

**faith***kids*

**presents**

# **A Parent's Guide to**



**at**

## **Faith Evangelical Free Church**

1400 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-3452

[faithfree.com](http://faithfree.com)

**2023-2024**

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# Welcome to Awana!

Dear Parents,

Faith Evangelical Free Church thanks you for allowing your child to attend Awana. We consider it a privilege to be able to minister to your family. Every clubber is special to us, and it is our desire to make each one feel loved and accepted.

*Awana's prayer is that children everywhere will come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. We show them from God's Word how they can know that God loves them unconditionally, and that He is a God who is always there for them to comfort them, to heal them, and to forgive them (2 Corinthians 1:3-7, Deuteronomy 32:39, Luke 5:24).*

*Awana is about a relationship, not religion. If your family does not have a home church, we invite you to join us at Faith. You can read more about what we believe in our statement of faith on our website ([faithfree.com](http://faithfree.com)).*

*Awana provides children with the building blocks for a sound spiritual foundation. The program equips them with the tools to resist the temptations of this world that would otherwise lead them to a life of trouble and sin. God has a better plan for them, and we desire that they know it (Proverbs 22:6, Jeremiah 29:11).*

*Awana is about serving. We're here to serve the Lord and to serve your family. Please call the church, your child's director, or one of the Awana Commanders if you ever have comments, questions, or concerns about our Awana program. Thank you so much for your support.*

In Christ Jesus,

Karl Krause  
(701) 620-3448  
Club Commander



### **CUBBIES**

Preschoolers ages 3 and up (program is designed for the last two years before a child enters kindergarten)

Director: Mrs. Lisa Hoplin

Email: [lhoplin@faithfree.com](mailto:lhoplin@faithfree.com)

Phone: 701-791-1030



### **SPARKS**

Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Director: Mr. Karl Krause

Email: [kkrause@faithfree.com](mailto:kkrause@faithfree.com)

Phone: 701-620-3448



### **TRUTH & TRAINING**

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Director: Mrs. EvLyn Rudd

Email: [erudd@faithfree.com](mailto:erudd@faithfree.com)

Phone: 218-791-6470

Contact Commander Karl Krause ([kkrause@faithfree.com](mailto:kkrause@faithfree.com) or 701-620-3448) with general club questions or concerns.

# What Is “Awana”?

Awana stands for **A**pproved **W**orkmen **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed and is taken from 2 Timothy 2:15, which says “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

Awana’s official website ([www.awana.org](http://www.awana.org)) has described the organization as follows:

***Awana helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong children and youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Our programs offer a proven approach for evangelizing and discipling kids in the church and community.***

*As a ministry leader for over 60 years, Awana is making an impact. A national survey found Awana to be as important to our alumni's spiritual foundation as all other church activities combined. Among alumni who participated in our programs for at least six years, 92.7 percent still attend church at least weekly as adults!*

Each week, more than five million kids ages 2 to 18 participate in Awana. This includes more than 4.5 million in 133 countries outside of the United States.

Faith has had an Awana club for several years, and currently it meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

# What Happens During an Awana Night?

Are you new to Awana? We have so much fun! Here's what a normal Awana night entails:

- **Opening**—Sparks and T&T clubbers will begin their Awana nights in the sanctuary, and they participate in the Opening Ceremony. We will sing together, and sometimes announcements are made at this time, too. (Cubbies, our preschool group, begins their club night in their own room—Room 102 on the lower level.)



After the Opening Ceremony, each club will participate in the following activities, each in a different order:

- **Large Group Time**—During this time, clubbers will hear from God's Word. They will learn more about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Leaders will help clubbers to understand how what we learn from God's Word should impact the choices we make each day. Sometimes the clubbers will also sing songs or hear special speakers.

- **Handbook Time (Small Group Time)**—Our goal for each child in Awana is that they complete one handbook within the year. As long as your child works steadily, he or she should be able to accomplish this. During Handbook Time, your child is able to demonstrate the work he or she has been doing at home and then continue to work toward the goal



of completing the handbook. Each child will begin with an entrance booklet and then move on to a handbook designed for his or her grade level. Once a child completes the entrance booklet, he or she is an official member of an Awana club (Cubbies, Sparks, or T&T) and is entitled to wear the club uniform. If your child finishes a handbook early, there are extra credit projects available.

- **Game Time**—Game Time is a highlight of the evening for many children. The clubbers are assigned to one of four color teams—red, green, blue, or yellow. A special Awana Game Circle is used during Game Time. It's a lot of fun!



- **Awards**—As the clubbers progress through their handbooks, they earn awards along the way. These awards can be displayed on their Awana uniform.

# Check In and Check Out Procedures



## PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THESE IMPORTANT POLICIES:

*Your child's safety is of utmost importance to us. Therefore, we have instituted policies in order to protect them.*

- 1) All Awana clubbers must be checked in by the adult who brings them. You'll find the check-in station for all clubbers upstairs in the foyer beginning at 5:50 p.m. An additional check-in station is located downstairs near Room 102 and is especially for Cubbies. At this time, clubbers will receive a name tag, and the adult who brings them will receive a corresponding security tag.
- 2) **Children will only be released to an authorized adult who is in possession of their security tag.** The person who picks up a child from our care must be 18 or older and must be a parent, guardian, or another individual authorized by the child's parent or guardian for pickup. Permission for other specific adults to pick up your child should be given when a child is registered for the Awana year. (If a change to that list of authorized persons is needed, please speak to the Awana Commander or check-in personnel.) If the individual picking up





the child is unknown to Awana volunteers, he or she may be asked to provide identification.

- 3) No child may be checked in by nor released to someone under the age of eighteen. This includes older siblings.
- 4) A security tag must be presented for all children at the time of pickup at the end of the night. If necessary, a picture of the security tag may be texted to an authorized person, and that picture can be shown to Awana volunteers in order for the child to be released into that adult's care.
- 5) Please pick up any Cubbies in your family first, then Sparks, and then T&T children—youngest to oldest. This order helps with congestion!
- 6) Please do not assemble for pickup before 7:25 pm. This is helpful both for security concerns and to avoid distraction for our clubbers in the last few minutes of club.
- 7) Pickup Locations (*Please notice that Sparks and T&T pickup is different than last year*):
  - Cubbies—Hallway outside Rooms 111 and 112  
Please line up on the right side of the hallway to allow those leaving to use the left side of the hallway. Note—Cubbies begin their night in Room 102 and end their night in Rooms 111 and 112.
  - Sparks—Room 103 (lower level)
  - T&T Boys—Fellowship Hall entrance near men's restroom
  - T&T Girls—Fellowship Hall entrance near nursery

# Awana Leader Information

Your child's safety and protection are very important to us. In order to ensure their safekeeping during the time you entrust them to our care, we have established policies for individuals who wish to volunteer in our Awana program. All leaders at Faith's Awana Club are required to be regular attendees of Faith Evangelical Free Church, and each has been trained to work in our club and thoroughly screened with a criminal background check.

You'll notice our leaders wear uniforms, t-shirts, and name tags to make them easy to identify. The colors of their uniforms and t-shirts have significance, and they help you understand that person's responsibility in our club or the club in which they primarily work.

Our pastor wears a navy blue Awana shirt, and yellow leader shirts may be worn by our commander and directors. Sometimes they wear Awana t-shirts or a shirt corresponding to their club, too. The commander supervises the entire Awana club at Faith, and directors lead individual clubs such as Cubbies or T&T, organizing club activities, assisting leaders, and leading Large Group Times. Leaders and student leaders are the individuals who work most closely with your children—they listen to your children's verses

each week during Handbook Time, supervise them during Game Time, and occasionally teach Large Group Time.



Leaders' shirts most often coordinate with the club in which they volunteer:

Royal Blue—Cubbies

Red—Sparks

Green—T&T

Our game leaders wear grey Awana shirts or referee uniforms.

Feel free to stop anyone in an Awana uniform or t-shirt if you have a question. He or she will be happy to help you!

# General Guidelines

- Our club night begins at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m.
- Please do not drop your child off before 5:50 p.m. In addition, please do not simply drop your children off in the parking lot as outside supervision is not provided. Please walk with them to the check-in stations and then to their designated area (for Cubbies, Room 102 downstairs, and for Sparks and T&T clubbers, their rows in the sanctuary).
- Pickup time is 7:30 p.m. If you have an emergency which causes you to be late, please call Commander Karl Krause (701-620-3448) to let us know. This way we can assure your child that you are on your way and he or she has not been forgotten.
- All clubbers will remain with their clubs at the conclusion of the club night. Parents MUST come into the building to collect their children at the end of the club night. Please do not send siblings to retrieve your younger children. The safety and health of your child is of the utmost importance to us.
- Clubbers should wear their uniform, bring their handbook, and, if they have one, bring a Bible to club each club night. Awana Bucks are given as a reward for each of these.
- All Cubbies need to be potty trained. If a child is not potty trained, a parent or guardian needs to stay in the building to assist with bathroom needs. If you need to assist your child,



please use the bathrooms on the upper level. A family bathroom is located in the fellowship hall.

- All clubbers must wear clothing that allows for them to both undress and dress themselves when using the restroom facilities. Leaders cannot help your child with difficult tops, pants, dresses, zippers, or snaps, etc. (This includes all Cubbie-aged children.)
- If your daughter in Cubbies, Sparks, or T&T wears a skirt or dress to Awana, please have her wear a pair of shorts underneath her clothes to ensure her modesty.
- All clubbers are required to have a completed registration sheet on file in order to participate in any games, activities, theme nights, etc.

We would like to thank you in advance for your help in both promoting and following these general guidelines. Together, we'll have a great year!



# Illness Policy

In order to help us prevent the spread of illness at our Awana Club, please keep your child home if they have:

- A fever (of 100.4 or higher) or have had a fever in the previous 24 hours. A child should be fever-free without medicine for 24 hours before coming to Awana.
- A runny nose in the 24 hours prior to Awana
- A bad cough
- A severely sore throat (even without a fever, this can be strep throat)
- Had diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Pink eye



Thanks for working with us. We want to do our part to keep everyone—both leaders and clubbers—healthy. Thank you for your cooperation!

Note: If your child becomes ill during the course of an Awana night, we will use the emergency contact information you provide to us to contact you to come and pick up your child.

*Source: Web MD*

# Handbook Help

- A “section” in an Awana handbook is everything between leaders’ signature boxes.
- When a handbook section contains verses to be memorized, all verses in the section must be recited in one sitting. The clubber may not say a portion of a section, study more, and then say the rest of the section. The entire section must be recited together to pass the section.
- The clubber is allowed only two helps from a leader per section. Review sections must be recited without help.
- Assist your clubber in completing sections by listening to verses at home, encouraging study time, and helping him or her complete required activities.
- If you have questions or concerns about your child’s progress through his or her handbook or special needs, please feel free to speak to a leader in your child’s club.

# Rewards



Clubbers receive awards that can be attached to their uniforms. For help with award placement, see your child's handbook.

As part of our Awana program, our clubbers earn Awana Bucks for each section of their handbook that they complete. Awana Bucks are a kind of Awana currency that can be spent in our Awana Store, where clubbers can purchase small items such as cars, stuffed animals, balls, stickers, and puzzles. Store Night is usually held once at the end of each semester.

# Memorization Tips

TIP: Make flash cards.

Have your child make flash cards, with verses on one side and Scripture references on the other. Lots of colorful markers and paper can make the task a breeze. Ask your child to draw a picture of what the verse means alongside the verse.

TIP: Review at night and in the morning.

Spend five or ten minutes at bedtime helping your child remember his verses. Then repeat them at breakfast the next morning.

*Tips from Parents of Awana Kids:*

Tape verses in a conspicuous area.

"My 8-year old daughter sleeps in the top bunk. She tapes her verse



to the ceiling. Every night before she falls asleep, she reads them through a couple of times."—*Dad, from Elgin, IL*

Use only the first letter of each word.

"Print the first letter of each word in a verse on a chalkboard or index card. As your child uses the first letters as clues to the next word, he is actually memorizing the verse."—*Cindi W., Milwaukee, WI*

Reverse roles.

"When your child is having difficulty learning a section, reverse the roles. Ask your child to 'teach' the section to you. This helps both you and your child learn the verse."—*William B. Tucker, Bonita Springs, FL*

Make it part of bedtime.

"My Cubbie daughter loves bedtime. I make her handbook part of the nighttime routine. We spend a few minutes going over the verses. At the next morning's breakfast table, we see how much she remembers!"—*Kim K., Port Orchard, WA*

Source: [www.awana.org](http://www.awana.org)



## **Attention Parents:**

Check the monthly club calendar card for all important times, dates, and events during the club year.



If for some reason your child doesn't bring home a monthly calendar card, you can check our church website or social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) for that information.

# Calendar for FEFC Awana 2023-2024

Remember, Faith's Awana is cancelled if Grand Forks Public Schools cancels their school day or after school activities. The schedule below is subject to change depending on snow days.

## September

- 6 Welcome Back Night
- 13 UND Color Night
- 20 Outside Game Night (Sparks and T&T only; weather permitting)
- 27 Western Night

## October

- 4 Double Bucks Night (Sparks and T&T only)
- 11 Popcorn with the Pastors
- 18 Meet-a-Goal Night (*There will be a prize for you if you are one-fourth of the way through your handbook on this night!*)
- 25 Bible Hero Dress Up Night

## November

- 1 Bring a Friend Night (Sparks and T&T only)
- 8 Kindness Night
- 15 Turkey Night
- 22 No Club
- 29 Backwards Night

## December

- 6 Chocolate Kiss Night
- 13 Christmas Colors Night
- 20 Birthday Party for Jesus; Sparks and T&T Store Night
- 27 No Club—Christmas Break

## January

- 3 No Club—Christmas Break
- 10 Halfway Through Night (*There will be a prize for you if you are half of the way through your handbook on this night!*)
- 17 Crazy Hat and Hair Night
- 24 Lego Night
- 31 Double Bubble Night

## February

- 7 Super Bowl Night
- 14 Valentine's Party
- 21 Meet-a-Goal Night (*There will be a prize for you if you are three-fourths of the way through your handbook on this night!*)
- 28 Bumps, Bruises, and Bandages Night

## March

- 6 Dot-the-Leader Night
- 13 No Club—Spring Break
- 20 Easter EGGstravaganza
- 27 No Club—Easter Week

## April

- 3 Balloon Bash Night
- 10 Favorite Hat Night
- 17 Beat the Clock Night
- 24 Last Night to Say Sections

## May

- 1 Pizza Party and Sparks and T&T Store Night
- 8 Awards Night

# Meet-a-Goal Benchmarks

Throughout the year, we will have Meet-a-Goal Nights to help our clubbers pace themselves as they strive for the goal of completing a handbook within the calendar year. We will reward children who have met these goals with prizes on those nights.

Cubbies and T&T work through their handbooks together, and clubbers in Sparks work at their own pace.

One-Fourth of the Way Through (October 18)

Cubbies: Bear Hug 5

Sparks: *HangGlider*: Rank 4; *WingRunner*: Rank 8; *Sky Stormer*: Red 1:3

T&T: Section 1:5

Halfway Through Night (January 10)

Cubbies: Bear Hug 12

Sparks: *HangGlider*: Red 2:1; *WingRunner*: Green 2:4; *Sky Stormer*: Green 2:3

T&T: Section 3.2

Three-Fourths of the Way Through (February 21)

Cubbies: Bear Hug 17

Sparks: *HangGlider*: Red 3:4; *WingRunner*: Green 3:3; *Sky Stormer*: Green 3:4

T&T: Section 3:8

# Awana Cancellation

Occasionally, it is necessary to cancel Awana because of inclement weather. We also will cancel Awana if Grand Forks Public Schools cancels their school day or after-school activities. These announcements will be made on our church website and social media (Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter).

## How Can a Parent Help?

**Help #1.** Help your child attend Awana every week. Consistency will build friendships and promote achievement. Friends are always welcome, so bring a carload every week!

**Help #2.** Clubbers need to bring their Bible and handbook/materials to club for every club meeting, unless instructed otherwise by their leaders.

**Help #3.** Once your child earns his/her uniform, please make sure they wear it to every club meeting. Uniforms promote unity and allow your child to receive and display additional awards he/she may earn. Clubbers must wear their uniform to receive their awards.



**Help #4.** Be on time! Pre-club activities start at 6:00 p.m. The club night runs from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please be prompt in picking up your child in order to help us promote safety.

**Help #5.** Help your child with his verses each week. This will help him earn various awards and cause him to feel a part of his club.



**Help #6.** Complete our online registration form with your child's doctor's name, phone number, and insurance information. This information, while we hope to never need it, might be very important in case of an emergency.

**Help #7.** Snow days—check our website ([faithfree.com](http://faithfree.com)) or our social media for club cancellations. Our policy is that if Grand Forks Public Schools are closed or after school activities are cancelled, we will cancel Awana. As a rule, snow days are not made up, although exceptions may be made.

**Help #8.** Clubbers are asked to pay a one-time \$25 registration fee. Your financial contribution helps us continue to offer Awana at Faith, and cover the cost of books, uniforms, and awards. You can pay conveniently online as you register. If you choose to pay by check, make it payable to Faith Evangelical Free Church with Awana on the memo line. If there are financial difficulties, contact the club commander, as there is scholarship help available. Our desire is that every child who wants to attend Awana is able to, so if there is a true need for financial assistance in order to attend, please let us know. Please note: Parents will be charged the replacement costs of lost books or uniforms.

**Help #9.** For safety reasons, please have children wear tennis shoes or shoes with nonskid soles for game time. Girls should wear shorts or pants under a skirt during games.

**Help #10.** Awana should be fun! Questions, comments, concerns? Call the commander or your child's director immediately.

# An Invitation

If you appreciate our Awana program, why not visit us on a Sunday morning?

## Our Services—When Do We Meet?



9:00 a.m. – Worship Service and Children’s Church for 2 year olds through kindergarteners (nursery care for children under 2 is also available)

10:30 a.m. – Church Fellowship

*Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and meet a new friend! We spend this time primarily in the foyer and the fellowship hall.*

11:00 a.m. – Faith Fellowship Groups and Sunday School

*Sunday School classes are available for children ages 2 through high school seniors. For adults, Faith Fellowship Groups are available. This hour includes fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. For more information, including descriptions of Faith Fellowship Groups, please visit [info.faithfree.com](http://info.faithfree.com).*

## What Do We Believe?

Feel free to visit our website, [faithfree.com](http://faithfree.com), to read our statement of faith or to listen to Sunday morning audio from Jason Holm, our senior pastor, or one of our other pastors. You may also watch our services on our YouTube channel.



We hope to see you soon!



