



PARENT MANUAL

Grandville Baptist Church
4325 40th Street SW
Grandville MI 49418

2019-2020

This handbook has information for this current Awana year. Please keep it in a place that you can reference it often.

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to have your children here as we look forward to an exciting year. We are honored to have the opportunity to minister to your child through our Awana program. It is our desire that your children will feel welcome, comfortable, and secure, and we will make every effort to make this a reality. This booklet is designed to answer your questions about our Awana program and give you some important information about the year ahead. If, however, you have any questions or concerns whatsoever, now or at any time throughout the year, please feel free to contact us. We are excited for the year to start and hope to get a chance to know you more!

It is our desire to help children find fun ways to memorize Scripture, understand God's love, and grow in their relationship with Him.

In His Service,

Jeff and Rachel Vriezema
Awana Commanders
616-896-1227
jvriez@gmail.com

Awana Leadership Team

Commanders - Jeff and Rachel Vriezema - 616-896-1227

Cell – 616-212-4473 - We will have this phone on us on Wednesday nights; however, the reception downstairs is not the greatest.

Cubbies Director - Kathy Sheets - 616-460-7341




Sparks Director - Pam Sheridan - 616-261-2643

T&T Directors - Brian Markaity - 616-215-9680

Sarah Southwell - 616-930-5079

Welcome

Welcome to Awana Club. You will make new friends, play exciting games, enjoy challenging contests, earn awards and learn important things. Below is a list of clubs:

Club	Age
Cubbies - Must be 3 by August 31st and be Potty Trained	3 - Preschool 
Sparks	K - 2 nd Grade 
T & T	3 rd - 6 th Grade 

SECURITY

The security of your children is very important to us. All of our workers have passed background checks and should always be wearing a shirt identifying which club they are working in. Feel free to question or bring to our attention anyone who is not properly identified. We welcome you to visit club at any time. However if you desire to stay on a recurring basis, please wait in the foyer upstairs. This is essential for security reasons, because we cannot have anyone staying in the rooms who has not been properly approved to work in Awana. It can also be disruptive to the flow of the evening. If you do wait in the foyer, please have consideration for the Prayer Meeting nearby. Otherwise, we would love for you to take advantage of the Ladies Bible Study or Prayer Meeting.

A child must be dropped off and picked up by a parent or approved adult (over 18) at their room - If you have made arrangements to have someone other than yourself pick up your child, please send a written note directing who is allowed to pick up your child. Cubbies must be signed in and out of their room. Please pick up your child no later than 7:05 pm.

Parents—How You Can Help!

Moms and dads—You are important in helping your child enjoy the Awana program. Here are a few of our suggestions:

- Help your child to attend Awana every week. Faithful attendance helps to build friendships and enables the clubber to achieve awards.
- Make sure your child wears their Awana uniform and proper shoes each week.
- Be sure they arrive on time - Awana starts promptly at 5:20. **Please do not drop your child off before 5:10 pm.**
- Encourage your child to learn the Bible verses during the week at home. If they learn consistently each week, they will be able to finish the book by the end of the year to earn their Book Award!
- If your child has a learning/memorization challenge, please let us know as soon as possible. We will try to find someone to work with them individually.
- When you come to pick up your clubber at the end of the evening, please come inside to get your children. We will not allow the clubbers to leave their rooms without a Parent / Adult.
- **Please pick up your Clubber no later than 7:05 pm.**
- Make sure to have a Permission form filled out for your child. This form must be filled out by the Parent / Guardian **in order for a child to play games (after his/her 1st week).**

What is Awana?

Awana was officially started in 1950 by Art Rorheim in Chicago, IL. The name Awana stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed," 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." Awana's goal is to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him.

The Awana Club night is divided into three parts:

Game Time promotes cooperation, working as a team, and having fun.

Handbook Time is for reciting, discussing, and understanding Bible verses.

Council Time is a time of learning how to apply God's Word to real life through creative teaching, special themes, and a variety of activities.

OUR GAME LEADERS WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW:

- Game Time is a very active time which includes running, jumping, bending over, etc. Please dress your child appropriately for these activities. **GYM SHOES ARE A MUST FOR SAFETY REASONS.**
- Do not bring balls/toys with you from home.
- Do not play with the game equipment until instructed by the Game Leaders.
- Go directly to your color line.
- Line up tallest to shortest and be ready to listen (Leaders will be there to help).
- Be considerate of others and their belongings.

CLUB RULES

In order to have a safe, enjoyable, and orderly environment for all the children, our Awana Club has established some rules. Our leaders will enforce these rules, and it would be very helpful to us if you would remind your clubber that we expect them to be followed.

1. Respect and obey your leaders and other staff members.
2. Take part in the entire club program unless you brought a note from your parents or you are excused by your club director.
3. Walk at all times (except during games).
4. Remain with your leader at all times during club.
5. Remain in the church building at all times.
6. For fun and for your safety, **you must wear or bring proper shoes for Game Time.** No flip flops or shoes that come off easily.
7. No use of foul language or gestures. Also no kicking, hitting, tripping, rough-housing, fighting, etc.
8. If you disobey the rules, we will enforce a 3 Strike Procedure.
 - a. **Strike 1:** Verbal warning
 - b. **Strike 2:** the clubber will be removed to a "timeout" location in the immediate area or at the Secretary Table.
 - c. **Strike 3:** The clubber will be taken to the Commander. Parents will be called immediately, and the child will be sent home.

Each Wednesday the child starts with a clean slate, but if the three strike cycle is repeated again within 1 month, the clubber will have to miss the next week of club.









WE ALSO ASK THAT CLUBBERS:

- Do not bring toys unless it is a special night. If a younger child needs something for comfort, please ensure it stays in their bag and clear it with the Director first.
- Do not throw snowballs in the winter.

**Awana is meant to be fun for everyone!
Please let us know if there is a problem.**

Pricing

When purchasing, please consider the fact that clubbers may be wearing their uniform for 2-4 years. They will need growing room.

Cubbies Vest (same uniform for 2 years)	\$11.00		
Cubbies Handbook w/CD	\$11.00		
Book Bag <i>Optional</i>	\$7.00		
Sparks Vest (same uniform for 3 years)	\$11.00		
Sparks Handbooks w/CD	\$11.00		
Extra Credit Cards	\$9.00		
Book Bag <i>Optional</i>	\$6.50		
T&T Uniform	\$10.00		
T&T Handbook	\$6.00		
Book Bag <i>Optional</i> <i>This will not be a stocked item, we have a few available each year</i>	\$6.00		

Dues

.50/wk. \$10/yr. \$40 Family Max

Dues help pay the cost of book awards, candy awards, club party nights, and game supplies.

Awana Special Events

We will be having special events on specific Wednesdays throughout the year! Flyers will be passed out the week before. But, if you would like an electronic reminder, please make sure your e-mail is on file.

Sept 8	Awana Begins!
Sept 29	Crazy Hat Night - Who thinks they have the Craziest hat? Come show it off at Awana
Oct 27	Occupation Night - Clubbers dress up as their favorite occupation.
Nov 24	Mustache Night —Clubbers wear fake mustaches
Dec 8	Awana Christmas Store —For Sparks & T&T
Jan 12	Duct Tape Night - Get creative with Duct Tape! Come to Awana and show off what you came up with. It could be an accessory or decoration on your clothes etc.
Feb 9	Wounded Night - <i>Come to Awana with a wound</i> Nothing gory or gross. Examples: Broken Leg, Casts, Slings, Neck Braces, Band-Aids etc. Get creative!
Mar 11	Skating Party for Sparks & T&T at Byron Center Fun Spot—Wednesday Night!!
Mar 29	Awards Night! Every child will be presented with an award on stage. There is plenty of room, so be sure to invite your family and friends.

Our Nightly Schedule

All clubs meet on **Wednesday** evenings from **5:20 - 7:00 pm.**

Please do not drop your clubber off before 5:10. The doors may be locked until 5:10 to allow our directors and leaders to prepare and set up their rooms for the evening. If you do arrive early, it may be beneficial to take the time outside to review your child's verses with them.

5:20—5:30 Opening Ceremony / Announcements

Cubbies have their own nightly schedules in their rooms.

	Sparks	T&T Boys	T&T Girls
5:30 - 6:00	Handbook	Handbook	Games
6:00 - 6:30	Council Time	Games	Handbook
6:30 - 7:00	Games	Council Time	Council Time

Snow Days

If the weather is bad we will make a decision by 3:00 pm on Sunday. The decision will be announced on WCSG 91.3FM, WZZM TV13 and WOOD TV8. We will also send a mass e-mail to let everyone know. If you are unsure, please call one of the Awana numbers listed as the Church Secretary may not be in the office.

Holidays

There will be NO club on these dates:

Christmas Break Dec 22, 2019

New Year's Break Dec 29, 2019

Bring a Friend Alternate Activity

Some of the Awana Books require clubbers to bring a friend to pass a section. We want our clubbers' friends to experience Awana, so we strongly encourage them to bring visitors. We do recognize, however, that although a clubber may ask friends to attend, those friends may not be able to do so. Therefore, clubbers may complete one of the activities below to meet the requirement. Sparks pick 1—T&T must complete both to pass the section (1 for each Bring a Friend)

- Make handmade invitations to Awana including the following information:

What: Awana

Where: Grandville Baptist Church
 4325 40th St SW
 Grandville, MI 49418

When: Sundays, 5:20—7:00 pm

Why: Learn about God, memorize Bible verses, play games, make friends

Show your completed cards to your leader **before** you give them to your friends.

Pass them out to your friends and write in your handbook who you gave them to.

Show your handbook to your leader the following week to receive credit.

This will take you at least 2 weeks—showing your cards to your leader the first week and showing them the names of the kids you gave them to the following week.

- Wear your Awana uniform to school and write down the date that you completed this. Have your parents sign the section next to the date.