

PLANNING GUIDE TO STARTING YOUR AWANA CLUB



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in using Awana as a tool to minister to young people in your church. My wife Pam and I have been associated with Awana Clubs for the past 24 years and have seen countless times how God has blessed this program in impacting the lives of both children and parents. Since 1950 many local churches have demonstrated that Awana Clubs can help you attract boys and girls, so that they can hear the gospel and be instructed in the Word of God.

The introductory material enclosed in this booklet will acquaint you with beginning Awana Clubs in your church. While you will want to read everything carefully, we would ask that you please pay particular attention to our doctrinal statement outlined at the end of this guide. This information will help you understand what topics are covered in our materials, and also what our position is on various doctrinal issues. Should you have any questions, my phone number is (937) 431-9018 or you can email me at SteveS@Awana.org.

Pam and I are committed to assisting your church impact your community for Christ using the Awana program. Should you have any questions, feel free to call us, and we'll get the answers. Also, we will be praying for you as you decide!

May God bless as you consider Awana for the children's ministries in your church. Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16.

In His Service,

Steve Schenk Ohio Awana missionary Thank you for your interest in starting an Awana club! A-W-A-N-A stands for *Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed*. Our Awana key verse is:

2nd Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Most Awana clubs meet once per week during the school year; your church can decide when the best day and time is for you. Most Awana club meetings are 90 minutes long, although some churches meet for two hours. During each Awana meeting we accomplish three objectives:

- ✤ Present the Gospel Message.
- ✤ Learn God's Word.
- ✤ Have Fun!

Each club meeting starts with an opening ceremony, where we pledge allegiance to the flag and open in prayer. The night is then organized into three segments:

- ✤ Council Time; a worship service and time to hear a Bible message.
- ✤ Handbook Time; small groups meet to memorize and study God's Word.
- ✤ Game Time; fun activities for everyone!

Many clubs then conduct a closing ceremony for announcements and awards.

Awana provides age-appropriate materials for our clubs, along with training in all aspects of children's ministry. Local missionaries serve as consultants to help you be successful in all aspects of your club.

The following pages contain more detail about each aspect of an Awana club. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Club Information

Club name	Life Thread	Grade	Length	Handbooks	Theme	Uniform
Puggles	Respect	One year before Cubbies	One Year	Teaching Cards	Creation	T-Shirt
Cubbies	Respect	Two years before school	Two year program	Appleseed Honeycomb	Farm	Blue Vest
Sparks	Wisdom	K, 1^{st} and 2^{nd}	Three year program	Hang Glider Wing Runner Sky Stormer	Flight	Red Vest
Truth and Training	Grace	3 rd - 6 th grade	Four year program	Red, Blue, Green, Yellow	Adventure	Jerseys
Trek	Destiny	7 th - 8 th grade Coed	Two year program	Bible studies plus small-group discussion	Flexible	T-Shirt
Journey	Perspective	9 th - 12 th grade Coed	Four year program	4 Discipleship courses and choice of 12 electives	Flexible	T-shirt or Golf Shirt

What clubs will you start, and How Many Children Do You Expect?

Clubs	Puggles 2 Yrs	Cubbies 3-4 yrs	Sparks K-2 nd Grade	3-6 th Grade Boys	3-6 th Grade Girls	Trek 7-8th Grade	Journey 9-12 th Grade
Average Attendance							
Day to Meet							
Time of Meeting							

Leadership Structure



- Always try to maintain separate Cubbies and Sparks Clubs. Their programs are significantly different. The same is true with separating the Sparks from the Truth & Training club. 3rd 6th grade clubs may be consolidated into one boys group and one girls group.
- The Sparks Club tends to be your largest club and demands the greatest number of leadership.
- The teen groups are flexible in structure and schedule.
- It is best to initially use the Small Club model unless a large number of 3-6 graders are anticipated.
- A mixture of Large Club and Small Club models may be used. Example: Young Girls Director (20+ of 3rd 4th grade girls), Older Girls Director (20+ of 5th 6th grade girls) and Boys Director (10 of 3rd 6th grade boys).
- Leader to children ratios may be smaller or greater. The key thought to remember is <u>will everyone in club have equal opportunity</u> to get attention from a leader.

Leadership Responsibilities

The following is a general list of responsibilities that will help you select your club leadership:

Commander

- Establishes yearly club goals (with input from the Pastor or church staff)
- Challenges and encourages club Directors to achieve goals.
- Develops club standards and policies.
- Coordinates the programs and calendar among the different clubs.
- Recruits Awana Leaders.
- Coordinates integration of the Awana Ministry into the wider local church ministry.
- Develops and supervises an ongoing home contact ministry for club.

Director

- Plans and oversees the activities of a single club.
- Maintains a regular schedule of Leader's meetings for training, problem solving, planning and prayer.
- Meets Leaders needs throughout the club night.
- Enforces club standards and policies set by the Commander.
- Maintains club records.

Leader

- Works directly with children during each segment of the club meeting.
- Guides children through their handbook material.

Many clubs also have other Awana workers, such as secretaries, game leaders, and music leaders.

Awana Leaders have the greatest impact on the young people attending our clubs. Their tasks during each segment include:

Council Time

- Sit with your clubbers.
- ✤ Set an example of attentiveness and behavior.
- ✤ Discipline clubbers as needed.
- ✤ Counsel young people who respond to the gospel message.

Handbook Time

- ✤ Meet with your assigned small group of clubbers.
- ✤ Open in Prayer
- ✤ Help your clubbers learn and understand Scriptures.
- ✤ Keep everyone busy.
- ✤ Maintain records of their achievements.
- ✤ Use positive motivation methods.

Game Time

- ✤ Have fun with your clubbers.
- ✤ Encourage your clubbers and cheer for them.
- ✤ Maintain order.
- ✤ Be an example of sportsmanship.
- ✤ Help the game leader keep things moving.

<u>Training</u>

Your Awana Missionary is available to conduct initial training of your leadership. Training usually last for 4 hours. It has been proven that the most successful clubs are those in which the Awana Missionary or one of his Ministry Team Members has conducted training. They are current on all changes and can get you started on the right foot. Your missionary will schedule a date and time for training with you.

Recruiting

- Your initial leadership will be those who hear about the Awana Ministry from your pulpit.
- One on One: Identify those who would make good leaders and approach them one on one to explain the need to minister and reach children for Christ. Let them know that becoming an Awana leader does not mean that they are a teacher standing in front of a class.
- Use your Junior High and High School young people as leaders. Hold club on different day then teen meetings. This is an excellent way to begin to give them leadership training.
- Use new converts. Awana is an excellent way to give new Christians immediate ministry opportunities.
- Using Listeners. Listeners come only during the handbook segment of club to listen to children quote their handbook material. Normally after seeing the excitement of club, they will in turn become Leaders.

Promoting Awana

The following ideas will help you promote the Awana Ministry in your church:

- Church Bulletins and Newsletters
- Announcements from the Pulpit
- Bulletin board High in visuals, low on words to leave the reader wanting to know more
- Display case of Awana Materials (once you get your starter kits)
- Billboard in the community
- Free advertising in Religion Section of the newspaper or Christian radio
- Sign out in front of church
- Add Awana clubs to your Telephone book entry
- Invitation letters to all Sunday School and VBS children
- Play Awana games during VBS (contact missionary on how to do this)
- Hand-delivered fliers to each house around the church inviting new comers to club. Include a coupon for a free ice cream sundae, redeemable at your club.
- Most importantly, an exciting club meeting.

<u>Club Meeting Formats</u>

The following Schedule shows how your different Awana Clubs can all meet at the same time. This is to help you determine your facility needs. If a lack of facilities is a problem, try holding different clubs on different times of the week: e.g. Cubbies and Sparks on Sunday afternoon, 3rd thru 6th grade on Wednesday Night.

Opening Ceremony: When we conduct a flag ceremony to promote patriotism and discipline. *Recommended Locations: Gym, Fellowship Hall, Outside, Church Auditorium, and Hallway*

Game Time: When fun games are played to attract children to club. *Recommended Locations: Gym, Fellowship Hall, Outside, Sunday school room*

Handbook Time: When we meet in small groups to allow children to complete handbook work. *Recommended Locations: Fellowship Hall, Classrooms, Sunday school rooms. (Small groups)*

Council Time: When we meet in large groups for singing, testimonies, Bible message & invitation. *Recommended Locations: Large Sunday school room, Fellowship hall, Church Sanctuary. (Large group meeting)*

PERIOD	CUBBIES	SPARKS	GIRLS	BOYS	TEENS
Opening Ceremony (5 Minutes)	Optional	All Sparks, Gir	Optional		
est en			GAME TIME		
1 st Segment 30-40 Minutes	Cubbies stay in 1 or 2 rooms for all segments of club	HANDBOOK TIME (Large club)	(Small Club) COUNCIL TIME (Large Club)	GAME TIME (Large Club)	Could be on another night.
2 nd Segment 30-40 Minutes		Н			
		COUNCIL TIME (Large Club)	GAME TIME (Large Club)	HANDBOOK TIME (Large Club)	COUNCIL TIME
3 rd Segment 30-40 Minutes		(Zaige chas)	HANDBOOK		
		GAME TIME	HANDBOOK TIME	COUNCIL TIME	TIME
		(Large Club)	(Large Club)	(Large Club)	

Your Awana Missionary can assist you in tuning the Awana Program to fit within the facilities you have. You do not need to have a large gym or fellowship hall to have a successful Awana Club.

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, 1^{st} Corinthians 2:13, 2^{nd} Timothy 3:16-17, 2^{nd} 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, 1st Corinthians 8:6, 2nd Corinthians 13:14

We believe in God as absolute and sole creator and sustainer of the universe, and creation was by 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, 1st Timothy 1:15, 1st 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, and died to pay the penalty for our sins and was raised bodily from the grave 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, 1st 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 5:34, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18, 1st 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 true church is composed of all persons who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit through saving faith in Jesus Christ, and that they are united together in the body of Christ of which He is Lord and Head, and are commissioned for the God-given tasks of worshipping, fellowshipping, teaching, evangelizing, and exercising the spiritual gifts. Acts 2:42, 47, Romans 12:5, Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24, 1st Corinthians 12:12-14, 2nd 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, 2nd 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, 1st Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13, 1st 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, 1st 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, 2nd Corinthians 5:10, 1st Corinthians 3:10-15

THE SECOND COMING

We believe in the personal, premillennial, 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. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1st Corinthians 15:51-52, Titus 2:11-13, John 14:1-6, Matthew 25:46, Revelation 20:11-15, 2nd Peter 3:10