

AWANA

PARENT HANDBOOK



Grace Powell Church
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REGISTER ONLINE
gracepowellchurch.com/grace-kids

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 kids 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”

At Grace Powell Church our Awana ministry is for kids 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 4 to know how to help your child get the most out of Awana.

WHEN DOES AWANA MEET?

Weekly meetings are on **Tuesdays from 6:30 until 8:00 PM** (Cubbies dismiss at 7:45) at the church facility. Check-in begins at 6:15 PM. One Tuesday each month is reserved for a special Family Night with dinner and activities for the entire family. A calendar listing the dates and events for the year will be handed out. Some of the evenings may include 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 the church website at gracepowellchurch.com.

COSTS

Handbooks: \$10

The first Entrance Booklet is free. Upon completion of the Entrance Booklet, a one-year handbook is then used.

T-Shirts: \$10

Each child will have a T-shirt that should be worn to AWANA each week. The shirts correspond to the club they are in:

Cubbies (PreK) – blue

Sparks (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade) – red

T&T (3rd – 5th Grade) – green

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

Tote Bags: \$5

Each child will have a tote bag for their handbook, Bible, and awards. The tote bag handle colors correspond to the club they are in. Since awards will be placed on the tote bags, please make sure children have theirs each week.

* Handbooks, shirts, and tote bags may be purchased at the bookstore in the lobby.

* Please make sure all items are clearly labeled with your child's name.

CHECKING IN AND OUT

Check in is in the Grace Kids lobby from 6:15 – 6:30 pm. All children must check in electronically and print name tags. The child's name tag must be worn by the child and the guardian's 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.

CLOSING AWARDS RECOGNITION

At the end of each night, Sparks and T&T have a closing awards recognition at 7:50. Names will be announced in the auditorium and awards can be picked up in the lobby following the conclusion of the award recognitions.

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 or motions 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.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about Awana, please email Pastor Jordan Damon at jordand@gracepowellchurch.com

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your child in Awana. Please continue reading about the club that your child will be participating in this year.

CUBBIES

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 between 6:15 – 6:30 PM and then go to their assigned classroom in the preschool wing. Cubbies will also be picked up in a classroom in the preschool wing.

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 begin working in a handbook. Your child will also need a tote bag to transport his/her handbook and other materials to/from Awana. Cubbies awards will also be placed on the tote bag. Handbooks, T-shirts, and tote bags can all be purchased at the Awana Bookstore in the lobby.

WHAT HAPPENS AT CUBBIES?

Cubbies evenings are divided into **Story Time, Game Time, and Handbook Time.**

Story Time includes singing and instruction from the Bible.

Game Time offers your child the opportunity to participate in a fun variety of games suited for preschoolers.

Handbook Time consists of small group interaction between children and a leader as each child recites memory work. When the leader is satisfied that the child has learned a Bible verse, 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. Crafts may also be made during this time.

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.

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

SPARKS

WHO GOES TO SPARKS?

Sparks is for kindergarten through second grade students. The first night children attend Sparks, they receive a Flight 3:16 Entrance Booklet. Once your child completes the Flight 3:16 Entrance Booklet, he or she will be eligible to begin working in a handbook.

WHAT HAPPENS AT SPARKS?

Sparks evenings are divided into **Large Group Time, Handbook Time, and Game 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.

Handbook Time consists of small group interaction between 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.

Game Time offers your child the opportunity to participate as a team member in a fun variety of games.

A regular Sparks Awana night looks like this:

Game Time	20 minutes
Handbook Time	30 minutes
Large Group Time	20 minutes
Closing/Awards Recognition	10 minutes
*Sparks released to parents	8:00 pm

*****Sparks must remain in their seats after the closing.
Parents must then come forward to pick up their child.*****

WHAT AWARDS CAN SPARKS EARN?

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.

Children 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.

Once children have completed the Flight 3:16 Entrance Booklet, they receive a membership card, and they may begin working in the 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 section 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.

Sparks will continue working in the same handbook until they finish it and receive their book completion ribbon. Although many Sparks 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 as long as they remain in Sparks.

Sparks 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 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:

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 absences per attendance period.

Sparks Attendance Periods:

October 4 – November 1

November 8 – January 10

January 17 – February 21

February 28 – April 11

TRUTH & TRAINING

WHO GOES TO TRUTH & TRAINING?

T&T is for third through fifth grade students. The first night children attend T&T, they receive the Start Zone Entrance Booklet. The purpose of the Start Zone is to explain what it means to trust Christ as Savior. Once a child completes the Start Zone, he or she will be eligible to begin working in a handbook.

WHAT HAPPENS AT TRUTH & TRAINING?

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

Handbook Time consists of small group interaction between children and a leader. Each child will be assigned to a specific color team and group leader. 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.

Game Time offers your child the opportunity to participate as a team member in a fun variety of games.

A regular T&T Awana night looks like this:

Handbook Time	30 minutes
Game Time	20 minutes
Large Group Time	20 minutes
Closing/Awards Recognition	10 minutes
*T&T released to parents	8:00 PM

*****T&T kids must remain in their seats after the closing.
Parents must then come forward to pick up their child.*****

WHAT AWARDS CAN BE EARNED IN TRUTH & TRAINING?

Handbook Awards:

Once children 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 (chevron patches) for their tote bags each time they complete a unit of the handbook. All earned awards will typically be presented at the end of the evening.

Each child works at his or her own pace through the handbook, but they should try to complete at least one section per week. Children will need to work on their handbooks at home and come prepared to recite verses to leaders. Parental encouragement and help will greatly enhance a child's prospects for keeping the suggested pace.

There will also be an opportunity for children to earn extra credit. There are optional silver and gold sections in the book. Children may work on these as they choose. These extra credit sections will need to be completed on their own time at home. There will be time each evening at the end of Handbook Time for children to share and/or recite any extra credit work. Gold or silver patches will be awarded when all the gold or silver sections of a unit are completed.

Children completing a T&T handbook will receive the appropriate trophy/award at the end of the year.