



September 2011 - April 2012
Parent Handbook



Crossroads United Methodist Church - Children's Ministry
1420 N. Main Street, Washington, IL 61571 - 309.444.2381

What is Awana

The purpose of Awana clubs is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. The Awana ministry at Crossroads United Methodist Church teaches children that God loves them and that He wants us to love Him in return.

What does your child experience at Club

- Engaging Bible lessons
- Exciting games and activities
- Bible memorization
- Affirmation and encouragement from adult leaders
- Positive relationships with other clubbers
- Awards and recognition for accomplishments

Meeting times

Awana meets Thursday evenings from 6:15 - 8:00 pm and runs from mid September to the middle of April. For exact dates and theme nights please see the Awana calendar.

Age Groups & Clubs

Awana Club	Age	Check In	Drop off Location	Pick up Location
Cubbies*	3 and 4 year olds (must be 3 by September 3 rd)	Outside Multi-Purpose Room	Classrooms	Classrooms
Sparks	Kindergarten - 2 nd grade Boys and Girls	Outside Multi-Purpose Room	Multi-Purpose Room	Classrooms
Truth & Training Boys	3 rd - 6 th Grade Boys	Outside Multi-Purpose Room	Multi-Purpose Room	Classrooms
Truth & Training Girls	3 rd - 6 th Grade Girls	Outside Multi-Purpose Room	Multi-Purpose Room	Classrooms

*Cubbies - It would be nice if at least one parent could remain in the building during Awana until your little one is comfortable with the club routine. We would love to have you help in Awana while you are here or you can get involved in your own bible study. See the section on getting involved.

Registration

All children who participate in the Awana ministry must complete the Awana Registration Form included in this packet.

Security/Drop Off & Pick up

The Awana rooms will be open for children to arrive at 6:05 pm. Children will not be permitted in the rooms until that time. Before 6:05 pm all clubbers must be supervised by their parent or designated guardian. All clubbers must be signed in and picked up by their parents or a designated adult at the conclusion of the evening. No Awana child will be permitted in the hallways without leader supervision or permission.

What to bring to Awana

Each week, clubbers should bring their Bible and Awana handbook. Please leave additional toys and electronic devices at home.

For special theme nights, your child may be asked to bring a certain item(s). When this is the case, your child will bring information home explaining what they should bring and what the theme is. For more information about theme nights, see the calendar section.

What to wear

In addition to wearing their uniforms, we recommend that children attending Awana wear comfortable clothing, and tennis shoes in order to participate in the activities held on a typical evening. Some games may be difficult to participate in wearing skirts, heels, flip-flops, sandals, dress shoes, etc.

Costs

Dues : \$1 per club night. Dues help to cover awards, candy, prizes, crafts, and special events throughout the year. Parents may pay by the month, or year if desired. \$4 a month or \$28 a year.

Uniforms and Handbooks

Each club has an entrance booklet which must be completed before clubbers move into their handbook. Our uniforms and handbooks are priced as follows:

- Cubbies Vest \$10 & Handbook \$8
- Sparks Vest \$10 & Handbook \$9
- Truth & Training Shirt \$14 and Handbook \$8

Scholarships are available for those who have a financial need. Please contact Julie Puckett (678-7142) or Kris Ross (265-5475) for more information.

Discipline

Clubbers should come expecting to be treated as a child of God and to treat everyone else as a child of God. Courtesy and respect are expected at all times. Should problems arise, leaders will verbally remind the clubber of respectful behavior. If the misbehavior continues, the clubber will sit out of the current activity until he or she is ready to participate in a respectful manner. If the behavior persists after returning to the room, parents will be notified.

Wellness Policy

Please do not bring your children to Awana if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever - 100 degrees or higher within the last 24 hours
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours
- 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.

Inclement Weather Policy

When the weather is inclement we will make a final decision by 5pm on club night. You can find out if Awana activities are cancelled by the following:

- Generally speaking, if school has been cancelled due to a snowstorm or bad weather, so have our club meetings.
- Radio and local TV stations will be contacted if Awana activities are cancelled.

Helping your child

The Awana program is designed to help your child succeed, but the true success ultimately is up to you. Check out some specific ways you can help your child succeed in Awana.

- Take a look at the fun introductory brochure or handbook your child brought home. After completing the brochure, your child will begin working in a handbook. It would be ideal if your child completed two sections per week in the brochure or handbook. Each section ends with a space where the leader signs his or her name.
- Find a good time each day to work on verse memorization with your child. Five or ten minutes several times a week, they should be able to finish their book this year. Encouragement is the key!
- If you prefer that your child use a version of the Bible which is different from the version used in the handbook, this is acceptable. However, our leaders need a way to check the verse being recited. Please have your child bring the Bible or re-write the verse in your child's handbook as it is written in the other version.
- Please have your child learn the scriptural reference (your child may hear us refer to it as an "address") as well as the verse itself.
- It may be helpful to send a note with your child, write on a post-it, or initial the verses which the child is ready to recite each week.
- Prayer- (on your own and with your child) Please pray for the AWANA program.

Getting Involved

Our Awana program is run by volunteers just like you. Parents, grandparents, adults & teens are all needed to spend time sharing their faith with the children in our community. We would love to have you join the Awana Leadership Team. No prior experience in Awana is necessary. We only ask that you have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and a love for kids. We will provide the training for the rest. Everyone who works with children at Crossroads UMC must fill out a Volunteer Application and undergo a background check. To get started, please contact Julie Puckett or Kris Ross listed below.

Communication

In order to make club run as smoothly as possible communication is essential. We will be sending out periodic e-mails to let you know what is coming up in Awana. If you did not list your e-mail on your child's registration, please let us know. We would be glad to add you to the list. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Crossroads UMC
Awana Commander
Julie Puckett: 309-678-7142

Crossroad UMC
Awana Co-Commander
Kris Ross: 309-265-5475