



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ALLEGAN

**Kindergarten–Second Grade**

**Parents/Guardians continue to give some assistance to the Sparks as they work on their sections.**

**Directors   Brittney VanVolkinburg   (616) 828-9526**  
**Sarah Woodhams                   (269) 779-0671**

Dear Awana Families,

Thank you for allowing your child to come to our Awana Club. We hope your child has a great time with all the exciting activities our club has to offer!

The focus of Awana is to teach boys and girls Biblical truths and to be approved workers who are not ashamed. (II Timothy 2:15)

Our children are confronted with difficult decisions. Awana's Bible-based program seeks to establish them on a firm biblical foundation that will provide guidance for many of the challenges they face. Each clubber is very special to us and to God.

Awana provides an opportunity for your child to establish and grow in their relationship with God. Through team cooperation and individual achievement, Awana promotes the building of self-esteem and good relationships with others. By encouraging your child to complete handbook sections and by showing interest in their achievements you can make Awana an enjoyable experience.

We welcome your visits to club meetings and we look forward to an amazing year with your children!

Sincerely,

Nathan Smith  
Awana Commander

### ***How to help your child THRIVE in AWANA***

Parents and Guardians are essential helpers in the enjoyment of Awana. Please consider the following tips in order to allow your child to get the most from his/her Club:

- Help your child to attend Awana every week.
- Make sure they wear their uniform and bring their handbooks each week.
- Be sure they arrive on time: 6:15-6:30 p.m. Promptness helps maintain good discipline.
- Attend all major events. Parents and guardians are always welcome to attend any club meeting.
- Pick up your child promptly at 8:00 p.m. All clubbers need to be picked up from their classroom by a parent/guardian.
- Always encourage your child. Children have more fun when their parents or guardians show interest in their accomplishments.
- Set aside a few minutes at bedtime, after dinner or Sunday afternoons to review your child's verses with them. Bible memorization is a great way to help children make good decisions later in life.



Awana  
Clubs



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### SPARKS

**S** is for Savior

**P** is for Power

**A** is for According to the scriptures

**R** is for Raised

**K** is for Keep

**S** is for Saved

### Sparks Song:

We are Sparks for Jesus, Sparks to light the world.  
We will shine for Jesus, as we tell each boy and girl.  
We will hide God's Word in our hearts.  
We will serve Him right from the start.  
From His love we never can part.  
For we are Sparks, Sparks, Sparks, Sparks, Sparks  
to light the world.

Sparks is the Awana program for kids in kindergarten to 2nd grade. The goal of Sparks is to ignite the curiosity of clubbers to learn about God's people and the Bible so they can build a strong foundation in their relationship with Jesus. Lessons include stories, Bible memory verses and fun activities.

Sparks involves parent/guardian participation and commitment. The program is built on a series of handbooks that contain verses and activities for parents/guardians and children to complete throughout the year. Each week a clubber should come to Awana ready to say a memorized verse as they work through their handbook.

The Sparks series of handbooks are the following and a review book for each: Hang Glider, Wing Runner, and Sky Stormer. Each child (regardless of grade when starting the program) will begin with the Hang Glider handbook. Handbooks are completed consecutively on an individual basis. Your child is then able to work at a pace that is most comfortable to them, and truly learn each verse before moving on.

If your child does not finish their handbook during the Awana year, please keep it and bring it back the following year. They will start where they left off and must complete it before moving on to the next handbook.

If your child does complete their handbook and there is time left in the year, they have the option to complete a review book which contains all the verses of the handbook they just completed as well as new ones. Completing the review book will allow them to receive additional camp scholarships money, and an exclusive pin for their vest.

To ensure that your Sparks benefits from the evening club's activities could you please:

- Study with them between meetings, memorizing with your child is such an encouragement to them!
- Have your clubber wear their Sparks vest to club each week and have fun with the dress-up themes.  
\*Uniform Vests may be purchased from Sparks Directors.
- Be on time to drop them off and pick them up each week.

We look forward to this new year of Sparks fun!

**Materials and Costs:** It is the desire of our church that no child be deprived of participation in Club because of costs. If you find that some of the expenses are too high for your family, feel free to talk to your director.

**Sparks Price List**

Handbook - HangGlider (K)	\$10.00
Handbook - WingRunner (1)	\$10.00
Handbook - SkyStormer (2)	\$10.00
Uniform Vest - Sizes S – XXL	\$10.00
Handbook Bag <i>Optional</i>	\$ 5.00
Music CDs <i>Optional</i>	\$10.00

**Payment Options:** Cash or Check can be given to Club Directors or you can pay online by scanning this QR Code.



**Check-In: Check-in starts at 6:15 p.m.** When coming to Awana you will want to check your clubber in using our electronic check-in system located in the upstairs lobby or near the gym entrance. This will print you a sticker name tag for each child and a parent/guardian tag that you will use at Check Out. Your clubber should wear their sticker name tag throughout the evening. Sparks and T&T club members will check in with Awana Leaders at the downstairs check-in spot to get their points counted for the night.

**Cubbies: Report to Room 235**

**Sparks & T&T: Report to the gym following Check In**

**Check Out: Check out starts at 8 p.m.** At 8 pm parents/guardians should report to Awana rooms to pick up your clubbers using the parent sticker you received at check-in. Each room has an entrance door and exit door for pick up. This allows for parents and kids to easily flow through the room. All clubbers need to be picked up from their classroom by a parent/guardian.

**Cubbies: Room 235**

**Sparks: Room 125**

**T&T: Room 126**

<b>Important Dates:</b>	<b>Awana Begins</b>	<b>September 20, 2023</b>
	<b>Thanksgiving Break, No Awana</b>	<b>November 22, 2023</b>
	<b>Christmas Break, No Awana</b>	<b>December 20, 2023</b>
	<b>Christmas Break, No Awana</b>	<b>December 27, 2023</b>
	<b>Awana Grand Prix</b>	<b>February 28, 2024</b>
	<b>Spring Break, No Awana</b>	<b>April 3, 2024</b>
	<b>Awana Closing Ceremony</b>	<b>April 10, 2024</b>

**Awana Camp Scholarships:** It is our joy to celebrate the accomplishments of Awana Clubbers who complete their handbooks during the Awana program. Camp Scholarships are given out to individuals and are not transferable to another person or family member and must be used in the same year as it was earned (no roll over).

*Sparks Program Scholarship Amounts*

- \$ 100 - complete one book
- \$ 125 - complete two books
- \$ 150 - complete all three Sparks books
- \$ 25 - additional scholarship for completing Review Book (one per year)

**Weather Updates:** In case of bad weather, the church staff along with the commander will determine whether to cancel club. Listen to WoodTV 8 OR watch the First Baptist Church Facebook page for cancellation information.

**Discipline Policy:** Group Discipline The 1-5 Count system is used for group discipline. The leader counts from 1-5 with the expectation that the clubbers will be silent by the time leader gets to "5". If spoken with authority (with some grace) and enforced, this process is quite effective. If a group does not comply then the whole group must sit silently for a minute or two before moving on to the next activity. If it continues to be a problem, we remind them we will have to miss some game time.

Individual Discipline - 3 warning system

All leaders/directors and commander need to be in constant communication to be able to identify situations when individuals have "been warned".

Warning 1 - when a child does not comply with the adult or misbehaves in some way, the adult gently reminds the child of the rules and explains the infraction, and gives the first warning.

Warning 2 - If the child continues to disrupt (that same night) child and leader will talk to the commander (if available) or director. The commander or director will take the child aside and be very specific with the child (discuss rules, infractions, possible reasons for misbehavior, and eventual consequences.) Depending on the severity of the behavior and availability of personnel director or commander may have the child sit out of game time that evening.

Warning 3 - If a child continues to misbehave, the child will be warned a third time and a meeting with parents must be called. (If this can be handled at pick-up that is great.) Parents will be told of all behaviors leading up to the meeting and a review of the behavior policy will take place. \*Depending on the severity of the infraction the child may be asked not to return for one week of club.

After a child has been through all three of these warnings and comes back to club, he or she will get a clean slate. However, if the clubber returns and the behavior continues, they will have the three warnings described above. If after the second time of speaking with the parents the child's misbehavior continues, the commander and director will meet with the parents to determine what is the best course of action.

\*The FBC Awana program reserves the right to suspend the attendance of a child after one meeting with the parent if the misbehavior arises to a point that endangers or threatens the safety of other clubbers or leaders.