



2011-2012

Heritage Christian Church



Parent Guide

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What is Awana?

Awana is an international, Bible-centered ministry founded 60 years ago by Christian men who saw a need for children to be reached with the good news of Jesus Christ. The club has grown from its humble beginnings in the basement of a church in the Chicago area into a ministry that reaches hundreds of thousands of children around the world each week. Awana stands for “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed”, taken from 2 Timothy 2:15.



“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

The key focus of the Awana ministry is Scripture memorization, understanding and application. The handbooks clearly

present the gospel at an age-appropriate level, and initially focus on establishing a personal relationship between each clubber and Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The memory work, Bible studies and other fun activities continue to carefully give each clubber a Biblical worldview by building up their Bible knowledge and instilling in them a love and respect for God and His Word. There is much more information about the Awana ministry on the website www.awana.org.



Awana Leadership

Our Awana leaders and leaders-in-training (high-school students) have committed their time, talent and enthusiasm to helping you nurture your child's spiritual development in a fun, age-appropriate way. Please pray for our leaders and LiTs that they would be faithful and effective in leading children to Christ and training them to serve Him. We always welcome new leaders – please see the Awana Servant-Leaders if you are interested in being part of the ministry team. Training is provided, and there is no time commitment outside of the weekly club meeting. You do not have to be a member or regular attender of Heritage Christian Church to serve as an Awana leader.



Adam Day

Randy and Jinda Skov

Jessica Crisler

Kris Smith

Lori Barentine & Jodi Worlow

Nancy Ellis

Julie Harper

Charles and Erica Clark

Amy Dunn

Melissa Siddall

Children's Minister

Awana Servant-Leaders

Puggles Director

Cubbies Director

Sparks Directors

T&T UA Director

T&T UC Director

Trek Directors

Leaders-in-Training
Director

Games Director

Awana Club Secretary

Parent Partners

In Deuteronomy 11:18-21, God instructs parents to

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.”

To help and encourage parents as they seek to follow these instructions, Heritage has established the Parent Partner program for parents of children in the sixth grade and younger. An adult from each family enrolled in Awana will be scheduled to participate as a Parent Partner once every 4-6 weeks. This helps us give clubbers some extra one-on-one adult attention, allows you to meet your children’s friends and leaders and gives you the opportunity to see what your children are learning so that you can reinforce these Bible lessons and truths at home. Please be faithful in keeping your Parent Partner commitment – the clubbers and leaders will be counting on you! If you find that you are unable to attend on your scheduled club night, you will need to find someone to fill in for you – a list of Parent Partner names and phone numbers will be available.

Wear comfortable clothing with athletic shoes, and bring your Bible and a jacket or coat appropriate for outdoor game time in cool weather. As a Parent Partner, please:

- Check-in on the Parent Partner bulletin board when you arrive. Make a name tag and pick up an instruction card and copy of the nightly schedule.
- Participate in the club activities. We encourage you to dress up on special days, join in the games and interactive lesson activities, and have a good time!
- Help the Awana leaders maintain safety and good discipline in the game area during game time. You will also assist in getting the kids prepared for the game, making sure they understand and are following the rules. For Cubbies and Puggles, you can help supervise children on the playground.
- Sit among the children and help them listen and participate during large group lesson time.
- During handbook time in Sparks and T&T, you will listen to the clubbers recite the memory verses they have learned from their Awana handbooks, and check to see that they have completed all the activities for that section. The director or leaders will help you know what to do, and there is information on the instruction card you will pick up at check in, and in the yellow Parent Partner folder. You may also help the clubbers look up Bible verses, serve snacks or assist with Bible-based crafts, games, puzzles, coloring sheets, etc.
- Help with any special events – your child’s leader or director will explain more.



Puggles Club

A “puggle” is a common term for a baby platypus, but in Awana, Puggles is an enriching program for two and younger 3-year-olds which teaches children that they are a unique creation of God, and that He loves them very much. Puggles parents, leaders and curriculum materials present these concepts through the four Puggles Precepts:

- God made everything (Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, Isaiah 42:5)
- God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:10)
- God is love (1 John 4:8)
- Give thanks (Psalm 105:1)

Puggles learn simple lessons through teaching cards, activities, music, play and more. Then parents—a Puggle’s first and best teacher—can step in to reinforce the lessons with take-home cards that include ideas to point out God’s work each day. Puggles wear a blue t-shirt.



Cubbies Club



Cubbies is for preschool children who are no more than two years from entering kindergarten and are toilet-trained. Cubbies’ parents work directly with their children on the weekly handbook lessons as active participants in their child’s spiritual development. Children



learn key truths about God, Jesus, salvation and the Bible through memorizing shortened passages of Scripture as well as games and activities. All Cubbies will work together on the same handbook section each week. If your child is absent, he or she can make up the missed sections. As Cubbies clubbers progress through their handbook, they earn award patches to display on their blue uniform vest.

Sparks Club



Sparks club is for children in K-2nd grade. The Sparks program contains memory verses of gradually increasing difficulty, teaching children more about Jesus, God and His Word. Sparks hear clear, consistent gospel messages and participate in a fun mix of competitive and non-competitive games on the Awana game circle.

One of the exciting features of the Sparks program is a chronological “journey” through the Bible that kids experience during the large group lesson time and



also in their handbook work. During their three years in Sparks club, kids learn about important people, places and events in the Bible, how the Bible fits together, and how they can apply its truths to their lives. In addition, the Sparks handbook contains a Bible timeline and a CD with an audio recording of the entire book, including dramatic readings of each biography with music and sound effects.

All children begin the program by completing the Flight 3:16 booklet, after which they may purchase their red Sparks vest and first handbook. The material is self-paced, although we recommend that each child have the goal of completing 2-3 sections per week. Parents should work with their child to provide the help and encouragement they need to not only memorize their verses, but understand their meaning as well. Please help us know what your child worked on at home by initialing each section he or she is prepared to recite.



Truth & Training (T&T) Club

Truth and Training Club, for 3rd – 6th graders, is just what the name implies: teaching boys and girls the truth of God’s Word and training them to follow God and live lives of grace. T&T Club is divided into two groups: The



Ultimate Adventure for third and fourth graders, and the Ultimate Challenge for fifth and sixth graders. Each handbook is structured around four central questions - children learn eight answers to each question which are supported with memory verses, short Bible studies and other activities. Children learn that following Christ is life’s ultimate adventure, and begin that journey by completing their “Start Zone” booklet. They are then eligible to

purchase their uniform shirt – T&T Ultimate Adventure (third and fourth grade) clubbers wear a green t-shirt, and T&T Ultimate Challenge clubbers wear a customizable blue and white jersey.

All T&T materials are self-paced; however, we encourage clubbers to complete at least three sections every club meeting so they can finish their handbook during the club year and earn a special reward. Parents can help their clubber by making sure they attend regularly, practice memory verses and complete Bible studies and other activities at home and



understand the Biblical concepts they are learning. Parents should initial the sections their child has prepared at home and is ready to recite to their leader.



T&T motivates children to serve through an optional Service Passport booklet. Clubbers can record up to four service projects they’ve completed each club year in their passport-style booklet – projects can be completed individually or as a group or family.

Trek

Trek challenges 7th and 8th grade students to consider their destiny in Christ and pursue it through life application of God's Word. Students begin their "Trek" in the Trek Check Entrance Brochure, which features a gospel presentation. The Trek handbook includes a weekly in-depth Bible lesson including Bible study, Scripture memory and practical application. Students complete the lesson at home, and enjoy discussion time, fellowship, games, service and other activities during the weekly club meeting. Trek club members may purchase an optional t-shirt uniform.



Leaders-in-Training

Awana Leaders-in-Training (LiTs) are a dedicated group of high school students who love God and love kids, and serve alongside the adult Awana leaders during handbook time and game time. They also enjoy a time of group fellowship, Bible study, training and discipleship. LiTs are selected through an application and interview process and should have their parents' support in order to serve. If you are interested in the LiT program, please contact the Awana Servant-Leaders at awana@heritagechristian.org.



The Club Meeting

The HCC Awana Club meets from 6:00 until 7:45pm on most Wednesday evenings during the school year, following the Fayette County school calendar. The club meeting begins promptly at 6:00pm. For ages K – 6th grade, the evening is divided into three 30 minute periods. **Sparks** and **T&T** clubbers will rotate through the following activities:

Game Time: high energy, exciting games played on the outdoor Awana game circle or indoors during cold or wet weather.

Handbook Time: Clubbers work in small groups or one-on-one with a leader or parent partner to recite the memory verses they have learned at home.

Lesson Time: An interactive, age-appropriate Bible lesson, worship and/or prayer time and an awards presentation.



Cubbies will enjoy the same three activities in a more self-contained format, while **Puggles** will have their lesson, song time, snack and playtime in the Puggles room. **Trek** students also meet from 6:00 – 7:45pm on a more flexible schedule.

What to wear to club:

Your Awana uniform shirt or vest, comfortable pants or shorts and **ATHLETIC SHOES WITH TIES OR VELCRO.**

Awards will only be presented to clubbers in uniform, including having all awards they have earned correctly displayed. Clubbers must also be in uniform to carry the flag during the flag ceremony or to be selected for other special jobs or activities. **Please note that tennis or athletic shoes with ties or Velcro are REQUIRED for your child to be allowed to participate in Game Time. We do not allow children to play games while wearing Crocs, sandals, flip-flops or Heelys.** If you bring a friend, please tell them to wear athletic shoes. We don't want anyone to get hurt!

What to bring to club

Your Awana handbook
Your Bible
A jacket for outdoor games in cool weather
A good attitude
A friend!

Please be sure to write your child's name in their uniform, Bible, handbook carrying bag and/or jacket.



Check –in

Please arrive for check-in between 5:45 and 5:55pm. As you arrive, take note of the information board in the café area. All children must be checked in through the computers in the children's ministry lobby and



receive a name tag. Parents will receive a security tag which you must present when you arrive to pick up your children. If you are serving as a Parent Partner that night, sign in on the Parent Partner board and make a name tag. Then escort your child(ren) to their opening ceremony room – information on classroom locations is available at the check-in counter.

How to pick up your children after club

All clubbers should be picked up from their classrooms between 7:45-7:50pm (information on classroom locations is available at the check-in counter). **You must show the security tag you received at check-in when picking up your child(ren) – we cannot dismiss clubbers to meet their parent(s) in the parking lot, café, etc.** If a friend or family member will be picking up your child(ren), please give them your security tag. Thank you for your cooperation in following these procedures to ensure the safety of our clubbers.

Visitors

We **always** welcome visitors! Sparks and T&T clubbers have sections in their handbooks which require them to bring a friend to at least one club meeting. When bringing a friend, please ask them to wear athletic shoes for game time. Be sure you help your friend check in at the visitors check-in counter and introduce them to your leader. We encourage you to invite other children to Awana to help build the kingdom of God! Parents are also welcome and encouraged to visit their child's club at any time.

Awards

Cubbies, Sparks and T&T clubbers have the opportunity to earn awards throughout the year. Most awards are earned by completing sections in the handbook, but others are given for attendance at club and church services.



Clubbers receive their awards the week after they are earned. The handbook will explain the awards for that particular club and how they should be worn. Award costs are covered by the registration fee, but if your child loses an award, you will need to purchase a replacement – see the Awana secretary for details. Clubbers may also earn items such as Awana “bucks”, team points or prize tickets as a reward and incentive.

Cubbies club and Trek will present handbook completion awards during the last meeting of the club year. Sparks and T&T clubbers will receive handbook completion awards the week after they are earned. In all cases, completing an Awana handbook is a major accomplishment, and we invite parents, family and friends to celebrate with us! Parents will be notified by e-mail or phone when your child will receive their handbook completion award.

aBay

Clubbers in Sparks, T&T and Trek earn Awana “bucks” for completing handbook activities. On selected club nights, they can spend the bucks they've earned by ordering items such as a snack pack, grab bag, coupon, candy or Bible from “aBay”. aBay orders can be picked up at the check-in counter from 7:45-7:55pm at least one week after the order was placed.

HCC Awana Club Standards

Clubbers:

1. Be on time.
2. Wear your uniform and athletic shoes.
3. Bring your Bible and handbook.
4. Obey your leaders at all times.
5. Use words that are kind and encouraging.
6. Show respect for the church property.
7. Don't push, roughhouse or jump off the risers. Running is allowed only during game time.
8. Show good sportsmanship.
9. Work on your handbook at home; come to club ready to recite.
10. Set a good example (II Timothy 4:12)



Parents:

1. Make sure your child(ren) arrive on time with their uniform, athletic shoes, handbook, Bible and jacket if needed.
2. Make Awana a priority in your weekly plans. Clubbers who are prepared and who have consistent attendance get the most benefit from the program.
3. Be committed to working with your child(ren) in their handbooks.



4. Provide help as need. Memorize their verses with them. Encourage them and congratulate them on their accomplishments.
5. Be faithful in keeping your leadership position or parent partner commitment.
5. Pray for our church, Awana club, leaders and clubbers.

Awana Discipline System

5-Count. Used to quiet or bring order to an entire group. The person in charge initiates the 5-count by holding up one hand and slowly and loudly counting to 5. At the count of 5, all clubbers and leaders should be quiet and paying attention.

3-Count. Used for children not following club behavior standards. If a clubber receives three warnings for improper behavior in one club meeting, the clubber's parents will be called and asked to pick him or her up. He or she may return to club the following week by agreeing to abide by club rules.



Finances

Awana registration is \$15 per child or a maximum of \$40 per family for the club year. Each child (except Puggles clubbers) will also need to purchase a uniform and handbook, although uniforms are optional for Trek. Other optional supplies are available as well; see your club secretary for ordering information.

Please do not let finances prevent your child(ren) from participating in the Awana Club at Heritage Christian Church.

Payment plans and scholarships are available; check the box on the registration form or speak with the Children's Minister or Awana Servant-Leader for more information.



Scripture Memory Helps

1. Help clubbers understand the meaning(s) of words and of the verse as a whole.
2. Write the verse(s) on index cards and put them where they'll be seen often – on the bathroom mirror, at the breakfast table, in the car, etc.
3. Break up the verse into meaningful phrases, and memorize one phrase at a time before putting them together.
4. Write the verse on a dry erase board and erase the words one at a time, saying the verse each time you erase a word.
5. Toss a ball back and forth, saying one word with each toss.
6. Write down the first letter of each word as a memory aid. For example, John 3:16 would be: F G S L T W . . . Practice until you can say the verse without the letters.
7. Make a puzzle - copy the verse on a sheet of paper and cut the words apart.
8. Use hand motions to “act out” the verse.
9. Sing the verse to a familiar tune, or order a tape or CD with the handbook verses set to music from the club secretary.
10. Write the verse with sidewalk chalk, in the dirt with a stick, or paint it with water on the driveway.
11. Challenge your child(ren) to a Scripture memory contest and award a prize to the winner!
12. Practice, practice, practice!

