

AWANA® Frequently Asked Questions

When & Where does AWANA® meet? We meet at Mill Run on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45 p.m. from September 7, 2011 – May 9, 2011. Check in begins at 6:10 p.m.

How do I register my child for AWANA®? You can register online at www.ualc.org/awana (August 1-September 2) or you can pick up a paper registration form on the youth bulletin boards at Mill Run or Lytham Rd Campuses. Note: Awana can be joined at any time during the club year (September-May).

What does the name AWANA® mean? AWANA® stands for Approved Workmen are Not Ashamed and come from the Bible Verse 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.”***

What age children can go to AWANA®? AWANA® is for children ages 3-6th grade. You do not have to attend or be a member of UALC to join AWANA®. *Please note that all Cubbies (preschoolers) must be completely potty trained, have turned 3 by September 30, 2011 and Cubbie parents must be on site either as an AWANA® volunteer or attending an adult class. Our Cubbie Class is limited to the first 40 children who register. A waiting list will be created for those registrations which exceed that number.* Sixth graders are welcome at Awana or they can also go to Impact Middle School Youth Group which also meets on Wednesday evenings at Mill Run. If you are an AWANA® volunteer or attending the adult classes there is a nursery available for children younger than 3 years old.

What are Cubbies, Sparks, and Truth & Training? These are the names of the different AWANA® clubs. Cubbies is for preschoolers 3 years (by September 30, 2011) to Pre-K. Sparks is for Kindergarten through second grade. Truth & Training or T&T is for third through sixth grades. This is broken down further into Ultimate Adventure for third and fourth grades and Ultimate Challenge for fifth and sixth grades. Cubbies is only available to the children of AWANA® volunteers or those attending an adult class. Cubbie parents must be on site. All children K-6 may participate in Sparks or Truth & Training.

What happens in an AWANA® meeting? There are three main parts to AWANA® meetings: Game Time, Council time (singing and large group Bible teaching) and Handbook Time (children recite the Bible verses they have learned and receive awards for workbook sections completed.) Each night children can participate in a theme such as Crazy Hat Night, Backwards Night, Bring a Friend Night.

Who will be working with my children in AWANA®? Adult and teen volunteers from our congregation who have a heart for working with children will be leading children through their large group teaching, games and handbook time. All volunteers 18 and older have been background checked and safeguarded.

How much does AWANA® cost? After completing an initial entrance booklet your child will earn a uniform (cost \$15) and handbook (provided by UALC). One uniform is worn for up to 3 years depending upon which club your child is in and the age at which he/she enters it. Cubbies and Sparks wear a vest and Truth & Training kids wear a T-shirt or Jersey. Most children complete just one handbook at year although a few children may complete their handbook and move on to either the next handbook or a review workbook which is an additional fee. Dues are \$1/week per child or you may prepay \$29 for the whole year. The dues cover not only the awards and prizes that your child earns throughout the year but also other program costs.

What if I can't afford the fees? Are there scholarships or family discounts? If you feel the costs are prohibitive, please see our commander or children's director for information on scholarships.

How can I sponsor a child in AWANA®? You can make a donation to sponsor one child's dues for the year for \$29, a child's uniform can be covered for \$15. So \$44 will cover the cost of one child for the year. If you wish to sponsor a child, please make a check payable to UALC and place AWANA® scholarship in the memo line.

I'm not a member or attendee of UALC, can my child still come to AWANA®? Absolutely, all children are welcome at AWANA®.

Can my child bring a guest? Yes, in fact, we encourage guests and bringing guest to our AWANA® club is one of the activities in the handbooks.

What if we are having trouble bringing a guest? We have a list of alternatives, please see your child's handbook shepherd or the secretaries for a copy of this list.

What should my child wear to Awana®? Your child should wear closed toed shoes preferably tennis shoes and pants/shorts are better than dresses as they get very active in game time. When your child earns his/her uniform that should also be worn to each club. Sometimes our theme dictates what your child may want to wear.

What happens while the children are gathering after check -in? Cubbie children will gather in their room and have supervised activities. Sparks and T&T children will gather in the Narthex and participate in group activities like a game or mad libs.

What should my child bring to Awana®? Your child should bring in a tote bag/backpack filled with his/her starting brochure or handbook, Bible, \$1 dues if they have not been prepaid. Please do not send your child with items that would be missed if they were lost or items that are distracting or disruptive to others.

When does my child get his/her book and uniform? Children initially receive a starting brochure that will take at least 2 weeks to complete. When the starting brochure is complete, the child will have earned the right to a uniform and handbook. After completing his/her starting brochure, your child is eligible for his/her uniform. The uniform will be given out when we receive the \$15 payment. If your child is in his/her 2nd or 3rd year of a club and has finished the starting brochure and his/her previous handbook last club year, then he/she will receive his handbook the first night of club.

How much work is involved in the handbooks? This varies by child but most children spend around 10 minutes per day working on their handbooks. Some activities involve memorizing verses or books of the Bible and other activities involve praying for people, writing a missionary, obeying your parents, learning about flag rules or going on a nature walk. The silver and gold sections in the T&T books are optional.

How many sections per week in the handbook should my child do? *Cubbie children* complete one section per week. The club stays together on the same section. If your child has missed one or more weeks in Cubbies he/she is welcome to make those up. *Sparks & T&T children* move through the program at his/her own pace. The books are designed to be done one/year however some children will do more than that a year and some less. There are very nice awards given at the end of the year for completing each handbook. If completing the handbook is your child's goal, generally he/she should expect to complete 2 sections/week in the handbook. Note that the "bring a guest" section in Sparks & T&T handbooks can be completed at any time but otherwise the books should be completed in order.

What if my child is not good at memorizing? Every child can be successful at AWANA®. Children work through the handbooks at their own paces and receive encouragement from a caring adult while reciting their verses. The verses vary in length as the children get older and are geared to the age of the child. We offer songs to help the children learn and other memorization tools. If your child has special needs, there are adaptations to the handbook that we can use.

What if my child finished his handbook before the end of the year? Please see your handbook shepherd or club secretary. If your child is in a grade older than his/her book, your child will just move on to the next handbook. If your child is in the grade for his/her handbook, we have extra credit cards/activities that he/she can complete for additional awards. There is a \$10 fee for each new handbook or extra credit workbook.

How is AWANA® involved in mission? We will have several mission projects throughout the year in which the children participate. We try to have kids helping kids. Also T&T Clubbers can participate in the optional Service Passports. Through the service passports T&T Clubbers complete 2 service projects to earn a pin for their uniform and can earn up to two pins a year. The secretaries have a list of possible service projects. If you have an idea for one that is not on the list let us know.

Who do we contact for the missionary sections in the handbooks? Please see the secretaries for a list of missionaries from UALC. If you know other missionaries, you are welcome to contact them as well.

What is the AWANA® store? Children in Sparks & T&T earn AWANA® Bucks in our program through wearing their uniform to club, dressing for the theme, completing sections in their handbooks, bringing a friend and if their team wins in game time. Children may then use these AWANA® Bucks to purchase items from the AWANA® store. This store will be open four times this year and will feature items of a variety of values and interests that will be fun for the children to work to earn.

What if we miss a week? It is okay if you miss and we don't hold meetings around the Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Ash Wednesday.) However children do earn stickers, jewels and points for attendance and it's easier for children to complete their handbooks in AWANA® if they have regular attendance. If your child is in Cubbies and he/she wishes to make up the verse for a week that he/she missed, please attach a note to your child's book indicating that. If we have a waiting list for Cubbies, any Cubbie who misses **3 consecutive weeks** of club, will give up his/her space in the class to the next child on the waiting list.

What are the awards? Sparks clubbers earn red and green jewels for handbook work and blue jewels for attendance. They can then put these on a pin on their uniform. Additional review after completing the handbook will earn an extra patch and pin. Truth & Training clubbers earn seals, bone pins or patches for completing sections of their handbooks. If they complete an entire book they get a patch. At the end of the year we have an AWARDS night in which children will receive participation certificates and if they finish their books will receive various ribbons and trophies. We encourage all parents and clubbers to attend this evening.

What if my child loses his jewel or seal or patch or book? A replacement can be purchased for a nominal fee.

I'm not good at sewing do I have any other options for the patches? If you do not want to sew your child's patches onto the uniform, you may purchase a badge adhesive sticker sheet from us. These are machine washable and shaped to fit the patches and will attach your child's patch to his/her uniform. Please see your club secretary if you wish to purchase one of these.

What is the Jamboree? The Jamboree is a party held on the last week of AWANA® (May 9, 2012) to celebrate our year. We have lots of fun games, prizes and a light supper. We ask the parents of younger children to stay and help their children go to all of the game stations.

How can I get involved? AWANA® is run by volunteers just like you. Just download our adult or teen volunteer form and return it to the AWANA® ministry table or the Youth Box at UALC. You can also contact us at AWANA@ualc.org. We have volunteer opportunities to lead activities in handbook rooms, to listen to children say their verses, to help with songs and drama in council time, to help with set up and clean up, to be a substitute, to pray for our ministry and to help with special events. All volunteers 18 and older are required to have a background check and photo ID badge issued through our safeguarding children program.

What if the weather is bad? How will I know if AWANA® is cancelled? If either Hilliard City Schools or Upper Arlington Schools close early or cancel their school day entirely due to inclement weather we will not have AWANA®. You can also check the church calendar on the web site at http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?list_by=week&ci=G1J4I3L6J4F0O9L6I3

Do parents or other family members have to stay while their children participate during AWANA®? Cubbie parents must stay on site either volunteering for Awana or attending another church program/class. Sparks and T&T parents do not have to stay on site, but they are invited to take part in other UALC programming which is available during the same time frame that AWANA® meets: iMPact for middle schoolers & several adult classes.

What if I have another question? Please contact us at awana@ualc.org.