

Award time is at 8:00 following game time. You are welcome to attend; please enter through the partition wall from the check in area instead of the double doors.

**\*\*Pro Tip:** send the vest every week so awards can be attached! Let a leader know if you need a new vest or are missing an award. We now have "Badge Magic" if ironing the patches is not your thing! Let us know!



Please reach out to me if you have any questions:

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