

## **Questions and Answers About Awana 2020-2021**

We are excited to get back to Awana this fall! We will kick off the year on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30pm with an Awards Night to recognize all of the accomplishments over the past year. Then on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30pm, we will begin our regular meetings.

These plans were created with the approval of UALC and with lots of input from Sparks Director Lindsay Wylie, who is a pediatrician and has been very involved with UALC's re-entry plans to ensure the health and safety of the kids and volunteers who participate in Awana.

### **Will Awana meet in person this year?**

We hope so! We plan to meet in person as much as possible. Based on current guidelines, if Franklin County's public health alert level is yellow or orange, we will meet in person. If the level is red, we will only meet in person if the weather (and daylight) permit us to meet outside. On weeks that we cannot meet (inside or outside), we will offer virtual meetings, or families can choose to work on handbooks without attending meetings.

Because the guidelines are constantly under review and development, it is possible that these specific scenarios may change. We will communicate with families weekly to confirm whether we are meeting in-person, inside or outside.

### **What will in-person meetings look like?**

We will meet on Wednesdays, with check-in beginning at 6:30pm and meetings ending at 7:30pm (not 7:45pm). All activities will be in small groups of up to 10 people (including volunteers). Meetings will include opening activities, announcements, awards, group lessons, games, and time for kids to recite verses. We will meet outdoors when possible (weather and daylight permitting). We will still have fun theme nights!

### **What safety precautions will be taken for in-person meetings?**

We are taking many steps to reduce the risk of infection through limiting contact and exposure. The biggest change will be that all Awana activities will happen in small groups (up to 10 people including adult volunteers). Sparks and T&T kids and all teen and adult volunteers will be required to wear face coverings at all times. (Cubbies are encouraged to wear face coverings, but will not be required due to age.) We will do our best to maintain 6' distance, and we will not share supplies.

Kids will be dropped off and picked up at the front door instead of walking through the building. Families will be asked to complete the same symptom screening before Awana as before school. Kids will use hand sanitizer upon arrival and as needed during the meetings.

### **Will there be a virtual Awana option? What will it look like?**

Yes! Families can choose to enroll in virtual-only Awana this year. We plan for these meetings to be on Zoom or FaceTime (depending on what the group members have available) with time for sharing lessons

and listening to kids recite their verses. Kids participating in virtual meetings can also participate in our themes each week! We do not expect the virtual meetings to last an entire hour.

Awana has also created online videos and other resources that families can access at home to support their virtual Awana experience. You can find those resources at <https://www.awanaplus.com> and we will share specific resources throughout the year.

### **My kids (and I) are tired of virtual meetings. Can they still do Awana without attending meetings?**

Yes! Kids can work on their handbooks even without attending in-person or virtual meetings. Parents can sign off on handbook sections, or kids can connect to virtual verse listeners during meeting times without attending the whole virtual meeting.

Awana has also created online videos and other resources that families can access at home. You can find those resources at <https://www.awanaplus.com>, and we will share specific resources throughout the year.

### **How will we let you know how we plan to participate?**

Families can participate in the way that works for you, whether that is only in-person, only virtual, a mix of in-person and virtual (based on whether we are able to meet in-person), or just working on Awana handbooks at home without attending any meetings. We do ask you to choose one of these options at registration so we can plan for our groups and volunteers. You can find the registration links here: [www.ualc.org/awana](http://www.ualc.org/awana). If you need to make a change later in the year, let us know and we'll do our best to make it work.

### **Can we bring friends to Awana this year?**

For the first few weeks, we will not be able to have friends (unregistered guests) attend Awana. Once we confirm our group sizes, we hope to allow friends to attend. You will need to notify us at least one day in advance so we can confirm that we have space for the friend in our small groups.

Because of these restrictions, we will excuse the Sparks requirement to bring a friend this year.

### **How can I help?**

Be an Awana volunteer! We have an even greater need this year because of our smaller group sizes. Please consider joining our volunteer team as a small group leader or assistant, or helping us prepare for our meetings each week. We will give small group leaders detailed plans with announcements, activities, lessons, and guidance on verse listening. You can sign up to volunteer at [www.ualc.org/awana](http://www.ualc.org/awana)