



**2021-2022**

# **Awana Handbook**

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## What is Awana?

Awana is fun with a purpose - to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and engage them in lifelong discipleship. Awana is an international ministry in over 100 countries and participating in Awana is a wonderful way for children to grow deeper in their faith and knowledge of God. They learn and memorize God's Word and how to apply it to their lives. This booklet is designed to provide information about the ministry and to answer some of the common questions people ask. You will find included helpful names, numbers, and dates. Awana has a website full of great information at [www.awana.org](http://www.awana.org). Please look for our Awana update emails, check our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/AwanaLHBC](https://www.facebook.com/AwanaLHBC) and our website at [www.livinghopebaptistchurch.us/LHBC](http://www.livinghopebaptistchurch.us/LHBC) frequently for updates and activities. For questions or comments, please contact Pastor Bill Bianco at 301-787-0285 (cell), 443-273-3029 (church) or email at [office@livinghopebaptistchurch.us](mailto:office@livinghopebaptistchurch.us).

## Awana Leadership

Senior Pastor	Chris Miller
Pastor of Children and Administration / Awana Ministry Director	Bill Bianco
Cubbies Director	
Sparks Director	Marge Streicker
T&T Director	Bill Bianco
Trek Director	Nick Palmisano
Awana Missionary	Chris Mikesh

## What are the Awana Clubs?

Awana offers different clubs depending upon the age of the children. Home school children should be placed in class with children of the same age.

**Cubbies** – designed for 3- and 4-year-olds or the two years before attending kindergarten. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2021. Classes are co-ed, and focus on learning respect for God the Father, Jesus, and the authority of God's Word.

**Sparks** – Kindergarten through Second grade students. Classes are co-ed. If your child is not enrolled in kindergarten at school, please enroll them in Cubbies and start Sparks next year.

**T&T (Truth & Training)** – T&T engages third - through sixth graders by answering their questions about God and the Bible, guiding them through this pivotal life stage to grow in Christ's grace.

**Trek** - Trek is a 3-year program for Middle School students. This program challenges students to wrestle with the three important questions they're asking in middle school. By allowing students to dive deep into the Scriptures and answer these questions for themselves we allow them to own their faith and discover what they believe.

### **When & where does Awana meet?**

Awana is from 6:45 – 8:15 on Wednesday evenings from September 15, 2021, through May 18, 2022.

We ask that children not arrive before 6:30 and be picked up no later than 8:25. When picking up children, please go to the gymnasium. The children must be picked up by the parents or approved guardian. Children will not meet their ride in the parking lot. This is required for the safety of the children.

For security purposes, ALL children are checked in at the welcome desk. We do our best to start and end on time, so we ask parents to be prompt in dropping off and picking up their children.

Awana may be cancelled due to inclement weather. When Baltimore County Public Schools or Carroll County Public Schools are closed for the day or close early **DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS** our Wednesday night Awana program will be cancelled. Unsure if we are having Awana? Do one of the following:

- 1) Go to our Awana Facebook page at [facebook.com/AwanaLHBC](https://facebook.com/AwanaLHBC). A cancellation post will be added if we are not having Awana that evening.
  
- 2) Call the church office at 443-273-3029. There will be a message if we are not having Awana that evening.
  
- 3) If all else fails contact the Awana Ministry Director to double check.

## What do children do at Awana?

The club meeting is divided up into three parts: Game Time, Small Group Time, and Large Group Time.

**Game Time** - The clubbers have fun while learning to be a part of a team. The games are designed to allow each child to participate and encourage team spirit.

**Small Group Time** – Each clubber will be provided a handbook. Handbooks are designed to be able to be completed at home by Clubbers by the end of the Club year in May. During Small Group Time, leaders work with small groups of Clubbers to listen to them recite the sections they have prepared and discuss the meaning of the verses they have learned.

No matter what age, children will need help with their Bible memorization. We ask parents to encourage their child to work on their books during the week, so they are prepared on Club night. Cramming in the car on the way to church may produce a memorized verse for the short term, but usually won't be retained for the long term.

Section Completion Standard: A child needs to recite the required material in the handbook section to their leader. Children will be given a maximum of two “helps” or prompts per section. That means only two hints are provided to complete all the required work and verses exactly as they appear in the text. For older children, sections may include more than one verse and the references must also be learned. Clubbers must complete all handbook requirements to earn the book award at the end of year. For Sparks handbooks, completing roughly two sections per week (which for most children requires about 5 or 10 minutes of study each day during the week) is enough to complete the handbook during the year.

**Large Group Time** – In Large Group Time, Clubbers come together to learn a Bible lesson or hear from a guest speaker. In our Awana Club, Clubbers hear the gospel message every week in large group, as well as ways to apply truths of Scripture to daily life and gain tools for Biblical living.

Like the Clubbers, all leaders are in uniform at Club each week.



## **What does it cost to attend Awana?**

After a child completes the entrance book in their club, they earn the opportunity to purchase a handbook and uniform. Payment can be made by cash or check. (Check made out to Living Hope Baptist Church). Clubbers will not receive their handbook and uniform until payment is made or a payment plan is approved. The prices and sizes are:

### **Cubbies**

Handbook-\$10.00

Blue Vest-\$11.00

Sizes: All child size - small 4, medium 5, large 6, X-large 8, XX-large 10

### **Sparks**

Handbook-\$10.00

Red Vest-\$11.00

Sizes: All child size - small 6, medium 8, large 10, X-large 12, XX-large 14, XXX-large 16

### **T&T**

Handbook-\$10.00

Green and White Polyester Jersey-\$16.00

Sizes: Youth small 10, Youth medium 12, Youth large 14, Adult small, Adult medium, Adult large, Adult X-large, Adult XX-large, Adult XXX-large

### **TREK**

Handbook-\$10.00

## **Club Standards**

We ask that all Clubbers who have active colds please stay home. All clubbers must be fever and diarrhea free for 24 hours prior to coming. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, we will follow guidelines established by local school districts in regard to face coverings, meeting in person and other considerations. Patience and understanding are appreciated.

We expect our clubbers to follow the behavior guidelines set by Living Hope Baptist Church. We expect them to obey their leaders, stay with their group, and not wander around the church building unsupervised.

Like all Awana Clubs, we observe the “5-Count” and the “3-Count” Awana Discipline Rules. If a leader needs a group of children to quiet down for a lesson or instruction, the leader will raise his/her hand and begin to count to five. Children are to immediately come to order. Children not in compliance with the 5-count will receive a warning, the first under the 3-Count. If a child receives three warnings, he/she will be removed from the club area, and the leader will call the director/commander to call the child’s parents if necessary.

**Clubbers should:**

**1. Be on time.**

Club starts promptly at 6:45 and ends at 8:15.

**2. Be in Uniform.**

Clubbers should wear their uniform vest or shirt and gym shoes.

**3. Be Prepared.**

Clubbers and parents should spend time working on the handbook sections at home and should bring their handbook ready to complete sections.

**4. Be Respectful.**

Clubbers are expected to listen to leaders and to follow directions.

## **Cubbies – 3 and 4 years old**

Awana Cubbies is a two-year weekly club for preschoolers in the two years prior to kindergarten and they must be 3 years old by September 1, 2021. Our purpose is to help your children take their first little steps on a lifelong spiritual journey.

In the Bible, parents are instructed to teach their children about God’s ways...in routine activities...passing along their faith, little by little, day by day. The Cubbies program is designed to help leaders and parents in this critical role.

The teaching begins at home. Each week, the parents help their Cubbie complete the scheduled Bear Hug. Each aspect of the Bear Hug reinforces

the same Bible truth. At club, we will center everything we do on the same truth that you have worked on at home. Our story, games, activities, even our snack will reinforce the teaching your child has received from you. By creating this partnership, we hope to really “cement” that week’s truth into our Cubbies’ minds!

## **About the Cubbies Materials...**

### **APPLE ACRES ENTRANCE BOOKLET**

This brochure is the first part of Cubbies and contains two “Bear Hugs” as well as basic information about the Cubbies program. All Cubbies must complete this booklet before they receive their handbook and are allowed to wear the uniform.

### **APPLESEED HANDBOOK**

This handbook includes stories from the “Apple Acres” apple farm, biblical teaching, and memory verses – all divided into weekly Bear Hugs focused on teaching Cubbies respect for God, His Son, and His Word. Cubbies are to complete each week’s Bear Hug at home as background for the teaching at club the following week. They then recite the memory verse to their leader at club during Handbook Time. Completing every Bear Hug in the book over the course of the year (one Bear Hug per week), earns the Cubbies Appleseed book award at the end of the year. Each Bear Hug also contains an extra-credit “Under the Apple Tree” section. The fun Under the Apple Tree activities at the end of each Bear Hug in the handbook are optional and are not required for book completion or for the end-of-year book award.

### **Cubbie Memory Work Order:**

Each Cubbie must complete the Apple Acres Entrance Booklet before work in the Appleseed Handbook may begin.

### **APPLESEED HANDBOOK**

**Learning Level A** - Complete one Bear Hug each week. All children move through the Bear Hug at the same pace, one Bear Hug each week. If a child has missed a week of club, be sure to check the schedule or calendar for the current week’s Bear Hug. After completing the current Bear Hug, work on making up any missed Bear Hugs. Completing the Bear Hugs will earn the end-of-year award for your Cubbie.

**Learning Level B** – Many Bear Hugs had a “long version” of the memory verse. While only the short version printed in the Bear Hug is required to complete the Bear Hug, many children can learn the longer, complete verse for an added challenge.

**Learning Level C** - Under the Apple Tree may be done after the current week’s Bear Hug and any missed Bear Hugs are completed. When an activity is completed, a parent must sign it, and then the child will recite any verses to the leader at club.

### **Requirements for Cubbies Memory Work:**

\*Cubbies are allowed two “helps” per Bear Hug. A “help” is assistance in the form of between one and four words provided by the leader to help the Clubber remember and recite the verse.

\* Bear Hugs must be recited at one session. If there are two verses in the Bear Hug, both must be recited at one session and in the order they appear.

\* Four-year olds must recite the verse AND reference. Three-year olds are encouraged to recite the reference, if they are capable, but are not required.

\* Again, memory verses are to be learned at home, and then recited during Club – leaders will not spend much time “teaching” the verses in Club. For Cubbies, just 3 or 4 minutes spent on the weekly Bear Hug verse each day is usually more than enough for them to learn it.

### **Tips on How Parents Can Help their Cubbie –**

-Establish a regular time to work on the Bear Hug with your child...many families work on verses at the dinner table after a meal, or early in the morning, for example.

-Check the schedule and calendar for what Bear Hug to work on for the next week

-Read each week’s Bear Hug story, bible lesson, and verse to your child and follow the simple instructions in the Handbook. Use the included audio CD in the back of the Handbook to add to the story depth, and to help your child learn the memory verse.

-Listen to your child recite the verse and sign your name in the Handbook. Remember to be encouraging!

-Only one Bear Hug should be done per week. The Cubbies will all recite the same Bear Hug each week.

-Find a special place at home to keep your child's book and uniform, so it can always be found on Cubbies night.

-Be sure your child wears their uniform vest to club. The uniform is where their awards are displayed; proudly wearing the uniform motivates them to learn and work in their books.

-Bring your child to club on time, so we can begin and end promptly.

## **Sparks - Kindergarten through Second Grade**

The Sparks ministry builds on the material taught in Cubbies. Focused on teaching Wisdom, the aim of the curriculum is to take clubbers a step deeper into God's Word while giving them the opportunity to hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ. A Sparkie must be enrolled in Kindergarten to start. We ask that all Sparks be enrolled in the correct grade. If a child is not attending kindergarten yet, we ask that they be enrolled in Cubbies. It is a lot easier to repeat a year in Cubbies than in Sparks.

All students starting in Sparks (no matter what grade) need to complete the Flight 3:16 Entrance Booklet before they can receive their handbook or purchase the uniform. All Sparkies, regardless of grade, start in the HangGlider handbook (the Sparks 1st book).

### **HangGlider Series**

The HangGlider handbook is the first in the Sparks series. The HangGlider handbook covers the Old Testament from Creation through Joshua. The handbook contains an audio download which includes dramatic Bible biographies and a timeline.

### **WingRunner Series**

This is the second book in the Sparks series. This handbook explores Judges to the birth of Christ. The handbook contains an audio download which includes dramatic Bible biographies and a timeline.

### **SkyStormer Series**

This is the third book for Sparkies. This handbook focuses on the New Testament, covering the life of Christ to Revelation. The handbook contains an audio download which include dramatic Bible biographies and a timeline.

### **Kindergarten Progression**

Flight 3:16, HangGlider handbook, HangGlider review (either in the handbook or by purchasing the HangGlider Frequent Flyer Cards), Additional Frequent Flyer memory verses contained in the HangGlider Frequent Flyer Cards purchased separately

A Kindergarten student must stay in the HangGlider series for the club year. They may not progress into the WingRunner Series.

### **First Grade Progression**

A new first grade Sparkie must complete the Flight 3:16 Entrance Brochure. The Sparkie then proceeds to work on the HangGlider handbook. If the Sparkie wishes to complete additional material, he/she may go into the WingRunner Series. They do not complete the review or Frequent Flyer cards of the HangGlider Series.

A Sparkie who is in first grade and who has completed the HangGlider handbook will start in the WingRunner series. Sparkies complete the WingRunner handbook, WingRunner review (either in the handbook or by purchasing the WingRunner Frequent Flyer Cards), Additional Frequent Flyer memory verses contained in the WingRunner Frequent Flyer Cards purchased separately.

A First grader may not move into the SkyStormer Series.

### **Second Grade Progression**

A new second grade Sparkie must complete the Flight 3:16 Entrance Brochure. The Sparkie then proceeds to work on the HangGlider handbook. If they wish to complete additional material, the Sparkie may go into the WingRunner handbook. If time allows and the Sparkie would like to work on additional material, he/she may complete the SkyStormer handbook.

A Sparkie who is in second grade and who has completed the HangGlider handbook and the WingRunner handbook will start in the SkyStormer Series. Sparkies complete the SkyStormer handbook, SkyStormer review (either in the

handbook or by purchasing the SkyStormer Frequent Flyer Cards), Additional Frequent Flyer memory verses contained in the SkyStormer Frequent Flyer Cards can be purchased separately.

Any second grader who is “catching up” may complete any/all the three of the handbooks one time through. If they complete all three, they are eligible to earn the Sparky Plaque to be presented at the award ceremony.

### **All Sparkies**

As Sparkies work on their handbooks, they receive awards to be displayed on their uniform. Awards are described in the handbooks, and they include patches, Sparks Pilot Wings, jewels, review patches and extra credit pins.

We ask that parents pace their child to stay within the curriculum. Depending upon the amount of time left in the year will determine what supplemental memory work should be encouraged. Parents, please check with your child’s leader for additional information. Please note: a child may not progress to the curriculum for the following year.

Sparkies also receive Sunday School Attendance Patches awarded twice a year.

## **Truth and Training (T&T) – Third through Fifth Grade**

T&T helps 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders learn more about God, the Bible, Jesus, and life application of Scripture. All four handbooks have an illustrated story format, along with great large group activities and discussions. The 4 handbooks can be used in any order. The Handbooks are:

**Mission: Evidence of Grace (all T&T students of every age will be in this book in 2021-2022)**

Mission: Agents of Grace (all T&T students of every age will be in this book in 2022-2023)

Mission: Discovery of Grace (all T&T students of every age will be in this book in 2023-2024)

Mission: Grace in Action (all T&T students of every age will be in this book in 2024-2025)

## **Truth and Training Progression**

All students in T&T will begin each year in the Start Zone Entrance Booklet. All T&T students are required to complete Start Zone before entering the new handbook each ministry year.

Once the Start Zone is completed, All T&T students of every age will progress together in the handbook selected for that year. We are using **Mission: Evidence of Grace** this year. Each week all clubbers will progress together in their handbooks. Verse memorization and small group handbook requirements will correspond with the weekly large group lesson for all students. (This is not a self-pace program like Sparks.)

If a student fails to do required work on a given Wednesday, they can make up the work the following week after they do the work for the current week.

It is best if all students progress together through their handbooks. However, if a student desires to move ahead, and has completed all weekly and extra credit requirements, a fast-track program can be custom made for that clubber.

Optional Extra Credit work can be completed each week by a student.

## **Trek – Sixth through Eighth Grade**

Middle Schoolers complete Bible Studies and join in powerful small group conversations to answer important Spiritual questions. Wrestling with “Who am I?”, “Why am I here?”, and “Who’s with me?” help students own their faith and discover what they believe.

Trek Handbooks allow Trek students to dive deep into the Scriptures and answer important questions for themselves so they can own their faith. The Handbooks are:

**“His Love” (all Trek students of every age will be in this book in 2021-2022)**

“His People” (all Trek students of every age will be in this book in 2022-2023)

“His Story” (all Trek students of every age will be in this book in 2020-2021)

## **Trek Progression**

All students in Trek will begin each year in the Trek Check Entrance Booklet. All Trek students are required to complete Trek Check before entering the new handbook each ministry year.

Once the Trek Check is completed, All Trek students of every age will progress together in the handbook selected for that year. We are using “**His Story**” this year. Each week all clubbers will progress together in their handbooks. Verse memorization and small group handbook requirements with correspond with the weekly large group lesson for all students.

If a student fails to do required work on a given Wednesday, they can make up the work the following week after they do the work for the current week.

It is best if all students progress together through their handbooks. However, if a student desires to move ahead, and has completed all weekly and extra credit requirements, a fast-track program can be custom made for that clubber.

## **Calendar and Special Theme Nights During Awana**

We will meet every Wednesday night during the Awana year. We will not have Awana on the day before Thanksgiving and the last two weeks in December. We will have various theme nights for fun and to keep clubbers and leaders involved! Check the calendar, Facebook, and emails for updates. Cubbies need to check with leaders to determine what nights they will be participating in.

## **How to Register for Awana**

Scan the QR code below with the camera on your phone and fill out the form.



