

AWANA

Parent

Handbook



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www.gracepowellchurch.com

Presented By:



REGISTER ONLINE

www.gracepowellchurch.com

2019-2020

WHAT IS AWANA?

“A weekly Bible program leading kids to know, love and serve Christ.”

AWANA is an international youth ministry being offered by Grace Powell Church to partner with parents as they seek to help their children build lives on the Word of God. Our vision is to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

The **AWANA** name is derived from II Timothy 2:15:

“**Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed”**

AWANA began in 1950 as a youth ministry at the North Side Gospel Center in Chicago, Illinois. By 1960, **AWANA** had grown to 900 registered clubs. Grace Powell Church is now one of approximately 12,000 clubs in the United States.

At Grace Powell Church we run our **AWANA** ministry for boys and girls from ages 4 through 5th grade. Children must be 4 years of age by the first night of **AWANA** to participate in the Cubbies ministry.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF AWANA

We encourage you to work with your child to help them complete the work in their handbooks. With your help and encouragement, we hope you will see tremendous spiritual growth in your child. Generally, children learn much more and much better when there is support from someone at home. It is best to take a few minutes each day to review the material in the handbook with your child. Make sure you check out the memorization tips on page 5 to know how to help your child get the most out of **AWANA**.

WHEN DOES AWANA MEET?

Weekly meetings are on **Tuesday** evenings from **6:30 until 8:00 PM** (Cubbies dismiss at 7:45) at Grace Powell Church. Check-in begins at 6:15 pm. Typically, one Tuesday each month is reserved for a special “Theme Night.” A calendar listing the dates and themes will be handed out. Some of the themes include evenings with food, so if your child has any allergies, please inform us.

In the case of inclement weather and **AWANA** needs to be cancelled, we will send out an all-AWANA email with pertinent information. Please check your email or gracepowellchurch.com before calling the church.

COSTS

Dues: \$0.50 Each Night

We collect a dues donation each week at **AWANA**. Dues help to defray operating expenses, incentives, and awards. More importantly, dues teach children to give back a portion of what they have. Consider having some chores around the house that your child can earn some money from and then teach them how to give, save, and spend.

For example: \$1.50/week = \$0.50 to **AWANA**; \$0.50 to savings; \$0.50 to spend

Handbooks: \$10.00

The first Entrance Booklet is FREE. Upon completion of the Entrance Booklet, a one-year handbook is needed to continue the program. Since handbooks are sometimes misplaced during Club meetings, instruct your child to take care of his/her handbook. Please write names with ink on the inside and outside of your child's handbook to help the leaders get a misplaced handbook back to the right child. If a handbook is lost a new one may be purchased for \$5.00.

Uniforms: Prices Vary

Upon completing an Entrance Booklet, your child is also eligible to wear an **AWANA** uniform. Each child is encouraged to wear his/her uniform to every meeting and will receive points each week the uniform is worn. Please write your child's name in ink on the inside tag of the shirt or vest.

Club	Uniform	Cost
Cubbies	Vest	\$10.00
Sparks	Vest	\$10.00
T & T	Shirt	\$15.00

* Please purchase a uniform large enough to be used for the number of years that your child will participate in that particular club.

* Uniforms and handbooks may be purchased at the bookstore in the lobby.

* Please try to bring your child's book and Bible in a small tote or backpack and make sure all items are clearly labeled with his/her name. Sparks (optional) and Cubbies tote bags are available at the bookstore.

CHECKING IN AND OUT

Check in is in the main lobby from 6:15–6:30. All clubbers must check in electronically and print name tags. The child name tag must be worn by the child and the guardian name tag must be presented to designated leaders when picking up the child at the end of the evening. If someone else will be picking up the child, a photo of the nametag must be taken and texted to the person responsible for picking up the child.

In addition to checking in electronically, clubbers must also check in at their designated club table where leaders will mark them present on the roster and gather information for Sparks and T&T weekly points (see below).

EARNING POINTS FOR THE AWANA STORE

SPARKS and **T & T** children earn **AWANA “BUCKS”** to spend in the AWANA Store through accumulating points. Points are received each week through:

Attendance	5 points
Uniform	10 points
Bible Brought	25 points
Church Attendance	10 points
Dues	5 points
Friend Brought	25 points

This year the **SPARKS** and **T & T** will each have three opportunities to shop in the **AWANA** Store. The dates are as follows: **SPARKS**: Oct. 15, Jan. 21, and March 17. **T & T**: Oct. 22, Jan. 28, and Apr. 7

CUBBIES do not participate in the store. They are motivated and rewarded with other activities along with their stickers, patches, and words of encouragement.

BRING A FRIEND

Most **AWANA** handbooks encourage clubbers to bring friends to **AWANA**. A special Bring a Friend theme night is held each year to encourage all clubbers to bring friends, but children are encouraged and welcome to bring friends anytime during the year.

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your child in **AWANA**. Please continue reading in this handbook about the club that your child will be participating in.

BIBLE MEMORIZATION TIPS

For Non-Readers and Readers:

- *Start by saying the verse several times. Try to make sure the child understands the basic concept of the verse.
- *Make repetition fun. Repeat the verse here and there throughout the day.
- *Put the words of the verse to music (CD's or audio downloads are included for many handbooks.)
- *Use pictures to help the child associate the word with an idea.
- *Dramatically emphasize important words.
- *Use various activities to make learning exciting.

For Readers:

- *Define difficult words while practicing a verse for memorization.
- *Personal Identification – Clubbers insert their own names into a verse. For example, “God so loved (Alex), that He gave...”
- *Personal Application – Applying the message of a verse to a personal experience increases retention.
- *Hand motions – Parents use hand motions (or sign language) to illustrate the words and thoughts of a passage.

For example, “For the Lord (points upwards) Himself shall descend (lower your hand) from heaven with a shout (hand beside mouth), with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet (position hand like you're playing a trumpet) of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise (raise your hand) first: then we (point to yourself) which are alive and remain shall be caught up (raise hand slowly) together with them in the clouds to meet (pretend to shake hands) the Lord into the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

- *Write and Erase – Write the Bible verse down on something that is easy to erase. Then, as a word or phrase is erased, the child remembers the missing words and recites the verse. Repeat the procedure until all words are erased or the verse is memorized.
- *Parent/Child Recitation – Take turns with your child reciting the verse or alternate with your child saying parts of verse.

SPARKS AND TRUTH & TRAINING GRAND PRIX

It's more than just a race of little wooden model cars built by the Sparks and **TRUTH & TRAINING** children. It's a ministry and an outreach to families and friends as well. Everyone is welcome to come watch the race, enjoy some snacks and have fun!

Grand Prix car kits will be sold beginning in February for \$10.00. Only cars made from these **AWANA** car kits will be allowed to race in the Grand Prix. This gives all racers an equal chance of winning.

Car building and design should be a fun project done at home as a family. As the date of the Grand Prix approaches, there will be a few Tuesday evenings where a portion of the time will be set aside specifically for car building if clubbers want to also work on cars during club. Parents are encouraged to attend these nights and assist their children. We will provide most of the supplies needed such as tools, paint, sandpaper, weights, etc.

This year's race will be held on **Tuesday, March 24, 2020** from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. The child can weigh-in on race day from 6:00-6:25PM prior to the start of the Grand Prix.

The Grand Prix is the largest event we have at the church for our **AWANA** Clubbers all year. Plan to attend and invite family, friends and neighbors to join in the fun! Trophies will be awarded for winners based on speed and design!



Awards Ceremonies

At the end of each night, **SPARKS** and **T & T** have a closing awards ceremony at 7:50. Parents are encouraged to attend this ceremony and stand with their children on their color lines while all award recipients are being recognized.

On the final night of the **AWANA** year, **Tuesday, April 21, 2020** from 6:30 - 8:00, the annual AWANA Awards Ceremony will be held for our **SPARKS** and **T & T** clubbers. This Awards Ceremony will recognize each and every clubber who has regularly attended **AWANA** with a participation certificate. Those clubbers who have completed handbooks will receive the appropriate award for the number of handbooks they've finished. Special awards will also be given out for clubbers who have distinguished themselves with servant's hearts, outstanding work, and Christ-like attitudes and effort.

Cubbies finish one week earlier and have their awards ceremony on **April 14, 2020**.

Please plan ahead to make sure your family can attend these ceremonies. Every child deserves the opportunity to be recognized for his/her hard work.

CUBBIES

Director: Lisa Northeimer (jltenorth@gmail.com, 614-425-8890 (texts encouraged))

WHO GOES TO CUBBIES?

The Cubbies ministry is for four and five-year olds. **Four-year olds must turn four by the first night of AWANA to be in Cubbies.** All Cubbies check in no sooner than 6:15 pm and drop off their dues. They will then go to their assigned classroom.

On the very first night of **AWANA**, each Cubbie will receive an Apple Acres Entrance Booklet. This brochure contains two sample Bear Hugs to get your Cubbie started on his/her memorization and it also contains basic information about the Cubbies program for parents. Once your child completes the Apple Acres Entrance Booklet, he or she will be eligible to purchase a handbook and vest. Your child will also need an 11"x13-1/2" cloth tote (natural color to draw on) to transport his/her handbook and other materials to/from AWANA night. They will be available to purchase for a nominal fee.

* Please note the pick-up time for Cubbies is **7:45PM.** *

WHAT HAPPENS AT CUBBIES?

Cubbies club meetings are divided into **Book Time, Story Time and Game Time.**

Handbook Time consists of small group interaction between individual children and a leader as each child recites memory work. When the leader is satisfied that the child has learned the required work, the leader will then sign the handbook. In Cubbies, the classes stay together on a pace of one handbook lesson per week. If your child misses a week they can say two verses in one week to try to catch up to the class.

Story Time includes singing, crafts and instruction from the Bible based on what you and your child have worked on for that week.

Game Time offers your child the opportunity to participate as a team member in physical activities. Game Time is non-competitive for Cubbies.

WHAT AWARDS CAN CUBBIES EARN?

AWANA Cubbies can earn awards for handbook achievements. Each week when children have memorized their verse, they will get a sticker in their handbook. They will also receive a patch each time a handbook unit is completed. **Tuesday, April 14, 2020** will be our official last night of Cubbies. Mark this date as we will have parents join us for our **Cubbies Awards Night!**

SPARKS

Director: Susan Wittstock (susanw@gracepowellchurch.com, 614-446-0717)

WHO GOES TO SPARKS?

SPARKS is for Kindergarten through second grade students. All **SPARKS** Clubbers must check in at the sign-in table in the lobby to check their attendance and pay their dues before going into the auditorium for Opening Ceremony. All **SPARKS** will end their evenings in the auditorium with an awards ceremony around 7:50 pm. All parents are encouraged to come and watch their children receive their hard-earned awards!

The very first night Clubbers attend **SPARKS**, they receive a **Flight 3:16** Entrance Booklet. The purpose of the **Flight 3:16** Entrance Booklet is to begin children working on membership to the club. Once your child completes the **Flight 3:16** Entrance Booklet, he or she will be eligible to purchase a handbook and vest. (These can be purchased ahead of time in anticipation of completing the entrance booklet, but the vest may not be worn until the entrance booklet is completed.)

WHAT HAPPENS AT SPARKS?

SPARKS club meetings are divided into **Large Group Time, Game Time and Handbook Time.**

Large Group Time is when your child will receive instruction from the Bible. A variety of biblically based topics relevant to today's child are presented.

Game Time offers your child the opportunity to participate as a team member in physical activities, which develop team spirit, good sportsmanship, coordination skills and self-confidence. At times, games may be competitive in nature. However, leaders give top priority to building and preserving each child's self-confidence.

Handbook Time consists of small group interaction between individual children and a leader. The children are divided in groups based on grade and gender. Each child recites memory work for the leader. When the leader is satisfied that the child has adequately covered the handbook material; the leader will then sign the handbook.

A regular **SPARKS AWANA** night would look like this:

The Commander will blow his whistle at 6:30 pm. All **SPARKS** boys line up on the red line and the girls on the yellow line.

*****Any Clubbers not in the auditorium at the time of the whistle being blown should wait in the lobby until the Opening Ceremony is over*****

*Opening Ceremony	10 minutes
Game Time	20 minutes
Handbook Time	25 minutes
Large Group Time	25 minutes
Closing/Awards Ceremony	10 minutes
* SPARKS released to parents	8:00 PM

*****Sparks must remain on their color line after the closing ceremony. Parents must then come forward to the line to pick up their child.*****

WHAT AWARDS CAN SPARKS EARN?

AWANA SPARKS can earn awards for handbook achievements and regular **AWANA** attendance.

Handbook Awards:

Handbook awards can be earned weekly if children recite their memory work to a leader. All earned awards will typically be presented at the end of the evening during Closing Ceremony. During Handbook time your child is allowed two helps with the memory verse and reference (1-3 words depending on the length of the verse).

Clubbers will need to work on their handbooks at home and come prepared to recite their verses. Parental encouragement and help will greatly enhance a child's prospects for keeping a good pace through their handbooks. In order to progress well through a book, we recommend trying to cover two handbook sections per week. Obviously, this depends greatly on your child's age, the time you've spent helping them, and the busyness of your week. Don't worry if your child gets behind. Each child works at his or her own pace and will be awarded for whatever work they have done. (We understand many of you are working on verses for school, Sunday school, etc.).

Once children have completed the **Flight 3:16** Entrance Booklet, they are an official member of the **SPARKS** club. They receive a membership card and they may begin wearing their vest. After completing **Flight 3:16**, **SPARKS** immediately begin their **HangGlider**

Handbook regardless of their age. For example, a new first grader should begin the **HangGlider** Handbook, though some other first graders may be studying the **WingRunner** Handbook (second handbook).

The first requirement of the handbook is to obtain the "rank path" or "patch portion" of the handbook and then your child can start working through the requirements to earn both the red (Bible drills) and the green (activities/application) jewels. Children should work on the red and green jewels in the order they appear in the handbook.

SPARKIES will continue working in the same handbook until they finish it and receive their book completion ribbon. Although many **SPARKIES** complete a handbook in one year, some may need more time to finish the book. Children will keep the handbook they are working on and start where they left off the next **AWANA** club year.

SPARKIES who complete their corresponding grade handbooks should not begin the next handbook until the following year. Instead, they should go back to the beginning of the handbook and work on the review portions of the book. Children reviewing their book are to recite their verses and Bible references to the **SPARKS** director with no helps. If children finish the review portion of their handbook, they will receive a review patch. They may then get an extra credit book to work through if time remains in the year.

Attendance Awards:

Club attendance awards (blue jewels) are given four times each **AWANA** year. Your child will be considered to have regular attendance if he/she has no more than two unexcused absences per attendance period. Illness and family emergency are considered "excused absences" if documented by a note from a parent or a call or an email to the director. Please remember to inform us of "excused absences" at the sign-in table.

AWANA SPARKS Attendance Periods

September 3 - October 15

October 22 - December 17

January 7 - February 11

February 18 - April 7

TRUTH & TRAINING

Director: Jen Murphy (jenmurphy1@hotmail.com, 317-750-7850)

WHO GOES TO TRUTH & TRAINING?

T & T is for third through fifth grade students. All **T & T** Clubbers must check in at the sign in table and pay their dues each club night before going to the Opening Ceremony. They will end their evenings in the auditorium with the Closing Ceremony. All parents are encouraged to come and watch their children receive their hard-earned awards!

The very first night Clubbers attend **T & T** they receive the *Start Zone*, the starting point for all **T & T** Clubbers. The purpose of the *Start Zone* is to explain what it means to trust Christ as Savior. Once a Clubber completes the *Start Zone*, he or she will be eligible to purchase a handbook and uniform, but the uniform cannot be worn until the *Start Zone* is completed.

WHAT HAPPENS AT TRUTH & TRAINING?

T & T club meetings are divided into **Large Group Time, Game Time and Handbook Time.**

Large Group Time is when your child will receive instruction from the Bible. A variety of biblically based topics relevant to today's child, as well as each age group, are presented.

Game Time offers your child the opportunity to participate as a team member in physical activities, which develop team spirit, good sportsmanship, coordination skills and self-confidence. At times, games may be competitive in nature. However, leaders give top priority to building and preserving each child's self-confidence.

Handbook Time consists of small group interaction between individual children and a leader. Each child will be assigned to a specific color team and group leader. The group will work through one section of the *Grace in Action* book per week and be given points for completion of the Explore and Memorize portion of the section. When the leader is satisfied that the child has adequately covered the handbook material; the leader will then sign the handbook.

A regular **T & T AWANA** night would look like this:

The Commander will blow his whistle at 6:30 pm. All **T & T** boys line up on the blue line and the girls on the green line.

*****Any Clubbers not in the auditorium at the time of the whistle being blown should wait in the lobby until the Opening Ceremony is over*****

*Opening Ceremony	10 minutes
Large Group Time	20 minutes
Handbook Time	25 minutes
Game Time	25 minutes
Closing/Awards Ceremony	10 minutes
T & T released to parents	8:00 PM

*****T&T must remain on their color line after the closing ceremony. Parents must then come forward to the line to pick up their child. *****

WHAT AWARDS CAN BE EARNED IN TRUTH & TRAINING?

AWANA T & T awards can be earned for handbook achievements and regular **AWANA** attendance.

Handbook Awards:

Once Clubbers have completed the Start Zone, they will then be able to start receiving awards based on progress in the handbook. They will then earn achievement awards for their uniforms each time they complete four sections of the handbook. These sections do not have to be four sections in a row as in years past. Each section consists of a Start Here, Explore, Memorize and an optional Bonus Box. In case of an absence a child can complete missed sections at home and achievement awards can be earned when children recite their Memorize portion to a leader and show them their completed Explore work. All earned awards will typically be presented at the end of the evening.

Each group will complete one or two sections per week. With regular attendance this should be adequate time to finish a handbook in one **AWANA** year. Clubbers will need to work on their handbooks at home in case of absences. Parental encouragement and help will greatly enhance a child's prospects for keeping the required pace.

There will also be an opportunity for clubbers to earn extra credit. There are optional silver and gold sections at the end of the book. Clubbers may work on these as they choose.

These will not be completed during AWANA night. Instead these extra credit sections will need to be completed on their own time at home. The old version of Book One and Book Two will also be a way for clubbers to earn extra credit points. There will be time each evening at the end of Handbook Time for clubbers to share and/or recite any extra credit whether it be Silver and Gold sections or sections from the old Book One or Book Two.

Clubbers completing a T & T handbook will receive the appropriate trophy/award at the end of the year at our Awards Ceremony.

Attendance Awards:

Club attendance stickers are given four times each **AWANA** year. Your child will be considered to have regular attendance if he/she has no more than two unexcused absences per attendance period. Illness and family emergency are considered "excused absences" if documented by a note from a parent or a call or an email to the director. Please remember to inform us of "excused absences" at the sign-in table.

AWANA T & T Attendance Periods

September 3 - October 15

October 22 - December 17

January 7 - February 11

February 18 - April 7