

AWANA 2016-17

PARENTS GUIDE



SPARKS

First Baptist Church of Kingstowne
7313 Hayfield Rd, Alexandria, VA 22315
703-971-7077
www.kingstownebaptist.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the First Baptist Church of Kingstowne, we thank you for allowing us to partner with you in the spiritual, social, and emotional growth of your child through our AWANA program. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders in our homes, churches, and communities, and we take that responsibility very seriously. But AWANA is also a lot of fun, and we hope that we can share some of that joy with your family, as well.

This Parent Guide provides valuable information on how we conduct our AWANA program. We ask that you read it through, and then keep it handy for future reference. If you have any questions, please ask your club director, the AWANA ministry director, or call the church office.

We look forward to a great year with you and your family in our AWANA program!

Yours in Christ.

AWANA Ministry Staff
First Baptist Church of Kingstowne

Club Director Contact Information

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WHAT IS AWANA?

AWANA is an international ministry program whose mission is to help churches and parents raise children to know, love, and serve God. The ministry focuses on scripture memorization and application, using a variety of lessons, activities, and games to motivate and challenge children. First Baptist Church of Kingstowne conducts its AWANA ministry on Sunday nights, from 5:30 to 7:30pm, in the church's fellowship hall and classrooms.

AWANA is broken into several individual clubs, based on age groups:

Puggles - 2 and 3 year olds

Cubbies - 3 and 4 year olds

Sparks - Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades

Truth and Training (T&T) Ultimate Adventure (UA) - 3rd and 4th grades

Truth and Training (T&T) Ultimate Challenge (UC) - 5th and 6th grades

Trek - 7th and 8th grades

Journey - 9th through 12th grades

Each individual club is established on the same basic principles, but is tailored to the abilities and needs of its clubbers.

SPARKS HANDBOOKS

The Sparks club has an entrance booklet and three different handbooks:

Flight 3:16 - The entrance booklet, given to new clubbers when they start Sparks. Every Sparks clubber must pass the Flight 3:16 requirements before they can get a uniform and handbook.

HangGlider - The first-year Sparks book. All first-year clubbers will work in it, regardless of their grade.

WingRunner - The second-year Sparks book. To be eligible for WingRunner, clubbers must finish their HangGlider handbook and be in at least 1st grade.

SkyStormer - The third-year Sparks book. To be eligible for SkyStormer, clubbers must finish their WingRunner book and be in 2nd grade.

There are also review and extra credit materials available; consult your Director.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

Much of the success of AWANA depends on the encouragement and involvement of parents and guardians. Here are some ways that you can help your child. You can also find additional ideas at the AWANA website, www.awana.org.

1. Cheer your child on. Remember that your child's spiritual development has eternal value. Many times we get caught up more in cheering them on in academic, musical, and athletic activities than we do for spiritual activities.
2. Review your child's handbook with them. Encourage them to memorize scripture and complete activities.
3. Gently remind your clubber to spend 5-10 minutes each day memorizing verses.
4. Some handbook activities require parent input or signatures.
5. Some handbooks come with CDs. These CDs contain tools to help with scripture memorization.
6. Help your clubber keep track of uniforms and handbooks.
7. Make sure that your clubber arrives to club on time, and has their handbook, uniform, dues, and Bible with them.
8. Work with your club leaders to reinforce the lessons taught during the AWANA club night, and to resolve any issues that arise.



A TYPICAL SPARKS CLUB NIGHT

So what happens at AWANA? No two nights are alike, but they usually go like this:

Check-in - When clubbers arrive each evening, they check-in at the registration desk. There they pay their nightly dues and show their uniforms, handbooks, and Bibles (to earn AWANA points). This is a good time for parents to talk to leaders about any special situations and (if necessary) to settle their account.

Opening - The club night starts promptly at 5:30. All clubbers gather around the game square and come to attention at the 5-count. Clubbers recite the pledge to the Christian flag, the pledge to the Bible, and the pledge to the American flag. Leaders will give announcements about any upcoming events, and then lead the group in prayer. Clubbers will then be dismissed to their individual clubs.

Music Time - Sparks love their music. AWANA music time songs are lively and energetic, bringing praise and worship to God and encouragement to clubbers.

Large Group Time - During large group time, club leaders bring a devotional lesson based on that night's theme, teaching Bible concepts and application in a meaningful way to clubbers.

Small Group Time - During small group time, Sparks work in their handbooks, memorizing Bible verses and doing other activities. (It really helps if the clubbers have worked on their verses at home first!) Small group time also gives clubbers an opportunity to talk with their leaders about spiritual matters and find application of Biblical principles to their lives.

Game Time - The most fun part of the AWANA night! Sparks play fast-paced, exciting games around the AWANA game square. Clubbers are broken into four teams (red, green, blue, and yellow) and teams compete against each other for points.

Awards Time - At the end of the night, Sparks join up with the T&T club in the game square for the closing awards time. Leaders present awards to clubbers for individual achievement, such as finishing handbook sections, and repeat any announcements. Leaders then announce the night's winning teams, and close the night in prayer. As clubbers dismiss, leaders may take the opportunity to discuss the night's activities with parents.

SPARKS CLUB NIGHTLY THEMES

Sunday, September 11	What is a Spark?
Sunday, September 18	Bring a Friend
Sunday, September 25	Fill Up With Feathers
Sunday, October 2	NO AWANA - Revival services at FBCK
Sunday, October 9	Football Kick-off Toilet Bowl
Sunday, October 16	DOG Night (Depend On God)
Sunday, October 23	Paper Airplane Night
Sunday, October 30	Black Out (wear all black)
Sunday, November 6	Super Hero Night (come dressed as a super hero)
Sunday, November 13	Double Stuff (wear something blue)
Sunday, November 20	Stuffed Animal (bring your favorite stuffed animal)
Sunday, November 27	Stuff the Leader
Sunday, December 4	Silent Night (wear something red)
Sunday, December 11	Joyful Noise
Sunday, December 18	Pajama Party (wear your pajamas)
Sunday, December 25	NO AWANA - Christmas break
Sunday, January 1	NO AWANA - Christmas break
Sunday, January 8	Inside Out Night (wear your clothes inside out)
Sunday, January 15	Feeling Froggy (wear something green)
Sunday, January 22	Bad Hair Day (wear your hair crazy)
Sunday, January 29	King and Queen Day (dress like a king or queen)
Sunday, February 5	Crazy Hat Night (wear a crazy hat)
Sunday, February 12	Bag Me Night
Sunday, February 19	Smiley Face Stickers
Sunday, February 26	KINGSTOWNE DERBY - AWANA GRAND PRIX
Sunday, March 5	Boys Versus Girls
Sunday, March 12	Seashell Sensation
Sunday, March 19	March Madness
Sunday, March 26	Bible Baseball
Sunday, April 2	Ball Cap Night (wear your favorite team's baseball cap)
Sunday, April 9	Flip Flop Night (wear flip flops)
Sunday, April 16	NO AWANA - Spring break
Sunday, April 23	Hawaiian Party
Sunday, April 30	Wear Yellow! (wear something yellow)
Sunday, May 7	Barnyard Animals
Sunday, May 14	Girls Versus Boys
Sunday, May 21	Cowboys 'n Indians (come dressed as a cowboy or Indian)
Sunday, May 28	End of Year Party (Memorial Day weekend)
Sunday, June 4	Awards ceremony

FBCK AWANA 2016-17 MASTER CALENDAR

Sunday, September 11	Regular club night - week #1
Sunday, September 18	Regular club night - week #2
Sunday, September 25	Regular club night - week #3
Sunday, October 2	NO AWANA - Revival services at FBCK
Sunday, October 9	Regular club night - week #4
Sunday, October 16	Regular club night - week #5
Sunday, October 23	Regular club night - week #6
Sunday, October 30	Regular club night - week #7
Sunday, November 6	Regular club night - week #8 - end of first quarter
Sunday, November 13	Regular club night - week #9
Sunday, November 20	Regular club night - week #10
Sunday, November 27	Regular club night - week #11
Sunday, December 4	Regular club night - week #12
Sunday, December 11	Regular club night - week #13
Sunday, December 18	Regular club night - week #14
Sunday, December 25	NO AWANA - Christmas break
Sunday, January 1	NO AWANA - Christmas break
Sunday, January 8	Regular club night - week #15
Sunday, January 15	Regular club night - week #16 - end of second quarter
Sunday, January 22	Regular club night - week #17
Sunday, January 29	Regular club night - week #18
Sunday, February 5	Regular club night - week #19
Sunday, February 12	Regular club night - week #20
Sunday, February 19	Regular club night - week #21
Sunday, February 26	KINGSTOWNE DERBY - AWANA GRAND PRIX
Sunday, March 5	Regular club night - week #22
Sunday, March 12	Regular club night - week #23
Sunday, March 19	Regular club night - week #24 - end of third quarter
Sunday, March 26	Regular club night - week #25
Sunday, April 2	Regular club night - week #26
Sunday, April 9	Regular club night - week #27
Sunday, April 16	NO AWANA - Spring break
Sunday, April 23	Regular club night - week #28
Sunday, April 30	Regular club night - week #29
Sunday, May 7	Regular club night - week #30
Sunday, May 14	Regular club night - week #31
Sunday, May 21	Regular club night - week #32 - end of fourth quarter
Sunday, May 28	End of year party (Memorial Day weekend)
Sunday, June 4	Awards ceremony

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the case of inclement weather, we will do its best to continue operations while also considering the safety of clubbers, their families, and AWANA workers. In some cases, we may need to cancel a club night or operate with a modified schedule.

For the latest status information, please visit www.kingstownebaptist.org. You can also call the church office at 703-971-7077. We will try to send out email alerts, if possible.

We ask that everyone use best judgement for their particular situation.

NIGHTLY RELEASE POLICY

For younger clubs (Puggles, Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T), leaders will hold clubbers at the conclusion of the club night, until the clubbers are released to a custodial parent. This is for the safety and protection of our children. Children that come to club night with another family will be released only to that family. If other arrangements need to be made (e.g., children picked up by a grandparent, neighbor, or older sibling), please notify your club leader/director or the AWANA ministry director. Also, please notify us if there are any custodial issues that we should be aware of.

Once children are released from club, we ask that parents monitor their activities while on church property. Our parking lot can get busy, and we don't want to risk any injuries.

For older clubs (Trek and Journey), leaders will release clubbers on their own when club night is over.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Our AWANA activities are conducted in accordance with FBCK's Child Protection Policy, and all AWANA staff have gone through a screening and training process. For more information, please contact the church office or visit our website.

AWANA COSTS

Like any similar program, there are costs associated with FBCK's AWANA program. To keep the program affordable for everyone, we ask that families share in these costs. In particular, we ask that families be responsible for the costs of uniforms and handbooks. In addition, clubbers pay dues of \$1 each club night, to help defer the costs of awards, the AWANA store, and other incidentals.

2016-2017 Costs

	Uniform	Handbook	Dues
Puggles	\$11	\$6	\$1/week
Cubbies	\$12	\$12	\$1/week
Sparks	\$12	\$12	\$1/week
T&T	\$17	\$12	\$1/week
Trek	\$16	\$12	\$1/week
Journey	\$16	\$19	\$1/week

Uniforms - All clubbers must have a uniform (returning clubbers not advancing to a new club do not need a new uniform). In the Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T clubs, clubbers are not eligible to wear their uniform until they complete the entrance booklet, which typically takes a few weeks. When possible, we will order a uniform in advance (or draw from on-hand stock), and then present it to the clubber during their awards ceremony.

We support "uniform recycling." Previously used uniforms can be returned to the AWANA secretary, if desired. These uniforms will be offered to others at no cost. If you are interested in a recycled uniform or do not need us to order a new uniform for your clubber, please let us know.

Clubbers should wear their uniform every club night. Uniforms should be kept clean and neat, with awards attached properly.

Handbooks - All clubbers must have a handbook. Clubbers (except Puggles) will take their handbook home with them each week, work on it at home, and bring it back the following week. Clubbers only need one handbook per year. (In some cases, Sparks and T&T clubbers may need more than one handbook in a year - for more information, check with your club Director.) Entrance booklets, used in some clubs, are provided free of charge.

AWANA COSTS (CONTINUED)

If a clubber loses their handbook, they must purchase a new one. Loaner handbooks are available for use during club night, but must be returned at the end of the night.

Dues - Dues are \$1/night for each clubber. Dues should be paid to the AWANA secretary during check-in. Dues can be paid in advance or all at once, if desired.

Backpacks - Several different backpacks, sling bags, and handbags are available, ranging in price from \$7 to \$13. These are optional, but many parents report that the bags are valuable in helping clubbers "keep their stuff together." If you would like to order one, please see the AWANA secretary.

AWANA also offers other merchandise for sale. To check out the entire catalog, see the AWANA secretary or visit store.awana.org. By ordering through the church, you will receive 30% off the retail price. We provide this as a service; FBCK does not make a profit off your order.

Assistance - While we try to keep our AWANA program affordable, we realize that it may still be a significant financial challenge for some families. It is FBCK's policy that **no child will be denied access to AWANA (including uniforms and handbooks) because of inability to pay.** We can provide assistance in a number of ways:

- Payments for books and uniforms can be spread across several weeks.
- "Uniform recycle" can be used to obtain free uniforms.
- A number of scholarships are available to pay for handbooks, uniforms, and dues of clubbers that can otherwise not afford them.

For more information, contact the AWANA secretary or Ministry Director. If you do receive notification of funds due that you cannot pay, we ask that you talk to us rather than disregarding the notice, so that we can keep proper accounting of resources. All conversations regarding financial assistance will be held in confidence.

We would like to thank those people whose generous donations enable us to offer scholarships and subsidies. If you would like to contribute, please see the AWANA secretary or Ministry Director.

AWANA AWARD FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (SPARKS)

We believe that it is important that children (and adults) regularly attend a Sunday School program. Learning from God's Word with other Christians, at an established time and place each week, is a key ingredient for spiritual growth. To help teach our AWANA clubbers the importance of Sunday School, we have established an AWANA award for Sunday School attendance.

For Sparks, clubbers that earn the Sunday School attendance award receive a patch for their vest, plus 200 bonus AWANA points.

To earn the Sunday School award, a clubber must demonstrate regular Sunday School attendance, with **no more than two unexcused absences** during an attendance period. There are two attendance periods, each covering half of the club year:

<u>Attendance Period</u>	<u>Award Date</u>
September 18 to January 15 (18 Sundays)	January 22
January 22 to May 14 (17 Sundays)	May 21

Illness, family emergency, and being out of town will be counted as excused absences **if documented by a parent's note to the AWANA secretary** at the next club night. Regardless of excused absences, a clubber must attend at least half of the Sundays in a period to receive the award.

For clubbers that attend Sunday School at FBC Kingstowne, attendance records will be automatically forwarded from the Sunday School department to the AWANA secretary.

Clubbers that attend Sunday School at another church are also eligible to receive the award. Have your Sunday School teacher (or Pastor) fill out the following form, and return the form to the AWANA secretary before the award date.

AWANA Sunday School Attendance Verification

_____ (clubber name) has faithfully attended Sunday School at

_____ (church name) with no more than 2 unexcused absences

(mark one) Sept 18, 2016 to Jan 15, 2017 Jan 22, 2017 to May 14, 2017

_____ (signed by SS teacher or Pastor)

AWANA CLUB ATTENDANCE AWARD (SPARKS)

Regular attendance at AWANA is important for clubbers, if they are to grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially. To encourage regular attendance, we have established an AWANA Club Attendance Award. For Sparks, clubbers that earn the AWANA Club Attendance Award receive a blue jewel for their vest, plus 100 bonus AWANA points.

To earn the AWANA Attendance Award, a clubber must demonstrate club attendance, with **no more than one unexcused absence** during an attendance period. There are four attendance periods, each covering one-quarter of the club year:

<u>Attendance Period</u>	<u>Award Date</u>
September 11 to November 6	November 13
November 13 to January 15	January 22
January 22 to March 19	March 26
March 26 to May 21	May 21

Illness, family emergency, and being out of town will be counted as excused absences **if documented by a parent's note to the AWANA secretary** at the next club night. Regardless of excused absences, a clubber must attend at least half of the club nights in a period to receive the award.



DISCIPLINE

In the Bible, discipline refers not to punishment, but to actions taken to mold or shape someone. It has the same root as the word "disciple". At AWANA, we strive to take a positive approach to discipline, by regularly recognizing and rewarding good behavior. Here are some things we want you to know about.

KIDSTOWNE RULES - A summary of our expectations on clubbers:

Listen - pay attention to what leaders and others say

Obey - do what you are asked to do

Respect - show respect for leaders, other clubbers, and property

Do your best - in everything that you try to do

FIVE-COUNT - The five count is used to bring a group of clubbers to order. It is used during the opening ceremony and game time (and in some clubs, during other parts of club night, as well). The five-count starts when the leader or director in charge starts a slow and steady count from one to five. Clubbers are expected to become quiet and come to attention before the leader reaches the count of five.

POSITIVE POINTS - Rewards for achievement and good behavior (see next page).

THREE-COUNT - The three-count is used for the discipline of an individual clubber. It is a series of positive steps used to guide a clubber to proper behavior.

One-count - If a clubber is disruptive or otherwise displays inappropriate behavior, a leader will remind them of what is expected. If the clubber persists after expectations are made clear, they will be given a "one-count" as a warning.

Two-count - If another misbehavior incident occurs during the club night, a clubber will be given a "two-count". The club leader or director and the AWANA ministry director will have a private conference with the clubber to discuss appropriate behavior, the consequences of misbehavior, and how the clubber can comply.

Three-count - If inappropriate behavior persists, the clubber will be given a "three-count" and removed from the night's activities. The AWANA Ministry Director will explore with the parents and clubber how the clubber can avoid being disruptive in the future.

We pray that these simple measures will help make club night fun for everyone!

AWANA POINTS (SPARKS)

To promote good behavior and reward clubbers that give their best effort, we use a system called "Positive Points". Each week, clubbers earn "AWANA points" for achievement and good behavior. We will keep track of each clubber's point totals with our point-tracking software. These AWANA points can be used to purchase items at our AWANA store. They also contribute to the Sparks Nightly Team Award.

SPARKS AWANA POINTS TABLE

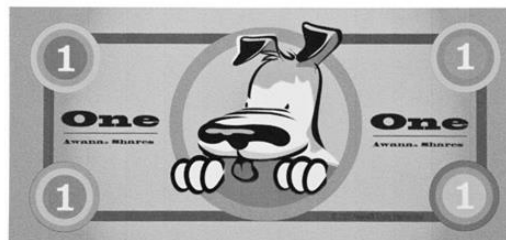
Wear uniform	10 points/night
Bring handbook	10 points/night
Bring Bible	10 points/night
Bring dues	10 points/night
Bring first-time visitor	100 points/visitor
Complete Flight 3:16 (entrance booklet)	20 points
Complete a rank section	10 points
Earn a rank emblem	10 points bonus
Complete a red or green jewel section	10 points
Earn a red or green jewel	10 points bonus
Complete an entire handbook	1000 points
Complete a frequent flyer section	10 points
Earn Club Attendance Award (1 per quarter)	100 points each
Earn Sunday School Attendance (2 per year)	200 points each

AWANA STORE

Clubbers can use their AWANA Points to purchase items at the FBCK AWANA store. For a list of items and their cost, please ask at the secretary desk. (The items available at the AWANA store may change over time, so if you want to be sure that a certain item is available, please let us know.)

The AWANA store will be open for business after the end of the AWANA club night (7:30pm) on the following dates:

- Sunday, November 6
- Sunday, December 18
- Sunday, February 19
- Sunday, May 21



SPARKS NIGHTLY TEAM AWARD

To motivate clubbers and make the AWANA club night more fun, each club night is also a competition between four teams - Red, Yellow, Blue, and Red. Each Sparks clubber is assigned to a team. (Visitors will be placed on the team of the clubber that brought them.) Throughout the night, teams will compete during game time, large group time, and small group (handbook) time.

Total Team Points (TTPs) = points won during game time + AWANA points earned by each member of the team throughout the night.

At the end of the night, the team with the most Total Team Points will be declared the winner. The winning team will be announced at the closing awards ceremony, right before dismissal.

(Total Team Points reset to zero at the end of the club night, although the individual AWANA points do not.)

