

PARENTS LETTER

Dear Parents:

Welcome to our Awana Program. We are very excited and feel privileged to have your child participate in our Awana Program! Awana is a Christian club (see the enclosed doctrinal statement) for children that teaches the Word of God through games, Bible study, memorization, and a motivational award system based on achievement. We want to help you, as a parent, give your child a tool to develop spiritually, intellectually, and physically. If you have other children, they are also invited to one of our Awana Clubs:

Puggles:	2-year-old boys and girls (must be 2 by August 1)
Cubbies:	3 & 4-year-old boys and girls (must be 3 by August 1)
Sparks:	Kindergarten through 2 nd grade boys and girls
T & T Girls:	3 rd through 5 th grade girls (6 th grade is optional)
T & T Boys:	3 rd through 5 th grade boys (6 th grade is optional)

Club time runs from 6:30 - 8:15 p.m., with check-in time at 6:20, on Wednesday nights. Children will check-in at their club table located in the fellowship hall. All clubbers (Cubbies, Sparks and T&T) must be picked up by their parents or guardian. Parents should be ready to pick their child up at their classroom promptly at 8:15.

Each weekly club meeting has three elements: Council Time, Handbook Time, and Game Time. During Council Time, your child will be exposed to messages from God's Word and will participate in praise and worship of our Creator. During Handbook Time, an adult leader works with a small group of clubbers assisting them in memorizing Bible verses and other learning activities. Your child will begin to gain a valuable understanding of spiritual truths in this way. He/she will earn awards for passing sections in the handbook to motivate further achievement. During Game Time, your child will enjoy the active Awana games, uniquely created around the Awana Game Circle. **Please return the enclosed "Emergency/Activity Permission Form" before the child's second club night to ensure their participation in game time.**

Your child will receive an "Entrance Booklet" their first club night. Please look over the "Entrance Booklet" with your child. Your involvement and interest will help your child to complete the booklet, and it will ensure your child's success in the Awana Program. Children in the Awana Program receive awards for their efforts.

Upon completion of the "Entrance Booklet" your child will become eligible for official membership in the Awana Club and may receive their uniform and handbook. (You may order the uniform and handbook as your child progresses along in the "Entrance Booklet," so the uniform and handbook can be awarded to your child as soon as the last section of the "Entrance Booklet" has been successfully completed.)

While our facilities and equipment are supplied by the church, each clubber should bring dues of 50¢ per club night to help reduce the cost of operating the Awana Club. It also encourages a sense of ownership in the program and teaches the clubbers responsibility and good stewardship. **These dues are not mandatory, but will be helpful.**

We are thankful to you for allowing us to spend this time with your child each week in our Awana Clubs. We have as our hearts' desire to love your child and to teach them about the Lord Jesus.

Also, if you do not have a church home, we invite you to visit our church. We have Small Group Bible Study Classes that begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings with classes for all ages. There are also two Sunday worship services; one at 10:30 a.m. and the other at 6:00 p.m. On Wednesdays, there is an adult Bible Study held at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to come as a visitor and leave as a friend.

Please review the attached Awana Club Rules to make sure your child will be prepared to get the most out of their participation in Awana. Thank you for your interest and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your Awana Club Commanders.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Michael & Celeste DeLeuil

Michael & Celeste DeLeuil
Victory Missionary Baptist Church
Awana Club Commanders
641-0199 (Home)
747-7032 (Michael's Mobile)
970-2905 (Celeste's Mobile)

WELCOME TO SPARKS!!!

We are looking forward to a fun filled, exciting year. We are very blessed to have your children be a part of our Awana Program.

We look forward to teaching your children about God's love for them.



Clubbers will have the opportunity to complete the following kinds of material:

Flight 3:16: This is the Sparks entrance booklet which must be completed before earning membership into Sparks, and receiving a vest and handbook.

Rank Path: This is the first achievement section of each handbook. It deals with the child's personal relationship with Jesus. Sparkies must complete this section before moving on to Red and Green Jewel sections. The clubber will earn a rank patch upon completion of this section.

Red and Green Jewel Sections: There are four Red and Green Jewels in each handbook. ALL of the jewels (both red and green) and the sections within each jewel must be completed consecutively, because the Bible biographies are in chronological order and the other topical sections build upon each other. The only exceptions are: the requirement to bring a friend, the missionary activities and the "obey your parents" sections.

Handbooks: There are three handbooks that must be completed in order. The *HangGlider Handbook* is where the journey begins. Each Sparky will lift off with creation and land with Joshua as he/she explores key people and events of the Bible, with some stop offs at salvation, missions, the Bible and Christian living. On future parts of their journey, Sparkies will make two more connections, *WingRunner Handbook* and *SkyStormer Handbook*, before reaching Revelation. Clubbers receive ribbon awards for completing books one and two. Upon completion of book three, a clubber will receive the Sparky plaque and pin.

Sparks uses the first-book method. After completing the *Flight 3:16*, new Sparkies begin the *HangGlider Handbook* regardless of their age. Sparkies continue working in the same handbook until they either complete it or advance to T & T because of grade placement. Sparkies who complete their required grade-appropriate handbooks should not begin their next required handbook until the following year. Instead, they should begin extra credit work in the *Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Cards*. They must complete the sections in order. The return flight cards will take them through a review of the handbook before moving on to the extra credit sections. There are awards for each of these steps.

Attendance Awards: Clubbers will also have the opportunity to earn awards for Sunday School Attendance (1 per semester for missing no more than 2 Sundays - this patch is to be sewn on the vest) and Club Attendance (1 per quarter for missing no more than 1

Wednesday - this award is a blue jewel and will go in the center of the pilot wings).

AWANA CLUB NIGHTLY SCHEDULE

	<u>SPARKS</u>	<u>T & T GIRLS</u>	<u>T & T BOYS</u>
6:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	Opening Ceremony	Opening Ceremony
6:35 p.m.	Handbook Time	Game Time	Game Time
7:05 p.m.	Game Time	Handbook Time	Handbook Time
7:35 p.m.	Council Time	Council Time	Council Time
8:05 p.m.	Awards and Announcements	Awards and Announcements	Awards and Announcements
8:15 p.m.	Dismiss	Dismiss	Dismiss

GENERAL AWANA RULES

1. All clubs will start promptly at **6:30 p.m.** Clubbers should arrive at **6:20 p.m.** to allow plenty of time to check-in with their secretary and make it to opening ceremony. All clubs will dismiss promptly at **8:15 p.m.**
2. Each clubber will be eligible to purchase a uniform after completion of the “Entrance Booklet.” Once obtained, each clubber should **wear their Awana uniform at all times during each club night.** The uniform serves many purposes. It bonds the group, it provides a place to display the awards earned, and it distinguishes the clubs. **It is an Awana requirement.**
3. **Clubbers should not bring food, drinks, gum, toys, or phones to club.** If your child brings such items, they will be held for your child during club and returned to them after club is over.
4. The “**Entrance Booklet**” or **Handbook should be brought to club each night,** even if the child does not have a section to pass. Each section in the “Entrance Booklet” or Handbook must be passed in one setting with 2 “helps” only from their Leader. **Clubbers should bring their Bible to each club night as well.**
5. **Your child should come to Handbook Time prepared to recite sections from their “Entrance Booklet” or Handbook.** This will require them to prepare at home. Just a few minutes each night will help them to be prepared when they arrive. **If a child misses a club night they are to makeup the missed section the next club night as well as the scheduled section for the club night attended after an absence** (i.e. the child will need to say two verses during the next club night after missing).
6. **Club dues of 50 cents should be brought each club night** to help reduce the cost of operating the Awana Club. These dues are not mandatory, but will be helpful.
7. **Each clubber must wear long pants (below the knees) and tennis shoes.** This is necessary to ensure safety during game time. **A clubber will not be allowed to participate in game time if he/she does not meet this requirement.**
8. **Parents or Guardians are to pick up their child, unless other arrangements have been made.** Please let your child’s Club Director or Secretary know if someone other than a parent or guardian will be picking up your child.
9. **An “Emergency/Activity Permission Form” should be brought back on the child’s second club night.** **The clubber may not be allowed to participate in game time until this form has been received.**
10. **AWANA Clubs will meet when school is in session only.** During holidays, spring break, and summer break, Awana will NOT meet. If for any reason (weather, etc.) school is cancelled on a Wednesday, Awana will not meet.
11. **Conduct/Discipline Policy:** A “**5 count**” will be used to gain the clubbers attention and keep clubs safe and orderly. When clubbers hear an Awana Team Member counting to 5, he/she should get quiet and listen to the Awana Team Member for instruction. A “**3 count**” will be used for individual misconduct. The 1st Count is a warning. On the 2nd Count, the clubber will be counseled by his/her Director and Leader. On the 3rd Count, the clubber’s parents will be called and the child will be sent home. **Please review this policy with your child so he/she will know what to expect.**

AWANA CLUB DESCRIPTIONS

PUGGLES:

Puggles is a one-year program for two-year olds. A two-year-old Puggle must have their second birthday before August 1st, and be entering Kindergarten in 3 years. Parents of this age group must stay at church during club to be available if their child needs them. Puggles includes a lovable baby platypus named Puggle and a uniform t-shirt. In Puggles, the curriculum is centered on helping the clubbers understand what God's love is all about and that God created the good things around them. Puggles will also be encouraged to help each other, to share and take turns.

CUBBIES:

Cubbies is a two-year preschool program for ages three and four. A three-year-old Cubbie must have their third birthday before August 1st, and be entering Kindergarten in 2 years. Cubbies includes a cute character named "Cubbie Bear", a blue uniform vest with accompanying awards for "Cubbies" to wear, and an apple farm theme. Cubbie Bear encourages children as they achieve in handbooks. Handbooks provide Bible memorization and curriculum and stimulating activities specifically for preschoolers. Geared to encourage parental support, the handbook teaches basic Bible truths to help Cubbies grow in their respect and love for God, His Son, & His Word.

SPARKS:

Sparks is a three-year program for children in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. Sparks includes a fun firefly character named "Sparky", a red uniform vest with accompanying awards for "Sparkies" to wear, and an aviation theme. Sparky firefly, along with his three friends, encourages and motivates children to learn their verses and complete activities throughout all three handbooks. Each handbook builds a foundation of biblical wisdom through memory verse drills, crafts, activities and review of key doctrine and Bible facts.

T & T GIRLS & BOYS:

T & T (Truth & Training) Girls and Boys are 3rd through 5th grade girls and boys (6th grade is optional). This club includes green shirts with accompanying awards for those working in the Ultimate Adventure Handbooks; Grace in Action and Evidence of Grace, and the Ultimate Challenge Handbooks; Agents of Grace and Discovery of Grace. Each of the handbooks contains a variety of Bible memorization curriculum and other Bible-centered achievements.

Each club is a one-hour and forty-five-minute program comprised of three primary segments: Council Time, Handbook Time, and Game Time. Each Sparks and T & T club

meeting begins with a flag ceremony where clubbers pledge to the National Flag and then to the Awana Flag. The clubs then break-up into the three thirty-minute segments.

AWANA DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is supernaturally inspired, so that it is inerrant in the original manuscripts and preserved by God in its verbal and plenary inspiration, so that it is a divinely authoritative standard for every age and every life. (Matthew 5:18; I Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

GOD

We believe in one God that eternally exists and reveals Himself in three persons - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - having each the same nature, attributes and perfections, worthy of the same worship and confidence. (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; John 1:1-2, 14, 10:30, 14:15-17; I Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe in God as absolute and sole Creator and Sustainer of the universe and that creation was divine command, from nothing and not through an evolutionary process. (John 1:3, 10; Acts 17:24-25; Genesis 1:1)

We believe that God, by His sovereign choice and out of love for men, sent Christ into the world to save sinners. (John 3:16, I Timothy 1:15; I John 4:14)

GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ was fully God in the flesh and fully man, that He was born of a virgin and that He lived a sinless life, in which He taught and performed mighty works and wonders and signs exactly as revealed in the four gospels. We believe that He was crucified, shed His blood, died to pay the penalty for our sins and was raised bodily from the dead on the third day. Forty days later He ascended to the Father's right hand where He is Head of the Church and intercedes for believers. From there He is coming again personally, bodily and visibly to this earth to set up His millennial kingdom. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Hebrews 1:1-2, 7:25; Luke 1:30-35; Ephesians 4:8, John 1:1-5, 10-14, 14:3; Colossians 2:9; I Corinthians 15: 3-4; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:3, 11; Revelation 20:4)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person and is God, possessing all the divine attributes. He convicts of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes and seals all believers at the moment of their salvation, filling them in response to yieldedness with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ. (John 3:5, 16:7-11; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; I Corinthians 6:19, 12:13)

MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God. We believe that all men are morally corrupt, and of themselves utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:18, 3:23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is a gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that man is justified by grace through faith apart from works and that all true believers, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever. (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 4:5, 6:23, 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-29; Ephesians 2:8-9)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the family of God is composed of all persons who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit through saving faith in Jesus Christ; that they are united together in the family of God. He is Lord and Head of the church and they are commissioned for the God-given tasks of worshipping, fellowshiping, teaching, evangelizing and exercising their spiritual gifts. (Acts 2:42,47; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24; I Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2)

We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local church is clearly taught in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

We believe that the local church is autonomous and free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4, 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; I Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4)

THE ORDINANCES

We believe the ordinances for the believer are water baptism by immersion and the Lord's supper as a memorial. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation. But both of which are an evidence of obedience and fellowship with the Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41, 8:12, 35-38; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-29)

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that a Christian should walk in holiness and not after the flesh, with the goal of being conformed to the image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As a new creation, walking in the Spirit, the Christian learns to grow in faith, in obedience to Scripture, in prayer, in fellowship with the saints and in a life of service. We believe that the Christian will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to have his life evaluated according to his deeds. (Galatians 5:16-26; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:20-24; Hebrews 11:6, 12:1-2; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; I Corinthians 3:10-15)

THE SECOND COMING

We believe in the personal, pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting glory and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Titus 2:11-13; John 14:1-6; Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15, 2 Peter 3:10)

Note: Underlined text in "THE CHURCH" section was edited as part of Victory Missionary Baptist Church's Awana

Charter Membership. Original text was "...the true Church is...", "...the body of Christ of which He...", "...Head; and are commissioned..."

PARENT'S CHECKLIST

- Read Parent's Letter.

- Completed Emergency/Activity Permission Form for my child (To be returned 2nd night your child attends).

- Reviewed Club Rules with my child.

- Reviewed Club Nightly Schedule with my child.

- Ordered Uniform, Handbook, and Handbook Bag (Optional) so my child can receive these items as soon as he/she is eligible. These will be presented during nightly Awards/Recognition.

- Made a personal commitment to work with my child, as needed, to learn their Handbook verses and activities.**