



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IN BOWIE

## Parent Information Guide 2017-2018



To reach young people and their families with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve the Lord with their whole heart.

[gbcbowie.org/awana](http://gbcbowie.org/awana)

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

Grace Baptist Church counts it a privilege to minister to your child and your family. We want to first thank you for allowing your child to come to Awana. We trust your child will have a great time and that after their first visit they will not be able to wait for the next Awana Club meeting! This booklet provides important information about the Awana ministry here at Grace Baptist Church. I am sure you will want to keep it in a safe place so you can refer to it throughout the year.

The Bible, in Proverbs 22:6, instructs us to “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Realizing that today’s young people are confronted daily with life-changing decisions, Awana’s Bible-based curriculum can assist you in establishing a firm foundation for their daily lives. Each young person is special to God and to our leaders who work in this ministry!

**Pastor Jamie Miller**  
**Pastor of Children and Administration**  
**Grace Baptist Church**

## GENERAL EVENING SCHEDULE

All clubs from Puggles through T&T start promptly at 7:00 pm each Wednesday unless otherwise noted in the calendar of events. Please do not leave your children unsupervised before 7:00 pm. Leaders generally arrive at 6:45 pm, however, parents should not leave their child unless their leader has arrived. It is also extremely important for parents/guardians to pick up their children promptly at the end of the evening.

Every club night consists of the following:

**Game Time** (except Puggles & Cubbies): Running, jumping, pulling, cheering, etc. in team competition. All games take place in the gym, therefore we ask clubbers to wear pants or shorts, and SNEAKERS. It would be unsafe to have your child running in sandals, socks, or bare feet.

**Handbook Time:** The clubber recites the verses or sections from their handbook that they studied the previous week to their leader. The leader is only allowed to give two helps per section, which includes help with the reference. The leader then signs the handbook/manual section that was completed in a single setting. Sections are to be signed in chronological order. Clubbers may be asked to explain a verse in their own words after reciting it. This helps promote memorization, retention, and understanding.

**Council Time:** This is a time of worship, singing, testimonies, and Bible stories. It may also include Awards Time, a very special part of the club night.

## **RULES AND POLICIES**

Show respect for God's House, God's Name, and God's Word.

Show respect for God-given authority

Have a loving, positive, Christ-like attitude towards other Awana clubbers and leaders.

Respect church property and the property of others.

Participate in all club activities: game time, handbook time, and council time.

No running in the building at any time except during Game Time.

Awards will be given to clubbers who are wearing their uniform.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is the process of teaching acceptable behavior and self-control.

Clubbers are required to come to attention and stop talking whenever a leader begins a 5-count for a group of clubbers.

Individual misbehavior may require use of the 3-count by directors or commanders. 1) When a child continues to act inappropriately after gentle reminders, a leader may give a one count. 2) If the clubber continues to create disturbances and disobey leaders, the clubber is given a two count. The clubber is pulled aside and talked to by a director and/or commander

and is told that continued misbehavior will result in a three count, which means suspension for at least a week. 3) If a clubber continues to create problems, he is placed on a three count. Clubber is removed from club and parents/guardians are asked to pick up their child immediately. Parents will be told of problem and told that the child will be welcomed back provided the clubber adheres to acceptable standards of conduct.

## **PASSING HANDBOOK SECTIONS**

The clubber must pass an entire section (all verses, answers, and word definitions) during one session. They cannot look at handbook during the recitation of the section.

Clubbers must pass sections with no more than two helps. A help equals three words or less, or any other hint. Review sections must be passed with no helps.

Clubbers must recite the reference and the verse. If a leader supplies the reference, it counts as one help.

Clubbers must answer any additional questions and complete any additional activities, including BrainChecks, within the section.

Clubbers must pass sections in order, unless otherwise noted in the handbook.

Clubbers must answer questions and give word definitions in their own words.

## **EARNING ATTENDANCE AWARDS**

A **Church attendance award** is given twice a year. A clubber must attend Sunday School or a church service without missing more than two Sundays in the period. Sickness, being out of town, or other reasons deemed by director to be acceptable constitute excused absences.

The **Club attendance award** is earned each quarter if the Clubber attends every scheduled club night except for one. Excused absences include sickness, out of town with family, mandatory school functions, or other reasons deemed by director to be acceptable.

## **BRINGING A FRIEND TO AWANA**

This section requires that the clubber bring a visitor to an Awana club at Grace who does not attend any other Awana clubs. If extenuating circumstances make it difficult to bring a friend, one of these may be used:

Invite 3 friends. Ask your parent to sign a paper for your leader that says you have invited them to club.

Do an outreach program – visit a nursing home, pass out flyers to a church special program or function, bring a friend to a special event, etc.

Wear uniform to school and be prepared to explain Awana to your classmates. Bring a note from your parent stating what you did.

## **AWANA AWARDS**

CLUBBER OF THE MONTH is awarded to clubbers who did not necessarily recite the most Scripture, but who displayed a positive attitude and good behavior throughout the month.

FIRST BOOK AWARDS: On completion of the clubber's first handbook, Puggles get a participation certificate; Cubbies get a miniature Cubbie Bear; and Sparks earn a First Book Ribbon.

SPARKS BOOK AWARDS: In the Sparks club, a clubber can earn a Second Book Ribbon for completion of two handbooks. If a clubber completes all three Sparks handbooks, they are eligible for the Sparky Plaque and have qualified to attend the regional Sparks Camp-A-Rama.

ALPHA AWARD is awarded for completion of one handbook (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

EXCELLENCE AWARD is awarded for completion of two handbooks (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

CHALLENGE AWARD is awarded for completion of three handbooks (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

TIMOTHY AWARD is awarded for completion of four handbooks (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

MERITORIOUS AWARD is awarded for completion of six handbooks (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

CITATION AWARD is awarded for completion of all ten handbooks (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **POINTS AND TEAM COMPETITION**

Teams will be assigned the first night your child attends club and may be changed periodically to ensure balance. Visitors may be on the same team as the clubber who brought them. If that same visitor returns to club, they may be placed on another team depending on total team balance.

**Points will generally be awarded for the following items, but may vary from club to club:**

**WEARING THE UNIFORM**

**HANDBOOK (or entrance booklet)**

**VISITOR BROUGHT TO CLUB**

**BRINGING BIBLE TO CLUB**

**ATTENDANCE AT CLUB**

**SECTIONS COMPLETED**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

**GAME TIME**

Clubbers may say as many sections as they can in one evening, but may be limited to two at a time to give others a chance to say sections.

Bonus points may be given at the discretion of the leadership. Competition is weekly unless otherwise stated.

Points are earned for participating in theme nights.

Points directly relate to Awana shares, which can be redeemed for items when the clubbers club visits the Awana store.



## FAQS ...

**What do we do during inclement weather?** Awana will generally be cancelled if Prince George's County schools are closed or dismissed early. Parents/guardians may also check the church website for details: [www.gbcbowie.org](http://www.gbcbowie.org).

**What is the Awana store?** The Awana store increases enthusiasm, motivates clubbers in their achievements, and is an alternative to the use of candy as an incentive. The store offers a selection of prizes to choose from by exchanging shares for prizes.

**What is the Grand Prix and who can participate?** The Awana Grand Prix is a model car race event for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Clubbers may purchase small pine blocks of wood and plastic wheels to construct their cars, usually with the help of a parent/guardian or leader. During the actual Grand Prix, clubbers compete within their own club in two categories: speed and design. A hot wheels race will take place for Sparks.

**What is Bible Quizzing?** Bible Quizzing is a competitive event for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades which tests clubber's knowledge of handbook material and provides individual recognition and awards. The competition motivates young people from various churches to increase their Bible knowledge.

**What is the Sparks-A-Rama?** Sparks-A-Rama is an annual event that brings together clubs, clubbers, leadership, and different churches as determined by the Awana missionary. It is a day of fun that features six Sparks games.

**What are the AwanaGames and for whom are they designed?** AwanaGames are an annual sporting event for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades, played on an AwanaGames circle among area clubs. Each church competes with three other churches. The underlying purpose of the games is to reach out to clubbers' families and friends with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This unique ministry has grown tremendously over the years.

## **Sickness Policy**

**Please keep your child at home with any of the following symptoms or illnesses:**

- Conjunctivitis ( pink eye)
- Chicken pox
- Diarrhea
- Vomitting
- Fever within last 24 hours
- Impetigo
- Measles
- Mumps
- Questionable rashes
- Runny nose

If your child is being treated with antibiotics, he/she should be on the medication for at least 24 hours before returning to any Children's Ministry program.

If your child has some of the above symptoms due to non-contagious allergies, just let us know.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Pastor of Children and Administration, Pastor Jamie Miller.

Contact Info: [jmiller@gbcbowie.org](mailto:jmiller@gbcbowie.org)  
(301) 262-1767 Ext 225

## **Dues & Costs 2017-2018**

### **Membership Dues (per family)**

1 Clubber	\$15.00
2 Clubbers	\$25.00
3 or more Clubbers	\$30.00

### **Handbooks**

Puggles Take-home cards	\$14.00
Cubbies	\$11.00
Sparks	\$11.00
Sparks Frequent Flyer Extra Credit	\$10.00
T&T 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$11.00

### **Uniforms**

Puggles	\$10.00
Cubbies	\$11.00
Sparks	\$11.00
T&T 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$16.00
T&T 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$16.00

### **Bookbags**

Cubbies	\$ 7.00
Sparks	\$ 6.00
T&T Sling Bag	\$ 8.00

## Puggles: Boys and Girls (Age 2 by 9/1/17)

NOTE: Number of Puggles is limited to 20 children.

**UNIFORM:** The Puggles uniform is a T-shirt for our 2 year olds to proudly wear. Our little “Puggles” love to learn God’s Word in bits just for their age group!

**SUPPLIES:** Each Puggle needs to come ready to learn with their uniform each week. A story card is sent home each week so that parents can help reinforce what is learned during Puggles time.

### EVENING SCHEDULE:

7:00 – 7:20	Song and Story Time
7:20 – 7:50	Craft Time
7:50 – 8:00	Free Play
8:00	Pick-up Time



# **Cubbies: Boys and Girls Age 3 and 4**

## **(Must be 3 by 9/1/17)**

**Executive Director:** Gen Miller

**Secretary:** Debbie Guidry

**UNIFORM:** The Cubbies uniform is a blue vest.

**SUPPLIES:** Each Cubbie needs to come ready to learn with their uniform and handbook each week. NOTE: a bag to carry supplies is available for purchase.

### **EVENING SCHEDULE:**

7:00 – 7:10	Handbook and Sharing Time
7:10 – 7:40	Music and Story Time
7:40 – 8:00	Free Play and Handbook Time
8:00	Pick-up Time

**PACING SCHEDULE:** You should work with your Cubbie each week by reading the section for the week and reviewing the Bible verse. Cubbies should be prepared to complete one section per week. Please check inside your Cubbies manual for a pacing schedule.



# Sparks: Boys and Girls K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

## (Must be in K for 2017-2018 school year)

**UNIFORM:** Red vest.

**SUPPLIES:** Wear sneakers and uniform. Bring handbook and Bible to each club meeting.

### **EVENING SCHEDULE:**

7:00 – 7:20	Game Time
7:20 – 7:45	Handbook Time
7:45 – 8:05	Green Meadow Time
8:05	Pick-up Time

### **PACING SCHEDULE (to complete manual by end of year):**

	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Qtr(11/01)</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr(1/17)</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr(3/14)</u>
HangGlider	Rank Test	Red Jewel 2 Section 1	Green Jewel 3 Section 4
WingRunner	Red Jewel 1 Section 4	Red Jewel 2 Section 4	Green Jewel 3 Section 4
SkyStormer	Red Jewel 1 Section 4	Red Jewel 2 Section 4	Green Jewel 3 Section 4

## T & T: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

**UNIFORM:** Green Ultimate Adventure Uniform for 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Blue Ultimate Challenge Uniform for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**SUPPLIES:** Wear sneakers and uniform. Bring handbook, Bible and pen or pencil.

### EVENING SCHEDULE:

7:00 – 7:30	Council Time
7:30 – 8:00	Handbook Time (boys) Game Time (girls)
8:00 – 8:30	Handbook Time (girls) Game Time (boys)
8:30	Pick-up Time

### PACING SCHEDULE (to complete manual by end of year):

**Mission: Evidence of Grace – Complete 8 sections each quarter**

1<sup>st</sup> quarter ends 11/01; 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ends 1/17; and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ends 3/14.

# **AWANA CALENDAR 2017-2018**

## **Wednesdays 7:00 pm**

<b>September</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1st night</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>Goofy Glasses Night</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>T&amp;T Parent Night</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>Sparks Parent Night</b>
	<b>18</b>	<b>Awana Missionary Visit</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>Costume Night</b>

### NOVEMBER - TOYS FOR THE NEEDY MONTH

<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Awana Club Night; End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>Honor Your Military Night</b>
	<b>15</b>	<b>Grand Prix; Sparks Hot Wheels</b>
	<b>22</b>	<b>No Awana - Thanksgiving Break</b>
	<b>29</b>	<b>Awana Club Night Double Shares</b>

### DEC - JIREH TOILETRIES MONTH

<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>Christmas Red Night; Awana Store</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>No Awana - Christmas Break</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>No Awana - Christmas Break</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Double Shares</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>T&amp;T Parent Night</b>
	<b>17</b>	<b>Sparks Parent Night; End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>
	<b>24</b>	<b>Halfway Night (If completed ½ book this year, get to throw pie at commander</b>



<b>January</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Favorite Sports Team Night</b>
		<b>FEBRUARY - GO REACH MONTH</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>16-17</b>	<b>T &amp; T Lock In (GBC &amp; Jireh Place)</b>
	<b>21</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>Superhero/Princess Night</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Awana Club Night; End 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>
	<b>21</b>	<b>T &amp; T Parent Night</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>Sparks Parent Night</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>No Awana – Easter Break</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>Silly Hat Night</b>
	<b>18</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>Awana Club Night</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Awana club night; 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to Jireh</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>Hawaiian Night; Double Shares</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>CLOSING NIGHT - Puggles &amp; Cubbies Sparks &amp; T&amp;T last regular club night End 4th quarter</b>
	<b>23</b>	<b>AWARDS NIGHT – Sparks meet in rooms at 6:45pm ;Sparks and T&amp;T go to sanctuary at 7pm</b>

## HOW CAN A PARENT BE INVOLVED?

**The success of your clubber's AWANA year depends greatly on the involvement of you, the parent. Here are some ideas to get you thinking about ways to help your child have a super year:**

- **Help** your clubber pass sections (Sparks and T&T) each week, working to help him or her understand and apply each memory verse.
- **Read** every flyer brought home by your child ... they are important!
- **Volunteer** to be an AWANA listener – we need help listening to all the sections the clubbers have worked so hard to prepare each week
- **Attend** special events in which your child is involved.
- **Encourage** your child in their efforts. Help them to understand the importance of memorizing scripture and in becoming involved



**Wednesday Night Call Center:**  
**240-898-2044**

**Church Office Phone (8:30am - 4:30pm):**  
**301-262-1767**