



2018-2019 Parent Manual



Village Bible Church

WHAT IS AWANA

Awana is a Sunday evening Bible-centered program for children age 3 years through 6th grade that focuses on discipleship 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 stresses strong moral and spiritual values. Our clubbers learn about the reality of God and the truth of the Bible, as well as the value of teamwork and discipleship.

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. In the self-paced books, your child will need to complete more than one section per week in order to complete the book. In the team-paced books, completing the core section each week with only a few extra sections will allow your child to complete the book. 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. We want the child not only to be able to recite the verse, but to understand what they are reciting, so there will be opportunities to discuss what many verses mean and how they are still applicable in our lives today. Encouragement is the key!
- If you prefer that your child use a version of the Bible which is different from the version (ESV) 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. Occasionally a section will include a verse that must be recited in an intentionally specific version (e.g. the AWANA key verse in the King James Version) and in these cases the child must complete the section in the defined manner to receive credit.
- 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 from 5:45 - 7:15 p.m. along with 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 September through April. Feel free to join at any time.

AGE GROUPS & CLUBS

Village Bible Church offers 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, 2018 and be toilet 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.

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.**

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. Children will not be permitted in the rooms until that time. Pick up at 7:15 pm. 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 without prior notification (and consent of the AWANA executive team) which must include some documentation that the device is being used as a therapeutic aid.

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, and the following should not be worn to AWANA: heels, flip-flops, sandals, or dress shoes.

COSTS :

SUGGESTED DUES:

Registration on or before 9/2/2018: There is a \$25 registration fee per child, \$35 for two children, or \$43 for three or more children. You may pay your registration fee when you register (in person or by mail).

Registration after 9/2/2018: There is a \$40 registration fee per child, \$50 for two children, or \$58 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: \$12.00
- Book: \$10.00
- Cubbies Bag (Optional): \$7.00

Sparks Expenses:

- Vest: \$12.00
- Book 1-3: \$10.00
- Sparks Bag (Optional): \$7.00

T&T Expenses:

- T-Shirt: \$17.00
- Books 1-4: \$10.00
- T&T Sling Bag (Optional): \$9.00

Here at VBC, we never let cost get in the way of ministry. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Dave Criss at dave.criss@villagebible.org, or phone (815) 762-3643 to discuss scholarship opportunities.

AWANA STORE

The Awana store will be open for Sparks clubbers on two designated dates throughout the year. Donations for store night, both cash and items, are greatly appreciated. There is a spot available on the registration form for which to designate a monetary donation.

DISCIPLINE

Clubbers should come expecting to treat others and themselves be treated 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.

Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated in Awana. If witnessed by a member of Awana staff, the clubber and their parents will be notified immediately and a minimum one week suspension of club activities will be imposed. If a clubber reports an instance of being bullied, leadership will fully investigate the claims and involved clubbers and their parents will be engaged in conversation regarding this. Pending the findings of the investigation, disciplinary and other prescriptive action may be taken to help discourage and eliminate recurrence.

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. Regular attendance at Village Bible Church is strongly encouraged in order to serve, but we will carefully consider those from other church homes on a case-by-case basis. 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 Dave Criss 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.

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