



**2015 – 2016**

**PARENT HANDBOOK**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## **Contacts:**

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# Welcome to Awana:

The purpose of the Awana ministry is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. The Awana ministry at First Baptist Church works in unison with the other ministries at FBC to help your child learn about Jesus and to grow in Him.

This handbook is intended to provide you with some important information regarding our current Awana club year. Awana begins September 16, 2015 and runs through April 27, 2016 and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Please see the Awana calendar for specific dates and descriptions of theme nights.

We look forward to serving your children in Awana. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

In His Service,  
Bonnie McCorvie, Commander

## Programs:

**Cubbies:** The two years prior to Kindergarten (3 & 4 year olds)

**Sparks:** Kindergarten thru Second Grade

**Truth & Training (T&T):** Third Grade thru Sixth Grade

**Nursery:** Parents attending any ministry of FBC on Wednesday nights (Awana, Bible study, prayer meeting, etc.) may bring their infant thru two year olds to nursery.

## Registration:

Registration forms must be completed for clubbers AND visitors. Emergency contact information is a must! Registration forms are available from the Awana Secretaries or online at:  
[http://stjohnsfbc.com/files/AWANA\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://stjohnsfbc.com/files/AWANA_Registration_Form.pdf)

## Cost:

Each year we ask for dues to be paid to help purchase awards, teaching materials, special events, and store supplies for the children. These dues cover the entire club year and amount to less than 65¢ per week. Clubbers will also need to purchase a book and uniform by the time they complete their entrance booklets. If paying by check, please make the check payable to **First Baptist Church**.

Please let the Commander or Secretary know if paying is a financial hardship for you. (Installment payments are also accepted.) We want everyone to be able to participate in this important ministry.

Prices are as follows:

<b>Required Items:</b>	<b>Cubbies (3-4 yrs old)</b>	<b>Sparks (K – 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>T &amp; T (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
Dues (per child)	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Uniform	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Handbook	\$10.00*	\$10.00*	\$10.00*

\* Handbooks other than ESV versions will be an additional \$1.00

<b>Optional Items:</b>	<b>Cubbies (3-4 yrs old)</b>	<b>Sparks (K – 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>T &amp; T (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
USED Uniforms (If Available)	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Book Bag**	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$6.50

\*\* Clubbers in attendance the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October will be given one canvas tote bag to decorate that they could use as a book bag.

If you have a uniform that your child is no longer using, please consider bringing it in and we will pass it on to benefit a child that doesn't have one.

## **Drop Off Process:**

For your child's protection, you must come to the Children's Wing (located in the Lower Level) to check-in your child(ren). During check-in you will be given a "Pick-Up" card that must be presented at check-out. **No child may be dropped off at Awana without being checked in by an authorized person.**

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF CLUBBERS BEFORE 6:15 PM as our leaders need time to prepare for the evening and are unavailable to supervise children before this time.

Children SHOULD NOT attend Awana if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (100 deg. or higher), vomiting, or 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.

## **Pick Up Process:**

Check-out is at 8:00 PM in the area in front of the Children's Wing. (Please be prompt). Upon presentation of the pick-up card received at check-in, children will be released from their classroom to their authorized person.

**Authorized persons must be in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or older.**

Please know that we require these safeguards only to insure your child's safety. Thank you!

## Cancellations / Inclement Weather:

If St. Johns Public Schools are cancelled or dismissed early due to bad weather, Awana will be cancelled.

If the forecast is calling for a severe snow/ice storm during Awana, we will err on the side of caution and cancel Awana.

If you are unsure if we are holding Awana, please visit our website at [www.stjohnsfbc.com](http://www.stjohnsfbc.com) or call the church office at 989-224-3110 and press '6' to listen to the message.

## Nightly Schedule:

<b>SPARKS:</b>	6:15 - 6:30	Check-In and Attendance
	6:30 - 6:40	Opening Ceremony in Fireside Room
	6:40 - 7:10	Handbook Time
	7:10 - 7:40	Game Time / Bathroom Break
	7:40 - 8:00	Council Time / Award Recognition
	8:00	Parents Pick-up Clubbers

<b>T&amp;T:</b>	6:15 - 6:30	Check-In and Attendance
	6:30 - 6:40	Opening Ceremony in Fireside Room
	6:40 - 7:10	Game Time / Bathroom Break
	7:10 - 7:40	Handbook Time
	7:40 - 8:00	Council Time / Award Recognition
	8:00	Parents Pick-up Clubbers

## Dress Code:

Uniforms are required for all registered clubbers and should be worn each week. Clubbers will earn store credits when they wear their uniform. If a Sparks' clubber does not have their uniform on, awards will be held until the next time their uniform is worn.

Children attending Awana should wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes to participate in the activities held on a typical evening. Some activities may be difficult to participate in wearing skirts, heels, flip-flops, sandals, dress shoes, etc.

## **What to Bring:**

- Awana Uniform
- Bible
- Awana Club Handbook or Entrance Booklet
- Comfortable Shoes

Your child should not bring electronic devices with them. If your child brings something which does not pertain to Awana, they will be asked to put it away and keep it out of sight.

## **Rules:**

- Follow leader instructions and speak to your leaders with respect
- Stay in your room unless a leader gives you permission to leave
- Move quietly between rooms. Walk, do not run, in the church
- Respect each other and do not touch others' things
- Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself at all times

## **Handbook Verses:**

- Verses should be memorized word for word with one help per verse, according to the Awana guidelines.
- Leaders will be sensitive to each child's ability. Children that have an easy time memorizing verses will be encouraged to learn them without any help. Those that struggle memorizing, may be allowed more than one help without penalty.
- It is important to complete Handbook sections, in order, for all T&T handbooks and for Sparks' Red Jewel sections. If a section is skipped because the clubber is still working on that section, they should return to complete it as soon as possible. Clubbers should not jump around to complete the "easier" sections first. Handbooks are created in a specific order to facilitate learning the materials.
- Clubbers that finish their handbooks will be encouraged to complete extra credit items.

## **Your Involvement is Needed:**

Moms, Dads, Grandparents, and anyone else special in a clubber's life. You are essential in helping your clubber get the most enjoyment and fulfillment out of the Awana program.

- Encourage your clubber to attend Awana every week. This consistency will help your child to excel. Be sure that your clubber arrives on time. Promptness helps our ministry stay on track.
- Clubbers are required to wear their uniform, bring their Bible and handbook. Clubbers will be awarded Awana store credits for each of these things. If they do not have a uniform, casual clothes and tennis shoes should be worn.
- Help your child prepare for club each week by spending time at home with them reading and reviewing their Handbook material. If they do not have a Bible, please contact the club director. Bibles are needed to complete the Handbook. If your child does not have one, we will provide one. We use the ESV (English Standard Version) Bible.
- Encourage your child by familiarizing yourself with their Handbook, especially the activities. Often those sections require more time and involve home related tasks and activities.
- Remind them to spend 5 – 10 minutes each day on verses. Memorizing is hard work but your involvement will validate the child's efforts and motivate them to complete the handbook within the club year. Awana clubbers may be limited to how many sections their leader can sign for on a given night, depending on the group they participate in.
- Always encourage your Awana Clubber. Children have much more fun when someone shows an interest in their accomplishments.



## Awana Store & Credits:

Sparks and T&T clubbers earn credits to spend in our Awana Store as follows:

Credits	Per Item Completed
1	Attendance (must arrive by 6:45 pm) Take It To Heart - Extra Credit (per verse) Truth Scripts - Extra Credit (per verse)
5	Bible (bring to club) Entrance Booklet Section Handbook (bring to club) Handbook Section Mailbox Club Lesson Service Passport Project Wear Uniform / Dress up as Theme Night
10	Bookmark (2 Jewels, Discoveries, or Challenges per Quarter) Return Parent Handbook Signature Page Take It To Heart (all verses said at one time) Truth Scripts (all verses said at one time)
50	Bring a visitor who does not attend FBC or Awana elsewhere (first time only)

Clubbers may save their weekly credits toward earning the “bigger” items offered in the Store or they may spend them as they earn them.

## Awards Ceremony:

On the last Wednesday in April, we will have an Awana Awards Ceremony to honor the accomplishments of all our clubbers. Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

After checking-in clubbers, parents and visitor may proceed to the Auditorium. Clubbers will be brought up and will sit in a group with their club. **ALL clubbers WILL receive an award.**

# 2015 - 2016 Awana Calendar

- Sept 16 Awana Begins (Special Registration will begin at 6:00 pm tonight only. Registration will take place in the Lower Level near the Elevator.) Pick-up time is 8:00 pm.
- Sept 23 Regular Night (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm). (Pick-up items that were ordered from the Registration Area - Sometimes orders take 2 weeks to arrive.)
- Sept 30 B.A.R.F. Night – **Be A Real Friend**, bring a visitor. (Get a surprise for you and your new visitor.) Permission Slips go home for Campfire Night
- Oct 7 Canvas Bags – Each clubber will receive one canvas tote bag to decorate. (This is an excellent way to keep track of handbooks.)
- Oct 14 Campfire Night for Sparks and T&T – Must have a signed permission slip to attend. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from campfire location (Bonnie McCorvie's House on Townsend Road).
- Oct 21 Decorate Pumpkins (Date may change due to harvest readiness.)
- Bookmark Night:** (Sparks finishing Red Jewel 1 & Green Jewel 1) (T&T finishing Adventure/Challenge 1 & 2) Bookmark Nights are to keep your child on track for finishing their handbook.
- End of 1st Quarter – Attendance Awards**
- Oct 28 B.A.R.F. Night – **Be A Real Friend**, bring a visitor. (Get a surprise for you and your new visitor.)
- Nov 4 Glow for God Theme – Bring flashlight or a source of light.
- (Awana Grand Prix Car Kits \$3.00 each. Get started on your design and building your car for our Awana Grand Prix Event on 2-6-16. Kits will be available for purchase until the event.)*
- Nov 11 Skittles Night – Get one scoop of Skittles for each section completed tonight.
- Nov 18 Crazy Hair Theme Night
- Nov 25 **NO AWANA - Thanksgiving Break**

## 2015 – 2016 Awana Calendar Continued

Dec 2 Noah's Ark Theme Night

*(Awana Grand Prix Car Kits \$3.00 each. If you haven't already purchased your kit and you plan to participate, we recommend not waiting any longer to start building your car.)*

Dec 9 Pack Fruit Baskets

**Bookmark:** (Sparks finishing Red Jewel 2 & Green Jewel 2) (T&T finishing Adventure/Challenge 3 & 4).

**End of 2nd Quarter – Attendance**

Dec 16 Christmas Party

*(We recommend purchasing Awana Grand Prix Car kits no later than TODAY so you have time to complete your car before the event.)*

Dec 23 **NO AWANA – Christmas Break**

Dec 30 **NO AWANA – Christmas Break**

Jan 6 Lego Theme Night

Rough Cutting Awana Grand Prix Cars Tonight ONLY: We will have someone available to rough cut out Grand Prix cars. Please have your design drawn on the block of wood **prior** to this night if you need help cutting out the design.

Jan 13 Favorite Team Theme Night – Dress like or bring something that represents your favorite sports team.

Jan 20 **NO AWANA – Annual Church Business Meeting**

Jan 27 PJ Theme Night

*\*Preliminary Weigh-In of Grand Prix Cars – We will have scales available to weigh in your cars so you can add or subtract the correct amount of weights. Cars must be painted and race ready in order to get an accurate weight. (Official weigh-in will happen the day of the Grand Prix Event.*

Feb 3 Bible Character Theme Night. *(Preliminary Weigh In of Grand Prix Cars – See note above\*)*

## 2015 - 2016 Awana Calendar Continued

- Saturday **AWANA Grand Prix Race:** (All cars should be in "Race Ready" condition prior to event Weigh-in. Maximum weight is 5.0 oz. You should be as close to this weight as possible without going over.)  
Feb 6  
    Sparks: 9:00 – 10:00 am (Weigh-In, Race, Awards)  
    T&T Girls: 10:00 - 11:00 am (Weigh-In, Race, Awards)  
    T&T Boys: 11:00 – 12:00 noon (Weigh-In, Race, Awards)  
    \*Adults: 12:00 – 12:30 pm (Race and Awards)  
    \*Adults and Leaders, please weigh-in as you arrive.
- Feb 10 Crazy Hat and Glasses Theme Night  
**Bookmark:** (Sparks finishing Red Jewel 3 & Green Jewel 3) (T&T finishing Adventure/Challenge 5 & 6) Bookmark Nights are to keep your child on track for finishing their handbook.  
**End of 3rd Quarter – Attendance**
- Feb 17 Hawaiian/Tropical Theme Night
- Feb 24 M&M Night – Get a scoop of M&M's for each new section completed tonight.
- Mar 2 Creation Theme Night
- Mar 9 Pie In The Face – Clubbers with the most sections completed in February get to throw a pie at a leader.
- Mar 16 Scavenger Hunt Night
- Mar 23 Crazy Feet Theme Night
- Mar 30 Ice Cream Sundaes  
**Bookmark:** (Sparks finishing Red Jewel 4 & Green Jewel 4) (T&T finishing Adventure/Challenge 7 & 8).  
**End of 4th Quarter – Attendance**
- April 6 **NO AWANA - Spring Break**
- April 13 Last night to say sections (No Exceptions!!)**
- April 20 Fun Night
- April 27 Awards Ceremony (Family & friends are encouraged to attend)