

Welcome to Sparks!

We are excited to have your child in Sparks this year! It is a privilege to be part of your child's spiritual growth and education.

This handbook is designed to give you all the information you will need to have a successful year. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sparks meets every Sunday evening from September to May, unless otherwise noted on the Awana Calendar. Sparkies can be dropped off beginning at 5:45 p.m. When you arrive, get you and your child's nametag and security tag in the foyer and then take them to their assigned room. We will begin at 5:50 pm and end at 7:30 pm. Be sure to have the security tag when picking up your child.

We are looking forward to a fun and wonderful year.

For His Glory,

Ryan Lowdermilk
Sparks Director
ryanlowdermilk@gmail.com

About the Sparks Program:

Sparks is a three-year weekly club program for those in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade. The program features Scripture memorization, age-appropriate instruction from God's Word, and lots of fun! The Sparks program is designed to help leaders reinforce the teaching parents do in the home as a way to assist parents in spiritually nurturing their children.

Club time is broken down into several parts:

- Songs/Opening
- Lesson
- Games
- Book time – clubbers have snack and an activity while rotating through to say their verses
- Awards/Closing

Several times a year, Sparks enjoy our Share Store. Clubbers earn shares throughout the year for saying sections, winning games, bringing friends, etc. On store night, they get to spend their shares to buy treats, toys, and gifts for others.

About the Sparks Materials...

Flight 3:16 ENTRANCE BOOKLET - This booklet must be completed by any first time Spark before starting their first book, regardless of their age.

HANDBOOKS – All Sparks should complete the handbooks in order from #1 through #3 (HangGlider, Wing Runner and Sky Stormer). Each handbook includes corresponding audio stories and verses that are available for download.

Memory Work

- ❖ In Sparks, clubbers work through their handbook at their own pace. However, it is recommended that they complete an average of two sections/night in order to finish their book by the end of the year.
- ❖ The sections need to be worked on and recited at home before coming to club so that we can efficiently help each clubber every night. Your Spark will have approximately 5 minutes a night to recite the verses they have worked on.

Suggestions for Memorizing

- ❖ Repeat the verse over and over to your child. Break the verse up into short phrases.
- ❖ Explain what the verse means.
- ❖ Show them how the verse relates to their life.
- ❖ Use the audio cd in the handbook to reinforce learning.

Placement of Awards

Awards will be given out each night of club for the work that was completed the previous week. The patches can be sewn on or ironed on, or you can use Badge Magic adhesive, available in the Awana Office. The jewels are to be placed on their wings, which are received after completing the first 8 sections of their book.

Tips on How Parents Can Help

Help your child learn the verses in the handbook.

- Establish *a regular time* to work on them.
- Make use of the following suggestions for memorizing

Bring your child to club on time and in uniform

- Find a special place at home to keep your child's book and uniform, so it can always be found on Sparks' night.
- Be sure your child wears the uniform vest to club. The uniform is where their awards are displayed and helps to motivate them with a sense of belonging.
- Bring your child to club on time so we can begin and end promptly.
- We will have a game time, usually in the gym, every meeting. Appropriate footwear will be helpful.

Pay attention to the Awana calendar

- Details about club meetings are available on the church website calendar or on a PDF calendar that can be printed at countrysidebible.org/awana
- Remind your kids about special nights and encourage their participation (Sno-cone bring-a- friend night, etc.)

Get involved in Sparks

- If your family regularly attends Countryside, we'd love to talk with you about serving in Sparks!