



2014-2015
Parent Manual



WHAT IS AWANA

Awana is a Sunday evening Bible-centered program for children age 3 years through 6th grade that focuses on learning and memorizing God's Word in a fun atmosphere. Each week, the purpose of Awana Clubs is to support parents in providing consistent, positive teaching and training that stress strong moral and spiritual values. Our clubbers learn about the reality of God and the truth of the Bible.

HELPING YOUR CHILD

Week by week, your children will grow spiritually as they learn Bible verses. Experience shows that encouragement from a parent will make a big difference in the spiritual growth of your children. Please set aside time each week to help your children study their workbooks. Here are a few specific ways you can help your child succeed in Awana:

- Take a look at the fun introductory brochure your child brought home. After completing the brochure, your child will begin working in a handbook. It would be ideal if your child completed two sections per week in the brochure or handbook. Each section ends with a space where the leader signs his or her name.
- Find a good time each day to work on verse memorization with your child. Five or ten minutes several times a week are a great investment to help your child succeed. If they can complete 2 sections each week, they should be able to finish their book this year. Encouragement is the key!
- If you prefer that your child use a version of the Bible which is different from the version used in the handbook this is acceptable. However, our leaders need a way to check the verse being recited. Please have your child bring the Bible or re-write the verse in your child's handbook as it is written in the other version.
- Please have your child learn the scriptural reference (your child may hear us refer to it as an "address") as well as the verse itself.
- It may be helpful to send a note with your child, write on a post-it, or initial the verses which the child is ready to recite each week.
- Prayer – (on your own and with your child). Please pray for the Awana program.

WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCE AT CLUB

- Engaging Bible lessons
- Exciting games and activities
- Bible memorization
- Affirmation and encouragement from adult leaders
- Positive relationships with other clubbers
- Awards and recognition for accomplishments

MEETING TIMES

Awana is part of our Sunday evening Generations ministry. Our evening begins with a family meal at 5:00 and is followed by Awana (5:45-7:15) and adult "Equipping U" classes for those who are not part of Awana. If your child is in Awana, we would highly recommend that you take the opportunity to be part of your child's spiritual formation on this evening by serving in Awana yourself! The Generations ministry takes place October through April. Feel free to join at any time.

AGE GROUPS & CLUBS

Village Bible Church has the following Awana clubs.



Cubbies (3 & 4-year-olds)

Cubbies is fun with a purpose to reach and train kids for Jesus Christ. Games, puppets, crafts,

awards, and other activities are part of exciting weekly lessons.

***Cubbies must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2014 and be potty trained.**



Sparks (Kindergarten - 2nd Grade)

Sparks club combines learning with fun to create an atmosphere of excitement that takes kids deeper in to God's Word while giving unsaved boys and girls regular opportunities to hear the Gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ.



Truth & Training (3rd - 6th Grade)

The name Truth & Training reflects the passion of Awana to teach kids the truth of God's Word and to train them to follow Christ in their daily lives. Our goal is that many of today's young people will become tomorrow's church leaders. T&T is the program that trains the leaders of tomorrow ... today.

Special Needs Ministry:

Our AWANA Ministry includes a Special Needs Ministry. Our mission is to reach all children for Christ. We want all children to recognize their need for a Savior and have the opportunity to put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. We want all children to see themselves as loved and valuable first in God's eyes and then in the lives of those around them.

Our ministry involves coming along side children that need assistance at a customized level so that they can be included to the greatest extent possible in the club. This level of assistance might include altering verses to meet their academic level, alternate verse completion based on the child's strengths in either written or verbal form, and other forms as needed up to one on one assistance for one part or the entire club evening. We provide caring helpers that have a heart for God's children that have special needs. Our ministry also helps children and leaders grow to better understand those with special needs, develop friendships and grow to love each other.

If you have any questions regarding the services that we provide, would like to talk in more detail about how your child can join us or would like to find out more about the incredible blessing of being a helper, please contact Darlyne Dwyer directly at Darlyne.dwyer@villagebible.org or [630-715-1236](tel:630-715-1236) to help us ensure your child's needs can be accommodated.

AWANA ADOPT-A-CLUB

Each year, our Awana Club kids have the opportunity to sponsor an Awana Club in another country. Awana's mission program (Adopt-a-Club) is a way for Awana clubs to help reach children for Christ and share the Gospel. This year we will be sponsoring a club in Liberia. Each week, there is a bank at the registration table for each club. Any monies placed in these receptacles will go directly to this ministry at the end of each year. Each week, the kids will learn about Liberia, what life is like there, and how kids there are learning about Jesus. The kids enjoy a friendly competition each week to see which club gave the most.

REGISTRATION

All children who participate in the Awana ministry must complete the Awana Registration Form included in this packet.

New clubbers who need to register need to arrive by 5:15 pm to receive a registration packet or download registration from the church website.

SECURITY/DROP OFF & PICK UP - Check-in will begin at 5:30 pm. Pick up at 7:15 pm.

Check-in for Awana will begin at 5:30 pm. Pick up at 7:15 pm. Children will not be permitted in the rooms until that time. All clubbers must be signed in and picked up by their parents or a designated adult at the conclusion of the evening. No Awana child will be permitted in the hallways without leader supervision or permission.

WHAT TO BRING TO AWANA

Each week, clubbers should bring their Bible and Awana Handbook. Please leave additional toys and electronic devices at home.

For special theme nights, your child may be asked to bring a certain item(s). When this is the case, your child will bring information home explaining what they should bring and what the theme is.

WHAT TO WEAR

In addition to wearing their uniforms, we recommend that children attending Awana wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes in order to participate in the activities held on a typical evening. Some games may be difficult to participate in wearing skirts, heels, flip-flops, sandals, dress shoes, etc.

COSTS :

SUGGESTED DUES:

Registration before 09/14/2014: There is a \$18 registration fee per child, \$28 for two children or \$36 for three or more children. You may pay your registration fee when you register (in person or by mail).

Registration on & after 09/14/2014: There is a \$23 registration fee per child, \$33 for two children or \$41 for three or more children. You may pay your registration fee when you register (in person or by mail).

There are additional expenses that vary for the different age groups, as shown below.

Cubbies Expenses:

- Vest: \$10.00
- Book: \$10.00
- Cubbies Bag (Optional): \$6.00

Sparks Expenses:

- Vest: \$10.00
- Book 1-3: \$10.00
- Sparks Bag (Optional): \$6.00

T&T Expenses:

- T-Shirt: \$14.00
 - Books 1-4: \$10.00
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Here at VBC, we never let cost get in the way of ministry. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact John Elwood (630) 466-1243 and we will take care of your cost.

AWANA STORE

The Awana store will be open for T&T and Sparks clubs on designated dates throughout the year. Our Awana store is funded and functions through the donations of our Awana parents and leaders. Please consider making a donation using the boxes as indicated on your registration form, or by supplying store items throughout the year. This has proven to be a great motivator for the kids!

DISCIPLINE

Clubbers should come expecting to be treated as a child of God and to treat everyone else as a child of God. Courtesy and respect are expected at all times. Should problems arise; leaders will verbally remind the clubber of respectful behavior. If the misbehavior continues, the clubber will sit out of the current activity until he or she is ready to participate in a respectful manner. If the behavior persists after returning to the room, parents will be notified.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When the weather is inclement we will make a final decision by 5pm on club night. You can find out if Awana activities are cancelled by the following:

- E-mail Alert from Awana Directors – All known e-mail addresses of Awana families will be contacted if Awana activities are cancelled.
- Look on the church website www.villagebible.org.

WELLNESS POLICY

Please do not bring your children to 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

EQUIPPING-U WORKSHOPS

Village Bible Church is committed to helping families become all that God wants them to be. We desire to be the best friend and greatest support for every parent as they journey through the adventure of raising children. That is why we offer Equipping-U workshops as part of our Sunday night Generations ministry. These workshops are open to everyone.

GETTING INVOLVED

Our Awana program is run by volunteers just like you. Parents, grandparents, adults & teens are all needed to spend time sharing their faith with the children in our community. We would love to have you join the Awana Leadership Team. No prior experience in Awana is necessary. We only ask that you have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and a love for kids and attend Village Bible Church. We will provide the training for the rest. Everyone who works with children at VBC must fill out a Volunteer Application and undergo a background check. To get started, please contact John Elwood listed below.

COMMUNICATION

In order to make club run as smoothly as possible communication is essential. We will be sending out periodic e-mails to let you know what is coming up in Awana. If you did not list your e-mail on your child's registration, please let us know. We would be glad to add you to the list. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us.

VBC Awana Commander
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