

Highland Park Church



Awana Guide

For Clubbers and
Their Parents

Highland Park Church
4115 38th St.
Columbus, NE 68601
(402-564-5853)

AWANA STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is supernaturally inspired, so that it is inerrant in the original manuscripts and preserved by God in its verbal and plenary inspiration, so that it is a divinely authoritative standard for every age and every life. (Matthew 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

GOD

We believe in one God that eternally exists and reveals Himself in three persons - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - having each the same nature, attributes and perfections, worthy of the same worship and confidence. (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; John 1:1-2, 14, 10:30, 14:15-17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14) We believe in God as absolute and sole Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and that creation was by divine command, from nothing and not through an evolutionary process. (John 1:3, 10; Acts 17:24-25; Genesis 1:1) We believe that God, by His sovereign choice and out of love for men, sent Christ into the world to save sinners. (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 4:14)

GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ was fully God in the flesh and fully man, that He was born of a virgin and that He lived a sinless life, in which He taught and performed mighty works and wonders and signs exactly as revealed in the four gospels. We believe that He was crucified, shed His blood, died to pay the penalty for our sins and was raised bodily from the dead on the third day. Forty days later He ascended to the Father's right hand where He is Head of the Church and intercedes for believers. From there He is coming again personally, bodily and visibly to this earth to set up His millennial kingdom. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Hebrews 1:1-2, 7:25; Luke 1:30-35; Ephesians 4:8; John 1:1-5, 10-14, 14:3; Colossians 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:3,11; Revelation 20:4)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person and is God, possessing all the divine attributes. He convicts of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes and seals all believers at the moment of their salvation, filling them in response to yieldedness with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ. (John 3:5, 16:7-11; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:13)

MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God. We believe that all men are morally corrupt, and of themselves utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:18, 3:23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is a gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that man is justified by grace through faith apart from works and that all true believers, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever. (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 4:5, 6:23, 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-29; Ephesians 2:8-9)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit through saving faith in Jesus Christ; that they are united together in the body of Christ of which He is Lord and Head; and are commissioned for the God-given tasks of worshiping, fellowshiping, teaching, evangelizing and exercising the spiritual gifts (Acts 2:42,47; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2). We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local church is clearly taught in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11). We believe that the local church is autonomous and free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4, 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

THE ORDINANCES

We believe the ordinances for the believer are water baptism by immersion and the Lord's supper as a memorial. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation. But both of which are an evidence of obedience and fellowship with the Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41, 8:12, 35-38; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that a Christian should walk in holiness and not after the flesh, with the goal of being conformed to the image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As a new creation, walking in the Spirit, the Christian learns to grow in faith, in obedience to Scripture, in prayer, in fellowship with the saints and in a life of service. We believe that the Christian will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to have his life evaluated according to his deeds. (Galatians 5:16-26; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:20-24; Hebrews 11:6, 12:1-2; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

THE SECOND COMING

We believe in the personal, premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting glory and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Titus 2:11-13; John 14:1-6; Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Peter 3:10)

Dear Parents:

We are happy to have your child in the Awana Program. We count it a privilege to partner with you in training your child to know God's Word and to live in a way that honors Him.

The name Awana is an acronym for the words Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed. This is based on II Timothy 2:15 which reads, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who not need be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

The key tool used in the Awana Program is scripture memory. Each child begins in Awana by working through an entrance test appropriate to his or her age level. Please encourage your child to learn each section word perfect. This will help them to get maximum benefit from God's Word and it makes our job as Leaders much easier when the clubbers are well prepared. At Highland Park we have 5 distinct Awana Clubs:

- Puggles Nursery Aged (For those involved in any Church Family Night Activity)
- Cubbies Preschool (Must be 3 and potty trained by the first night of the current club year)
- Sparks K-2nd grade boys & girls
- T&T Ultimate Adventure 3rd and 4th grades (divided by gender)
- T&T Ultimate Challenge 5th and 6th grades (divided by gender)

Children in the Awana Program will have the opportunity to pass one handbook for each year they are in club. The handbooks are broken down into various sections of scripture memory, Bible study, and activity sections. You are encouraged to look through your child's handbook as soon as they get it so you can be aware of their progress through the year and help pace them through it.

The Awana uniform gives your child a place to display their handbook awards. The Cubbie Uniform is a blue vest and the Sparks uniform is a red vest. The Truth & Training (T&T) uniforms consist of a green T-shirt embroidered with the T&T logo for the Ultimate Adventure (3rd & 4th Grades), and the T&T Ultimate Challenge (5th & 6th grades) is a blue and white jersey style shirt. Awards are displayed to distinguish which rank each child is in. An optional uniform is also available for the Puggles. If you'd like to order one of these, please mark it on your child's registration sheet.

The Highland Park Awana Club is held every Wednesday evening from September through early May beginning at 6:00 and ending at 7:45 p.m. Special theme nights and events are held at various times throughout the year. Parents and other visitors are welcome any time but we especially encourage you to come to our Parents' Nights. Please watch for your invitation to join your child on this special night!

Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of Awana this year. We appreciate the commitment you make as parents to transport your children to and from AWANA; helping them prepare their verses; praying for our Awana Club; and support Awana through the payment of dues, handbook and uniform expenses. If you ever have questions or concerns about Awana please contact the church office (564-5853) or one of the club administrators listed. We pray that God will honor our efforts to have a positive impact for eternity on each child who comes to Awana!

Sincerely in Christ,

Les Bennett, Co-Commander
Kevin Bennett, Co-Commander
Cindy Eaton, Co-Commander
Jan Kleveland, T&T Girls Director
Dan Poppe, T & T Boys Director
Tammie Awtry, Sparks Co-Director
Joan Bennett, Sparks Co-Director
Candi Kohlhof, Cubbie Co-Director
Sandy Bennett, Cubbie Co-Director
Robyn Evans, Puggles Co-Director
Kim Webster, Puggles Co-Director



HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH AWANA

There are several practical things you as a parent can do to help your child get the most out of AWANA. We hope you will read the following list and prayerfully consider how you may be able to help your child in Awana.

- Bring your child to club early enough to participate in the Awana Rally. This helps set the tone for the rest of the club night.
- Make sure your child wears their complete uniform to club and help them to display their awards appropriately.
- Help them to remember to bring both their Bible and their handbook each week.
- Please send the weekly club dues with your child unless you choose to pay yearly or by semester. These are used to offset some of the cost of awards.
- Help your child prepare for club each week by spending time with them working on their handbook sections at home. You may want to learn some of the verses with them to show them that God's Word is important in your life too!
- Feel free to come to Awana with your child as a visitor anytime. We'd love to have you visit our club.
- Encourage your child throughout the club year and help pace them through their book so they can complete their handbook before the end of the club year.
- Get to know your child's handbook Leader and let them know if they can be of any help to you.
- Please have your child wear proper footwear suitable for running. To avoid injuries, we ask the children not to play games without shoes.

AWANA CLUB RULES - PLEASE REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD

- Awana clubbers are to hang up their coat and check in with the attendance helper when they arrive at club, then go directly to the Awana Rally in the Worship Center (Cubbies and Puggles are to report directly to their Room).
- If a clubber is attending the Wednesday Night Meal, they must either remain in the Fellowship Hall or sit quietly in the Worship Center until the Rally starts.
- Walking from one part of the meeting to another should be done in an orderly fashion; clubbers following their Leader single file.
- No running in the halls; clubbers seen running will be asked to return to their starting point and walk.
- All clubbers must remain inside the building. Because of safety concerns, no clubber shall be allowed to play outside either before or after club. No balls, skateboards or bicycles will be allowed!
- A "5-count" is used by the Commander and Directors to get all the children to STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN. It can be reinforced with incentives and positive peer pressure.
- There are occasions in which a "3-Count" may be used with a clubber. The "3-Count" is administered by a Club Director or Commander in the following manner:
 - #1 - Warning
 - #2 - The child is counseled in private with another adult present.
 - #3 - The parent is notified and the clubber is not allowed to attend club the following week. They may return to club the week after. It is our desire that the clubber think about their conduct at club during that week and return with a cooperative and submissive spirit the following week. If you have any questions about your child's behavior during club on any given night, please contact their Club's Director or our Club Commander.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP INFORMATION

Please drop off your children at Awana between 5:50 and 5:55 p.m. We are asking clubbers to enter into the building through the front foyer or southeast doors. After 6:15 p.m., only the front foyer doors will be accessible. We know that this may cause some minor inconvenience, but we feel that this is in the best interest of the safety of your children. We will try to be prompt in ending our club night by 7:45. Please pick up your child no later than 7:50. ***Puggles, Cubbies and Sparks must be picked up in their handbook room by a parent or designated adult.*** Parents of Sparks, you are encouraged to enter through the west doors on the south side (new foyer) to pick up your clubber. These doors will be opened shortly before dismissal for your convenience. When picking up your older clubber, we request you send someone into the building to get them. If this is not possible, please provide clear instructions to your child on who will pick them up. We do our best to supervise children as they leave the church building, but we

need your help to insure that each child knows who they are riding with and that they get safely to the correct car. If you are unable to provide transportation for your child either to or from Awana, let us know and we will try to work out a ride for them (because of state child-seat laws, we are unable to provide rides for Cubbies). **To insure the safety of everyone who is entering and exiting the building, we request that you park in the parking lot and not by the front door.**

MEAL

As in past years, we are offering a Wednesday Night Meal to help make your night more organized. These nutritious meals are available with the purchase of a meal ticket. Tickets are 1 for \$4; 3 for \$10; and a punch card worth 8 tickets for \$20. Children 5 and younger eat free with a paying adult. You may purchase tickets in the office during regular office hours and on Wednesdays until 5:30 p.m. Tickets will not be available on the meal line.

ILLNESS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If your child stayed home from school because of an illness/disease or other health-related reasons, we request they not be sent to Awana that evening, reducing the possibility of infecting others. These diseases include: the H1N1 Virus, Pink eye, chicken pox, pneumonia, scabies, measles, whooping cough, ringworm, head lice, mumps, pinworms, impetigo, strep throat, fever, vomiting and diarrhea. If you have any questions, please contact an Awana Commander or Director.

WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

If club is cancelled due to hazardous weather conditions, the decision will be made by noon and announced on 101.1 KLIR Radio Station.

BRINGING A FRIEND (Sparks and T&T Clubs)

Your child may bring a friend any club night. Your child will receive a credit to the Awana Store and their friend will receive a small thank you gift. Each fall, we have a special club night for your child to bring a friend. This helps your child fulfill and handbook requirement and we have room to grow!

AWANA STORE

The Awana store will be open two times a year for the Sparks and T&T Clubs. Clubbers can use Awana credits they have earned to purchase an assortment of items.

GRAND PRIX

Each year, our entire Awana Club revs up their engines and are invited to participate in our Grand Prix Races. Cubbies, Sparks, T&T and Leaders are invited to build cars to race while family and friends cheer them on! Watch the calendar and notes to be sent home announcing when cars will be sold, building days and the race day.

SPRING FLING FAMILY FUN NIGHT

At the end of the year (last Wednesday night of April) we invite our entire Awana Club along with parents to our Spring Fling Family Fun Night. This is a family time to enjoy games, prizes and food. We do ask that younger children be accompanied by an adult.

CLUB FINANCING

To help cover some of the costs of awards and supplies, clubbers are asked to pay club dues. This can be paid as weekly dues or as a yearly fee (see the registration sheet for an explanation of the dues schedule). The yearly fee can be paid at the start of the year or split in (2) with one payment due each semester.

UNIFORMS AND HANDBOOKS

After completing an entrance test, clubbers are eligible to purchase a uniform and a handbook (see the registration sheet for an explanation of the cost of uniforms and handbooks). We ask that clubbers or their parents pay for these items themselves if at all possible. We will never turn a child away from club because of



financial reasons. **If Awana expenses are a hardship for your family, please notify one of our Commanders and they will discuss with you the possibility of a confidential sponsorship program.**

A NOTE TO THE PUGGLE PARENTS...



Puggles is designed for those children birth through 3 years of age for those parents who are attending any activities during our Church Family Night. Puggles begins at 6:00 p.m. and ends promptly at 7:45 each Wednesday. As a safety precaution, we require parents or another adult you designate to pick up your child; **we cannot release your child to a sibling.**

A NOTE TO THE CUBBIE PARENTS...

Cubbies is a weekly program designed for children in the two years prior to Kindergarten. Our purpose is to help boys and girls take their next steps on a lifelong spiritual journey. In the Bible, parents are commanded to teach their children about God's ways... in routine activities... passing along their faith, little by little, day by day. We at Highland Park desire to provide the best possible learning experience for your child. The Awana club for pre-school children is built on two premises:



- Young children can and should receive spiritual training.
- Home is the primary place for spiritual training.

Although we provide Bible-centered activities to help children begin to build a solid understanding of Christianity at an early age, Cubbies is unique because it supports parents as the primary source of spiritual nurturing. By working directly with your child on the weekly handbook lessons, you can become an active participant in your child's spiritual development. We as a club are serious about developing your child's understanding of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In order to help us, we are asking you, as a parent, to make a commitment to work directly with your child on the weekly handbook lessons. This will establish you as the primary trainer and enable us to mentor and reinforce your child's spiritual growth.

Cubbies Club will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:45 p.m. each Wednesday. Children should go directly to the Cubbie room. **Please come to the Cubbie room promptly at 7:45 to pick up your child.** As a safety precaution, we require parents or another adult you designate to pick up your child; **we cannot release your child to a sibling or let them meet you somewhere.** A more detailed evening schedule and a special Cubbie Calendar will be placed in their Cubbie Handbook.

Because of space restrictions, we reserve the right to limit the number of registrations we can accept during the current club year. **In order to register, all children must be 3 by the first night of club and potty trained.**

A NOTE TO THE SPARKS PARENTS...



Sparky welcomes all Kindergarten through 2nd graders to another exciting year of Awana. All children who are new to Sparks will begin by blasting-off with fun with the Flight3:16 entrance booklet. The Flight 3:16 usually takes two weeks to complete and is a set of two simple steps to get you started:

- Come to Sparks two nights
- Learn John 3:16

Although we encourage all clubbers to pre-register before our Kickoff Night, it is not necessary. On the first handbook night, clubbers will get to meet their handbook Leaders and Listeners and begin to work on their Flight3:16 or handbook.

All Sparks must be picked up at their handbook room by a parent or other designated adult. We cannot release your child to a sibling or let them meet you somewhere. You are encouraged to enter through the west doors on the south side (new foyer) to pick up your clubber. These doors will be opened shortly before dismissal for your convenience.

We look forward to working with your child as we reach the children in Columbus with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

A NOTE TO THE TRUTH & TRAINING (T&T) PARENTS...

Welcome back to Awana! We have lots of fun competitions, special events and surprises planned for you this year as we learn more about God's Special Book, the Bible!

If your child is a 3rd or 4th grader and is new to the club, they will need to pass the Ultimate Adventure Start Zone Entrance Booklet. All 5th and 6th graders new to the Ultimate Challenge will need to complete the Ultimate Challenge Start Zone. After passing the corresponding Start Zone, they will then be eligible to purchase their uniform and handbook.



We will continue awarding the Clubbers upon completion of their Discovery Zones. Just a reminder that **we will only be giving 2 helps per section, not per verse**. This is the standard for Awana clubs.

During the months of September and October, we have special incentives for clubbers who bring guests or new members to our club. Not only does this fulfill a handbook requirement, but it also brings the gospel to other kids and their families. So clubbers, **LET'S GET INVITING YOUR FRIENDS TO AWANA!**

TRUTH & TRAINING AND SPARKS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

6:00 - 6:15	Awana Rally
6:15 - 6:40	T&T Boys & Girls Council Time Sparks Game Time
6:40 - 7:10	T & T Girls Game Time
6:40 - 7:15	T&T Boys Handbook Time
6:40 - 7:10	Sparks Council Time
7:10 - 7:45	T&T Girls Handbook Time
7:15 - 7:45	T&T Boys Game Time
7:10 - 7:45	Sparks Handbook Time
7:45	Dismissal of all clubs



Thank you for promptly picking up your children at 7:45!