

AWANA Clubs Parents' Guide

AWANA LEADERSHIP

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Weekly Opportunities

Sunday:

9:30 AM - Sunday morning worship
- Kid Zone for ages 4 yrs - 5th gr.
- Nursery is provided

11:00 AM - Sunday school classes for:
Kids 4 yrs - 5th Grade
Middle & High school
Men, Women, and Adult
- Nursery is provided

6 - 8 PM - Middle & high school youth group

Wednesday:

6:30 PM - AWANA Clubs for Age 3 - Grade 6

There are many opportunities to connect within the church. There are life groups for individuals and families, men's and women's ministries that meet and have activities throughout the week, along with youth and children's ministries to plug your kids in to. To find out more information please check our website: www.buffalofree.org

How Parents Can Help

Make AWANA a priority in your family. Give of your time to listen to verses; gently remind your child to work on his/her sections.

- 1 - Familiarize yourself with your child's handbook.
- 2 - Help your child find a place to keep his/her handbook to avoid the "Where's my handbook!" panic.
- 3 - Help your child keep his/her uniform neat and clean and awards properly placed.
- 4 - Contact your child's Leader with questions or concerns.

Memorizing Tips

Children learn through hearing, understanding and applying. Here are some suggestions or ideas to enhance the learning experience of the clubber. The average child will be adequately prepared for the weekly AWANA club meeting if he or she spends 10 minutes a day in the club handbook. Help your child develop the 10-minutes-a-day habit early in the club year.

- 1 - Make sure the clubber understands or knows how to pronounce all the words. Use the explanation provided in the handbook for certain words.
- 2 - Repeat the material with the clubber over and over again.
- 3 - Break up the material into increments of a few words or phrases. Say words and phrases and ask clubber to repeat after you. Through repetition, clubber should memorize material.
- 4 - Write the material on a chalkboard or paper. Ask the clubber to read it aloud. Erase or cover up a few words and ask clubber to try reading the material again. Keep erasing or covering up words until the entire verse is erased or covered and the clubber has memorized it.
- 5 - Write the words or phrases of verses on 3x5 cards. Shuffle cards and ask the clubber to arrange them in order.
- 6 - Say the verse into a tape recorder. Listen to the verse over and over, or say the verse into the tape recorder and play back to check accuracy.

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Discipline

The purpose of discipline is to teach acceptable behavior, not merely a set of rules. By setting and enforcing club standards, AWANA leaders attain a consistent standard of acceptable conduct.

AWANA uses a five-count method to bring order and quiet. It is for the whole group. The Commander/Director or person in charge will slowly count to five at which time there should be silence.

AWANA uses a three-count method as an individual discipline device. This is used any time during club to discipline individual clubbers who are disruptive or are misbehaving. The clubber will be warned by the Commander/Director or person in charge with a count of 1. If misbehavior continues, they will be taken to the Commander or a designee for counseling. If the clubber still refuses to behave appropriately, they will receive a 3 and their behavior will be discussed with their parents by the Commander or designee. They may not be allowed to return to club until they are willing to follow the rules and behave properly. Game Time is a privilege, and we do not want anyone to miss it. In case of misbehavior, however, the person in charge may revoke Game Time privileges for the night as an act of discipline.

The staff list will be handed out separately, along with the calendar of theme nights. Please keep these handouts with the Red Book.



Fees

When the child has passed the Entrance Booklet, they are eligible to purchase a handbook and uniform. They are expected to wear the uniform or vest each week. The uniform is to be clean and all awards properly displayed. The handbook for each club shows how the awards are to be located on the uniform. If you have questions, please contact a leader.

Uniforms & Handbook Costs

Updated costs are listed on the yearly order form.

Please follow this link for the updated site.

<https://bit.ly/AwanaOrdering>

Please inquire about USED uniforms that are available for purchase at a reduced price. We are always looking for uniforms. Please see the secretaries for more information.

Please talk to the Commander/Directors if finances are a problem. We will not let finances stand in the way of a child's participation in AWANA.

What is AWANA

AWANA is an international, non-denomination, Bible-centered youth organization providing weekday clubs and programs for ages 3 through high school.

The AWANA Acrostic

A = Approved

W = Workmen

A = Are

N = Not

A = Ashamed

This acrostic name is based on II Timothy 2:15. *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth .”*

Why AWANA?

The goal of AWANA is “to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.” Thus, the purpose of AWANA is two-fold: Evangelism - to draw boys and girls from the community into the club ministry where they may hear the Gospel and accept Christ as Savior. Training - to prepare clubbers to help fulfill the Great Commission through outreach, service to their church and development of leadership qualities.

AWANA strongly emphasizes memorizing and understanding Scripture. Psalm 119:11 says, *“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”* Through Bible memorization and other Bible-based achievement, clubbers learn the Word of God which helps them develop their relationship with Jesus Christ. Clubbers often discover later in life that verses they learned in AWANA are valuable in helping them live Christ-honoring lives.

The AWANA Pledge

I pledge allegiance to the AWANA flag, which stand for the AWANA Clubs; whose goal is to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ, and train them to serve Him.

The AWANA Club Schedule

Wednesday Nights - September through May
6:30-8:00 pm

Parents Please Note;

We make every effort to start on time. This means clubbers should show up 5-10 minutes before starting time to register their attendance and get ready for club to start. If your clubbers arrives late, they will miss the beginning rally. PLEASE arrive with enough time to sign in. However, it is equally difficult to have children arrive too early! If you arrive earlier than 6:20 you will be expected to stay with your child(ren) until leaders are in place and ready to welcome them in.

Also, make a habit of checking for uniform, Bible, Handbook, and dues before it is time to leave home. If they are forgotten, it will impact your child's night of programming. Clubbers are encouraged to invite friends who are in the age range of one of our AWANA clubs (PreK-6). Parents are always welcome to observe.

Finally, we ask that you are prompt in picking up children following club. We make a real effort to close our club meeting at 8:00 pm. Parents are required to come into the church to pick up their children, we will not send them out to the parking lot.

Club Agenda

Each club evening includes the following:

Game time (exciting games on the AWANA Game Circle!)

Handbook time (small groups work in Handbooks)

Council Time (Bible lesson and singing)

AWANA Theme Song

Firmly AWANA stands, led by the Lord's commands,
"Approved workmen are not ashamed,"
Boys and girls for His service claimed!
Hail! AWANA! On the march for youth;
Hail! AWANA! Holding forth the truth
Building lives on the word of God AWANA stands!

Chorus:

Our Savior following with steps unfaltering,
And love unfaltering, His praise we sing,
His banner over us, in service glorious,
We'll fight victorious for Christ our King!

Handbook Awards

Sparks First Book Ribbon - For completing one Sparks handbook
Sparks Second Book Ribbon - For completing two sparks handbooks.

Sparky Plaque & Award Pin - Awarded for completing (review not required) all three Sparky handbooks (HangGlider, WingRunner & SkyStormer).

Alpha Award & Award Pin - A medallion for completing any one, 3rd-12th grade handbook or study.

Excellence Award & Award Pin - Given to those who complete two, 3rd-12th grade handbooks.

Challenge Award & Award Pin - Given to those who complete three, 3rd-12th grade handbooks.

Timothy Award & Award Pin - Given to those who complete four, 3rd-12th grade handbooks.

Extra Credit Awards

Sparks Handbook Review Patch: A uniform patch earned by reviewing all sections in their handbook, plus the additional sections in the Review Island.

Sparks Workbook Pins: After completing a Handbook Review, the Sparks complete Workbooks. They contain additional Scripture memorization and activities. There is a Workbook Pin for completing each corresponding workbook.

Handbook Review Awards: When an older clubber completes a handbook, he may take a Handbook Review Exam. Successful completion of the exam is rewarded with a pin to display on the uniform.

General Club Guidelines

- No running in the church except when required during Game Time.
- No gum or food allowed, except for when part of a special club activity.
- No foul language or gestures before, during or after club.
- No playing in the parking lot before or after club.
- No pushing, shoving or roughhousing before, during or after club.
- Display care and respect for each other and for church property.

Please do not attend AWANA if someone within your household has a temperature over 100, strep-throat, vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours, or lice. Extreme care should be taken with coughs, sore throat and stuffy noses. These are the same symptoms of Covid-19, H1N1, and seasonal flu which easily spread.

Club Cancellation Due to Weather

If Buffalo schools are closed on Wednesday due to inclement weather, AWANA Club will be cancelled. If we decide to cancel as an organization, we will post on BEFC's social media and BEFC Children's social media. We do not attempt to call the homes of clubbers to inform them of cancellation. However, do not hesitate to call your clubber's leader for information if you are in doubt.

The AWANA Clubs

Cubbies: The two years prior to Kindergarten

Cubbies is for boys and girls ages three (must be three by Sept. 1) through five (not in Kindergarten). It is a structured program where the kids learn early that being a Christian and learning verses can be fun. They learn very simple verses with the help of mom and dad at home, sing songs, play games, learn to function in a group environment, hear Bible stories, and earn awards: animal patches for their vest and stickers for their handbook. No review is required to finish the handbook.

Sparks: Kindergarten - 2nd grade boys and girls

Flight 3:16 Entrance Book, Hang Glider, Wingrunner Rank, Climber Rank

Sparks moves the children through a disciplined walk with the Lord by providing Bible verses which re-enforce basic doctrine, provides activities, and helps the kids understand basic issues of honesty, manner, etc. The uniform is a red vest.

Truth & Training Clubs: 3rd - 6th grade boys and girls

The T&T (Truth & Training) curriculum teaches kids the truth of God's Word, trains them to follow Him and practice His grace. In this four year program, kids will explore the fundamental doctrines of Christianity including:

- The character and nature of God
- The structure and sequence of the Bible
- The redemptive narrative
- Key practices for followers of Jesus

The AWANA Store

The AWANA Store is a reward system. The children earn “shares” (play money) for saying sections and then visit the store to spend the shares on the prizes of their choice. Our store is held one Wednesday per month, during Handbook time. Every club runs the store differently. This is how we do ours:

1. One share will be given for EACH SECTION SIGNED (not each verse). The listeners will have the Shares in their notebooks to hand out when sections are said. If the clubber has had their parents help with verses and initial the page, the clubber can receive ONE additional share that evening (not one for each section initialed).
2. The winning team for the night will be given an additional share.
3. The children are responsible for keeping track of their shares. There will be envelopes in the front of the books to keep them in. Clubbers should write their name on the envelope. Found envelopes will be returned, loose shares will not.
4. Leaders are given shares in \$1, \$5 and \$10 denominations. If leaders run short, more shares can be acquired from a secretary.
5. Starting in October the store will be open at least once a month. The store superintendent will draw up a schedule. The leaders of a scheduled class will be given passes to allow the children to visit the store in turn during Handbook time. Each class leader will decide the order that the children go, but all will be given the opportunity.
6. The Sparks will have 1 pass per leader’s crate; the older kids will have several passes per class, according to the number of clubbers. Only one child should be at the store per pass. The only exception is a new visitor coming with their friend. The passes help keep the number of children at the store to a workable amount. Too many children makes it difficult for them to shop, and to keep track of purchases.
7. At the end of Handbook time, please return passes to your leader.
8. Children who are visiting and doing the sections in the entrance booklets will not be given shares. When they receive their regular book the shares earned in the entrance booklet will already be in the book. This is because many visitors do not return, and that way earned shares do not get lost. There is no way to safely keep shares with the entrance booklet.
9. The purchased prizes will be placed in a bag with their name on it. Bags should not be opened during AWANA. Sparkies will give their bag to their leader to keep in the crate until club is over. T&T’s will keep their bags with them. This prevents them from getting lost or becoming a distraction during Council Time.

Bible Memory & Handbook Work

Clubbers must pass an entire section during one session. A session is an uninterrupted period of time in which a clubber and leader interact in completing a section. During this time a clubber does not refer to his or her handbook. In a section where clubbers must memorize several verses, they may not recite one verse, study a while, and then recite other verses. They must recite all verses and references within a section during one session.

Clubbers must pass a section with no more than two helps or prompts. A help is a verbal, or non-verbal prompt for memorized material. If the prompt is verbal, one should equal no more than three or four words (at leader discretion). Clubbers often need no more than two words. Those with learning disabilities may be allowed more than two helps, at the discretion of the director.

Clubbers must recite both references and verses.

After completing sections in the Entrance Booklet, the clubber will purchase a handbook. Sections in the Sparks handbooks must be completed in order. T&T handbooks can be competed in any order. T&T leaders will teach one section (Bible Study and verse) each club night. Sections that are missed can be made up at any time. Clubbers can work ahead but will still sit through the Bible Study for any section they have already passed.

Each clubber is given the opportunity to complete two (2) sections during a single session. When everyone in the group has had an opportunity to complete two sections, clubbers are given the opportunity to recite additional sections.

Awards are given the week following, on completion of a set of sections.