

New Parent Handbook



Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

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Welcome To Awana

I am so excited about our Awana Clubs at First Baptist Church Buda! Our goal is to have children grow in knowledge and understanding of the Bible. As parents and ministry leaders, we have been given the privilege and honor of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with one of the largest unreached people groups in the world: Children. It is an awesome opportunity and I am so excited about what God is going to do in the lives of our children. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve your children and help them learn who God is, what His Son did for us, and how we can live our lives for Him.

It is my prayer the children involved in Awana will be so excited about what happens on Wednesday nights that they want everyone they know to attend Awana. Awana is fun and exciting. We play games, learn Bible verses, hear testimonies, and learn how to live a life in service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We also build relationships, share events in our lives, and help each other get to know Jesus better.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to overseeing this ministry this year and in the years to come.

May God richly bless this Awana ministry.

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THE HISTORY OF AWANA

Since 1950, Awana has grown from a one-church program into a ministry that includes more than 12,000 churches in the United States and another 6,000 in more than 109 countries worldwide. Local churches reach hundreds of thousands of young people every week by using the Awana ministry. The goal of Awana is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. The word Awana stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, and comes from *2 Timothy 2:15*. Awana is a fun and exciting way for children to learn Scripture and it works! Thank you for giving us the opportunity to acquaint you with the Awana ministry at First Baptist Church Buda, and how it can benefit not only your child, but your entire family!

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Each weekly club meeting is composed of 3 main elements:

- **Game Time**
- **Handbook Time**
- **Large Group Time**

Your child will enjoy the active Awana Game Time uniquely created around the Awana circle. This provides children with the opportunity to compete as a team and not just as individuals. They will learn to win and lose with a proper attitude of fair play and sportsmanship.

During Handbook Time an Awana leader works with a small group of clubbers, assisting them in memorizing Bible verses and other learning activities. Your child will begin to gain valuable understanding of spiritual truths and in this way, he/she will earn awards by passing sections in their handbook to motivate further achievement.

During Large Group Time your child will be exposed to messages from God’s word from adult speakers. They will also learn (and sing) Awana songs. We offer clubs for Kindergarten to 6th grade. Clubs include:

SPARKS

This club is a three year program for children ages kindergarten through 2nd grade. Sparks emphasizes Bible memorization and Bible-centered activities which is accomplished through weekly games, council times and handbook time.

TRUTH & TRAINING (T&T)

T&T is a program designed for children ages 3rd grade through 5th grade. This club also emphasizes Bible memorization and Bible-centered activities which is accomplished through weekly games, council times and handbook time.

BEGINNING AND ENDING

Club begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. We ask that your children do not arrive before then, as there will be no adult supervision. Club ends at 7:30 p.m.



Please be prompt in dropping off and picking up your child(ren). We understand occasional delays but it is not reasonable to expect the leaders to watch your child for any length of time after club is over on a regular basis. In order to ensure the safety of all our clubbers, we have a drop off and pick-up policy. This has been put into place so that we can make sure that all clubbers are being picked up by **ONLY** those who are authorized to do so.

We also want to make sure that clubbers are as safe as possible while in our care. We are on a very busy street and therefore it is very dangerous for our clubbers to be outside unsupervised. Each clubber **MUST** be escorted in and out of the building by an adult. No clubbers will be allowed to enter or leave the building without an adult.

DISCIPLINE

The goal of discipline is to bring the person to a closer relationship with Christ through correct behavior and actions. Our Heavenly Father disciplines us with love and mercy. This should be the attitude with which we discipline the children He has given us in Awana. The following rules and procedures have been developed to help us in loving the children back into a healthy Christian attitude.

AWANA CLUB RULES

1. Respect God - means we don't do or say anything that would cause Him to be ashamed of us and we don't use His name in a disrespectful manner.
2. Respect Gods Word- God's Word is Holy. It deserves the highest respect and obedience. It is the source of communication God has chosen to use with us. It contains God's plan for our daily lives and our only hope for eternal life in heaven.
3. Respect God's Property - The things we have to use are not our own. Everything in the church belongs to God and His people. We have their permission to use their things but never to deface or destroy them.
4. Respect Others -Treat other people (yes, even the clubbers) like you would like to be treated.

5 Count

The 5 Count is used to get a group of clubbers attention. A leader will slowly count to 5. At the end of the 5 Count, clubbers should be standing still and quiet. Anyone still in motion or talking is given a "1" against their 3 Counts for the night.

3 Count

The 3 Count is used for discipline. Each time a clubber directly disobeys a command or rule, that clubber is given a disciplinary count.

- With the first count they simply receive a warning from the Leader
- On their second count, the clubber is to be taken to the Commander. The Commander will talk with the clubber and advise them that they have only one more chance to prove themselves that night.

The clubber will not return to that session but will be required to study their sections on their own. The clubber is then returned to their group for the next session.

- After a clubber is returned to their leader or if the clubber shows disrespect to the commander during discipline then the clubber receives a third count and their parents are called to remove the clubber for the night. The clubber is encouraged to return the next week but their right to attend for the current night is suspended.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Always encourage your child. Children have much more fun when Mom and Dad show interest in their accomplishments.
- Help children to attend Awana every week and to arrive on time (Club begins at 6:00 p.m). Consistency builds friendships, achievement, and self-discipline.
- During the week, help your child prepare at least two to three sections. This will ensure they will complete their handbook and will receive their special awards.
- Please review the discipline guidelines found in this handbook with your child. Awana has very few rules of behavior, but in order to insure that all clubbers have an opportunity to learn as well as have fun, some rules of behavior will be enforced.
- Please plan to pick up clubbers promptly at 7:30 p.m. in their designated area.
- Clubbers will not be permitted to leave the building without an adult coming to pick them up.
- If your child needs to be excused from participating in Game Time, please send a note to that effect to their leader; otherwise, they will be expected to participate with all other clubbers in all activities.



ATTENDANCE

The club year is divided into quarters in regard to club attendance. Each clubber can earn one attendance award each quarter if they miss no more than 2 nights during that quarter. We believe that Sunday School attendance is also a vital part of the spiritual development of your child. Clubbers, therefore, can receive awards for Sunday School attendance during the year. For this award, the year is divided in half and they cannot miss more than 3 Sundays per semester. If your child does not have a Sunday School to attend they are more than welcome to join us at First Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

WHAT TO BRING TO AWANA

- Awana Uniform
- Comfortable **tennis/running shoes, NOT flip flops or sandals**, each week. Long pants are best because we play games on carpet every week and exposed knees may end up with rug burns and other injuries.
- Awana Club Handbook

*On Special Theme Nights, we will ask your child to bring items to participate in the fun.
Look for notes sent home with each clubber.*

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO AWANA

- Toys
- Electronics
- Food or drinks

We give out candy, cookies, crackers, and other items as prizes as well as provide a small snack each night.

UNIFORMS

Clubbers need to remember to wear their uniform each week. Uniforms promote pride and uniformity as a group. Clubbers need to wear **tennis/running shoes and NOT flip flops or sandals**, each week. Long pants are best because we play games on carpet every week and exposed knees may end up with rug burns and other injuries. Clubbers may be asked to sit out of game time if not dressed accordingly.

THE HANDBOOK

The handbook is a vital tool for your child's success in the AWANA program. It helps him/her to learn about God as well as reinforcing positive moral standards. Clubbers **must** have their handbooks at club and it is extremely helpful that each section is reviewed with a parent prior to attending club night.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

- No more than two (2) helps per section are given in order for a clubber to receive credit.
- Sections are passed when said to an AWANA leader or listener during club time.
- Do your best to explain the meaning of each verse. You will find that they memorize more quickly if they understand what they are memorizing.

AWARDS

Awards are received several different ways at our Awana Club. Points are awarded for weekly achievements, game time, behavior and preparedness. Patches and stickers are awarded each week for sections accomplished. At the end of the year, we will have an awards ceremony where clubbers who complete one or more handbooks will receive special ribbons and trophies. This is a **HUGE** accomplishment and we encourage all parents to set aside the time to come and participate in this celebration of your child's accomplishments and hard work.

- Sparks-2 ½ sections a week
- T&T-1 ½ sections a week



We as leaders want to be sensitive to any special needs your child may have, especially in the area of learning. Please contact your child's Club Leader or the Commander if there are any disabilities or challenges your child may face.

NIGHTLY SCHEDULE

Sparks	6:00-6:15	Opening Ceremony
	6:15-6:30	Large Group Time
	6:30-7:00	Game Time & Snack
	7:00- 7:30	Handbook Time

Truth & Training	6:00-6:15	Opening Ceremony
	6:15-6:30	Large Group Time
	6:30-7:00	Handbook Time
	7:00 – 7:30	Game Time & Snack

WELLNESS POLICY

As we all know, sickness can keep going around with children, affecting not only the other children in your child's Awana group, but your family and other families as the illness goes "back and forth" between the children. Here is our established health policy for the Awana ministry. Children SHOULD NOT attend Awana if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever – 100 degrees or higher within the last 24-hours
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Runny nose if accompanied by other symptoms and/or colored discharge
- Bad Cough – coughing increases the chance of infection being spread to others
- Any rash that is suspected to be contagious
- If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, they must have been on the antibiotic for a minimum of 48 hours prior to attending Awana

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Hays CISD has cancelled school or dismissed students early on a Wednesday there will be no Awana Club Ministries. You can always contact the church office if you have a question.

AWANA STORE



What is Awana Store? Our purpose at Awana Club is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. This training involves a tremendous amount of scripture memorization. So we provide an incentive for the clubbers to work extra-hard and memorize as many verses as possible. Even though they receive the regular uniform awards and other items, we provide the Awana Store as an added incentive. We will stock our store with toys, candy, games, jewelry, and various other items that clubbers will enjoy. They earn "**Awana Bucks**" for each verse recited, as well as various other contests or challenges. The clubbers accumulate their money and can spend them at the store. All money must be spent by the end of the club year and cannot be carried over to the next club year. So, help and encourage your clubber to memorize their verses!

AWANA THEME SONG

(Words by Clarence W. Jones and Herbert Booth)
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 for the truth
Building lives on the Word of God, Awana stands!
Our Savior following, with steps unfaltering
And love unaltering, His praise we sing
His banner over us, in service glorious
We'll fight victorious for Christ our King!
Youth on the March!

BIBLE PLEDGE

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where does Awana meet?

Awana Clubs meet in the Kay Building at First Baptist Church Buda.

When does Awana meet?

Awana meets on Wednesday nights from 6:00pm to 7:30pm starting in September and running through May.

Who can participate in Awana?

Awana is for all children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. There are two clubs designed to meet the needs of different age groups:

What Does Awana Cost

The yearly cost for Awana Clubs is \$30 per clubber and no family pays more than \$60. This fee covers the costs for 1 uniform, 1 handbook, awards, and supplies. Replacement uniforms, handbooks, and awards must be purchased separately. However, no child is excluded from Awana for financial reasons. We have payment plans and/or sponsorships available. If you or someone you know are in need of these arrangements, don't hesitate to contact the Awana Commander, Nicole Wehrman at 512-921-4947. Such information is considered private, privileged information and will be kept confidential. Returning Clubbers in the same age group will have an option to use their uniform again, so the cost for will be \$15.00 per year to cover some of the handbook, award, and supplies.

How do I sign my child up for Awana?

Simply fill out the registration form. Children who are visiting for the first time do not need to be officially registered to attend, but will need to be registered before receiving their first handbook.

Who do I contact for more information?

The best person to talk to is our Awana Commander Nicole Wehrman. She can be reached by cell phone at 512-921-4947 or e-mail at nwehrman@centurytel.net.

AWANA IS ONLINE

For more information visit the Awana website at www.awana.org. On the website you can purchase many items for your children to further enhance their Awana experience. You can also download information for parents, visit blog sites, and join message board discussions.