



August 2011

Dear Parent:

We are so glad that you are allowing your child to attend our Awana Club. This will be our 13th year to have the Awana Club at First Baptist Church and we are excited to see what God will do this coming year!

As in the past, our clubs are divided into the following groups:

Cubbies – 3 and 4 year olds (must be age three by 9/1/11) - Director is Aimee Duron

Sparks – Kindergarten through 2nd grade - Director is Hans Meinardus

Truth & Training (T&T) - 3rd grade through 6th grade - Director is Judy Carpenter

Our Awana Club is part of a ministry that began in 1950 and has spread all over the world. Today there are over 8,000 churches, covering all 50 states. There are over 1,900 churches in more than 90 other countries, from Argentina to Zimbabwe, from Iceland to Australia, who teach children through the Awana Club ministry. The word AWANA is actually an acronym based on 2 Timothy 2:15 and it stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed.

Our club will meet every Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. An Awana club meeting consists of three parts: game time, handbook time, and a Bible story time. Trained adults will see that your children are well cared for and that they have a lot of fun while learning God's Word. Our church will provide a safe environment for your children to learn. The only cost to you as parents will be your child's uniform (a price list has been included in this packet). However, if for any reason, the cost is prohibitive, I will be happy to visit with you about this.

Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of our 2011-2012 Awana year. You and your family are welcome to come and visit any time.

Norm Griffith
FBC-Grapeland Awana Commander





Parent Information Sheet

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of having your child with us each Wednesday afternoon for Awana. Here are a few items for your information:

1. Drop-off and Pick up

Our Awana Club meeting time will be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon. You may bring your child as early as 3:45 for check-in. We ask that you make arrangements to pick your child up promptly at 6:00 p.m. For drop off and pick up we offer a drive-through procedure as follows:

- Drive up (facing north) under the portico of Family Life Center.
- Tell the worker stationed there the name(s) of the child(ren) you will be picking up. His/her name will be called over the speaker system and your child will be brought out of the Family Life Center to you
- Please drive away slowly.

2. Costs Associated with AWANA

Rather than take up club dues as Awana suggests, we ask only that parents pay for their child's uniform. All other expenses are absorbed by First Baptist Church Grapeland. However, we do not want a child to not be a part of the Awana program because of a lack of funds. If this is the situation in your family, please contact our commander, Norm Griffith (903-714-5697). Your call and any subsequent arrangements will be kept in the strictest confidence. If your child is new to Awana, or has just promoted into the next club level, it will take a couple of weeks for him/her to earn their new uniform. If you want to pay now, we will note that his/her shirt/vest has already been purchased. If you choose to pay in a few weeks, please make sure your check has your child's name written in the memo section for accounting purposes. If your child is in the same club he/she was in last year and still has the shirt/vest, it will not be necessary to purchase a new uniform this year.

Prices for new uniforms:

Cubbies	Blue Vest	\$12.00
Sparks	Red Vest	\$12.00
T&T 3 rd -4 th	Green tee	\$14.00
T&T 5 th -6 th	Blue shirt	\$14.00

3. Uniforms, Awards, and Awana Store

One of the great draws for Awana is the awards that are earned and the monthly Awana Store at which the children can shop using their Awana Bucks earned during club meetings (Sparks and T&T go to store bi-monthly; Cubbies go once at the end of the year). In an effort to have all clubbers wear their uniforms more consistently, we

will not allow a child to receive an award or go to the Awana store unless they are wearing their uniform. No make-up store night will be offered for these clubbers. We are not doing this to be difficult; our goal is to teach clubbers the importance of following the rules. Any assistance you can offer to ensure that your child is wearing his/her uniform when coming to club meetings will be greatly appreciated.

4. Handbooks

One of the cornerstones of the Awana program is your child's handbook. This book contains "sections" that have Bible verses and curriculum that your child will work through to earn awards. The cost of the book is covered by First Baptist Church Grapeland. Please understand that this gift to your child is important – they cannot participate in Awana without a handbook. Since much of the material in the handbooks is designed to be worked on at home, please help your child bring their handbooks (and a Bible) back to club each week. There will be a \$10.00 fee to replace lost books.

5. Discipline

There are times when we encounter behavioral problems with some clubbers. When this happens, we cannot allow one child to disrupt the learning experience of others. We have set guidelines that address this problem and we feel you should be aware of it:

At first disturbance, the clubber is warned by his/her leader. (warning)

If there is a second disturbance, the clubber is taken to the Director for counseling then taken back to the classroom or game time. (strike one)

If there is a third disturbance, the clubber is taken to the Commander for stern counseling, time out, and then taken back to the classroom or game time. (strike two)

If there is a fourth disturbance, the clubber will be taken immediately to the church office and the parent or guardian will be called for pickup. (strike three) If this happens, we are sending the child home for only the duration of that week's meeting. The child may come back the next week if he/she feels they can behave appropriately. It is important to understand we are not "kicking" them out of Awana permanently. It is our desire to see any child here who truly wants to be part of the program.

6. How Clubbers Earn Points and Awana Bucks

As already mentioned, clubbers earn Awana bucks to spend at the Awana store. There are several ways to earn these. One is through the point system. At check-in, your child will be asked several questions and, depending on his/her answers, they are awarded points to be credited to their assigned team. Each member of the two teams earning the most points that week will be awarded either one or two Awana Bucks. Here are the questions asked:

- Are you on time to this week's meeting?
- Are you wearing your uniform?
- Did you bring your Bible and your handbook?
- Did you attend Sunday School last Sunday?

Clubbers may also directly earn Awana bucks in the following ways:

- By bringing a friend to a club meeting (if the friend actually joins Awana, your clubber will receive three Awana bucks!)
- By finishing his/her entrance booklet and earning the uniform
- By having perfect attendance for the quarter
- Special occasions (for instance, on a bad-weather day, the commander may elect to award Awana bucks to all clubbers who attended in spite of the bad weather)
- Caught with good behavior, or doing something nice for someone else (spot awards)

We hope this information is helpful to you as you encourage your child's participation in our Awana program. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to visit with your child's director or the club commander. Thank you again for this opportunity to minister to your child.



**2011-2012 Awana Calendar
FBC – Grapeland**

We will have club meetings every Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00 unless noted below. Please be aware that in the event of inclement weather, we will dismiss as deemed appropriate (in most cases it will be whatever the Grapeland Public Schools did that day).

At A Glance:

Registration	August 31
First Club Meeting	September 7
Last Club Meeting	May 9
Award Night	May 16
No Meeting	November 23
No Meeting	December 21
No Meeting	December 28
No Meeting	March 14
1st Quarter	Sept. 7 - Oct. 26
2nd Quarter	Nov. 2 - Jan. 11
3rd Quarter	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7
4th Quarter	Mar. 21 - May 9

Store Nights:

Sparks	T&T
October 19	October 26
January 4	January 11
February 29	March 7
May 2	May 9