

FBC Awana

Welcome to our new Awana year! Reading this will be the best way for you to know what is going on. Tuck it into a safe place at home so you can refer to it throughout the year. We look forward to partnering with you in the spiritual growth of your children and helping foster their desire to memorize scripture and apply it to their lives!

If you have any questions, take a look below and see if we have already answered them!

Why Do You Do It?

This is an easy question to answer. The Awana pledge is this:

*To reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ,
and train them to serve Him.*

How great is that! We want children to understand God's Word and what it means for their lives. In addition, we as adult leaders learn so much from the clubbers! Together we are all learning, which fits with our church's goal of being intergenerational. Together, with ages from two to over seventy, we are all serving and learning together.

When Is It?

From September through April, we hold clubs most Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30. The official Awana Calendar is attached, and we mostly follow the Cadillac Area Public Schools Calendar.

Who May Come?

We have clubs for ages two through fifth grade, with our youth group starting at sixth grade.

- Puggles: Ages 2-3 (must be two years old by August 1)
- Cubbies: Ages 4-5 (must be four years old by August 1, and must be fully potty trained with no pullups)
- Sparks: Grades K-2
- T&T (Truth and Training): Grades 3-5

What Should We Wear?

We like things casual and comfortable.

- Uniform vest or shirt
- Casual clothes suitable for game time (skirts and flipflops are not always the best for games)

What Should We Bring?

We try to keep things simple around here, so it is easy to "Grab and Go" on a Wednesday night. Below are the things that should come with your child, from Cubbies through T&T:

- Awana Booklet or Handbook
- Bible (the Awana material uses the NIV)
- Tote Bag (if that is helpful for your child)

Puggles is a little different.

- Puggles don't need any materials for clubs. We keep everything here.
- They DO need a diaper bag or backpack with diapers or pullups as needed, along with a complete change of clothes.
- Puggles should NOT be dropped off with a wet/dirty diaper/pullup or wet clothes. We do have a changing area for you to use when dropping off your child.

What Are Check-in Policies?

On Wednesdays, you can probably imagine we are running around getting things ready for a great night of clubs. To help things start smoothly, help us by following these policies:

- All Awana traffic is through the North entrance (the Chapin St. parking lot). This keeps kids from needing to cross the Street.
- Puggles should check-in at their room.
- All other clubbers check-in at the tables in the Commons hallway.
- Once checked in, clubbers will go to the Sanctuary to sit with one of their leaders and their club mates.
- Our check-in time begins at 5:45pm, NOT BEFORE.
- Our goal is to have all clubbers here by our start time of 6:00 sharp.
- If your child is having trouble leaving you, feel free to walk down to the sanctuary with them.

What Are Pick-up Policies?

On Wednesdays after clubs are finished, you can probably imagine the clubbers are ready for bed, and so are the adult volunteers. To help things finish smoothly, help us by following these policies:

- Please line up outside your designated areas for pick-up. Do not come into the areas to retrieve your child(ren).
- Puggles and Cubbies should be picked up at their classrooms.
- Sparks and T&T should be picked up at the Commons.
- Pick-up starts at 7:30, NOT BEFORE. If you arrive early to pick up your child, this disrupts the flow of programming. (Obviously, if there is an emergency, that's different.)
- We would like to have all children picked up by 7:35. If you are going to be significantly late, be sure to call the numbers at the bottom of the document.
- **Important!** If another person will be picking up your child, make sure that person has been approved by you on your child's Awana registration form.

Weather Cancellations?

Are you kidding? Because last year's winter was so bad, we are sure there will be no weather cancellations this year. But just in case...

- If Cadillac Area Public Schools are cancelled due to weather, there will be no club that evening.
- **The calendar is always correct.** so if we miss a scheduled night, we will skip that lesson. This way, clubbers will always have things to work on at home.

What is the Wellness Policy?

We want a healthy set of children and volunteers. Children should not attend Awana if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever within the last 24 hours
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severely runny nose or nasty cough (both greatly increase the chances of spreading to others, especially among children who lack strict hygiene habits)
- Any rash that is suspected to be contagious

What are the Costs?

We would love for you to partner with us in sharing the costs of the Awana program with us.

- Uniforms are \$10 each (all clubs)
- Books are \$10 each (Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T)
- Dues are \$15 each (all clubs)

If you have many children to register, or if you don't think you can afford the costs, please give us a call and we can work something out. Our ministry will never let finances stand in the way of ministering to children.

What is the Nightly Schedule?

Puggles and Cubbies have a pretty relaxed schedule. We aren't saying it is relaxing! Just that the timing of things is more flexible.

- These clubs are self-contained within their classroom.
- Each night there will be a Bible lesson, crafts, playtime, and a snack.

Sparks and T&T are a more rigid schedule. We are hoping our new bell system helps with timing, because these two clubs are completely separate while using the exact same spaces each Wednesday.

- Sparks rotate through Small Groups (Classrooms), Games (Commons), Large Group (Children's Wing). After Large Group, the whole crew walks down to the Commons for Parent Pick-up.
- T&T rotate through Large Group (Children's Wing), Small Groups (Classrooms), Games (Commons). Parent pick-up is after Games.

Handbook Procedures?

Cubbies and T&T follow Awana's "Together We Move" Strategy.

- Everyone who shows up on a club night will work through the same large group and small group lesson as shown on the attached schedule.
- The focus for these three clubs is learning together, by studying together and praying together.
- Each clubber will finish one book per year.

Sparks works according to the traditional Awana method.

- Sparks will have the same large group lesson, but each clubber will be working on his/her own book lessons.
- The focus for this club is working at your own pace, absorbing scripture, while encouraging each other in those memory goals.
- We encourage each clubber to strive to finish one book each year.

How Do We Complete Sections?

For all the three clubs, there are three requirements for “completing a section”:

1. The verse(s) of each section must be recited to an adult volunteer with a maximum of two helps.
2. Each section must be recited in one sitting, meaning they may not say half, look at it, and then finish.
3. The sections in the book must be completed in order. They may not skip around in the book.

What are Club Expectations?

To keep things moving smoothly, we have some basic expectations for the clubbers:

- Respectful language is always expected before, during, and after club.
- All Awana workers should be addressed respectfully, even those from a different small group or club.
- Care and respect should be shown for church property.
- Pushing, shoving, and roughhousing are not allowed.
- Running is allowed only during Game Time.
- The Awana Leaders will utilize the “three count” for clubbers deliberately misbehaving. If a clubber receives three warnings in one evening, the child will spend the rest of the evening with the Club Commander and the parent will be informed. If this happens on two different Wednesdays, the child’s parent will be called to come get them.
- Game Time is a privilege and may be revoked for a night for children who cannot demonstrate proper club behavior.

How Can I Help My Child?

We’re so glad you asked this question, because this is the most important part! We are helping you with your children, and no one has a bigger influence on their growth than you!

- Please work with your child at home. Help them memorize and understand God’s Word. A brief session every day works much better than cramming on the way to church. Encourage them! Memorizing is hard work!
- Please bring your child on time and attend faithfully. Make sure they are prepared by bringing their book, wearing their uniform and appropriate clothing, and having at least a section memorized beforehand.
- Ask your child’s leader how you can help your child(ren) with specific tasks to prepare them for each week.
- Consider volunteering in Awana full or part time.

Whew!

That was a lot of information! Can we sum all of it up? We are here to bring encouragement to your family by sharing the hope of the gospel. This is done through the Bible and the example of committed leaders. If you have any questions, please call us! We look forward to a great year with you!

Ben & Kristine Ruetz
231.884.2987
231.884.5473