



"WHERE CHRIST AND KIDS COME FIRST"

## Welcome to First Baptist Church Ocala, Awana Club 2011/2012

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Dear Parents,

We are excited about this years Awana Club **for those children reaching age 2 by March 1st through fifth grade.** The following information should help you to understand what Club is about and the part you will play. **AWANA stands for** Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, which comes from the Scripture 2 Timothy 2:15. Each Awana Club around the world is registered through Awana International, a non-denominational organization, whose mission is to "reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. Awana has been around for over 60 years helping disciple boys and girls through Scripture memory and Bible foundations

Our club is divided into the following divisions...



Awana Puggles is an enriching program that presents basic biblical concepts for your older 2's- and younger 3's **(must be 2 by March 1, 2011).** Biblical concepts presented are:

- **We are a unique creation of God.**
- **God loves us very much.**

Awana Puggles teaches toddlers simple lessons through teaching cards, activities, music and more. Awana Puggles leaders have a leader's guidebook to help them plan and direct club time and communicate the lesson.

Then parents—an Awana Puggle's first and best teacher—can step in to reinforce the lessons with take-home cards that include ideas to point out God's work each day. And little details like Awana Puggles T-shirts, puzzles and coloring books make every precious child feel like part of the group



Awana Cubbies is an enriching program that presents basic biblical concepts for your older 3's- thru younger 5's **(must be 3 by March 1, 2011...and those missing the cut-off for Kindergarten).**

Awana club for preschoolers is built on two premises:

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

Our preschool program meets these needs through ...**Fun – and lots of it!**

Awana is fun with a purpose – to reach and train kids for Jesus Christ. Games, puppets, crafts, awards and other activities transform our preschool program into a lively weekly experience where fun and learning go hand in hand.



Awana® Clubs™ for children in kindergarten 5 through second grade builds on the material taught in our preschool clubs. The curriculum takes kids a step deeper into God's Word while giving unsaved boys and girls regular opportunities to hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ. After being immersed in solid foundational teaching at the preschool level, boys and girls frequently come to an understanding of their need to trust Christ as their personal Savior while in Sparks®.

### **Immersing Kids in God's Word**

The Sparks program is firmly grounded in Scripture. The three handbooks feature:

- Basic truths about God, Jesus Christ, salvation and the Bible
- A clear and consistent presentation of the gospel message
- An increased emphasis on Scripture memory over our preschool materials. In three years, a child will learn and review over 65 verses, many of which cover salvation and key Christian doctrine, establishing a foundation of biblical wisdom.

### **Fun Learning = Results**

Sparks club meetings combine learning with fun to create an irresistible atmosphere. Along the way, Sparky, the friendly firefly, and his three friends have many exciting adventures. Sparky encourages kids to learn verses and complete assignments throughout the three handbooks.



The name Truth & Training reflects the passion of Awana to teach **third- through fifth-grade boys and girls** the truth of God's Word and to train them to follow Christ in their daily lives. Our goal is that many of today's young people will become tomorrow's church leaders. T&T is the program that trains the leaders of tomorrow — today.

### **Exciting features to get kids excited about God's Word**

T&T is equipped with a variety of dynamic tools to accomplish this mission:

- Four **handbooks** of increasing difficulty which teach children that life's ultimate adventure is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- A **cast of fun characters** that boys and girls learn from and follow on interesting journeys in the handbooks
- **Weekly meetings** that expose children to the gospel message, Scripture memory, Bible study, awards, team-oriented games and gut-busting fun
- A **Bible-centered curriculum** that helps kids build a firm foundation for their faith, hide God's Word in their heart and apply the truths of Scripture to their daily lives
- **Interactive CDs** that use exciting high-tech games to teach and reinforce key biblical truths

**Evangelism and discipleship** go hand in hand in our third- through fifth-grade program. By the time a child has completed T&T, he will have:

- Learned and reviewed approximately 310 verses
- Studied dozens of passages from the Old and New Testament
- Regularly heard and read the gospel message
- Discovered the Bible's response to questions like "How does God want me to live my life?" and memorized verses to back up these answers
- Completed missions projects that help him/her see the world through God's eyes



## Check-in & Schedule for Wednesday Club Meetings for 2011/12

**Club is held from 6:00 - 7:30 in the Fellowship Center and Preschool Area**

***CHECK-IN begins @ 5:45***

**Puggles (check-in @ Room 115...meets in Preschool area 6:00 to 7:30)**

**Cubbies (check-in @ Room 117...meets in Preschool area 6:00 to 7:30)**

**Sparks (check-in @ Fellowship Center...starts & ends in Fellowship Center)**

**T&T (check-in @ Fellowship Center...ends in Small Dining room 105/107)**

***SCHEDULE: Sparks and T&T***

**Check-in 5:45 to 6:00**

**6:00 to 6:15 Opening Ceremony and Awards**

**6:15 to 6:40 Sparks Bible Time / T&T Handbook Time**

**6:40 to 7:05 Sparks Handbook Time/ T&T Game Time**

**7:05 to 7:30 Sparks Game Time/T&T Bible Time**

**7:30 Dismiss/check-out Puggles room 115, Cubbies room 117, Sparks K5 room FC 102, 1<sup>st</sup> grade room FC 104, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade room FC 106. T&T will be released from the Small Dining room 105/107.**

### **Security Tags:**

Security tags (sticky labels) will be used for **Puggles, Cubbies and Sparks** at check-in and for checkout. **There are no exceptions.** All **Puggles** and **Cubbies** will be checked out in their room they began in. All **Sparks** will be placed in their group at the end of Club in the Fellowship Center and leaders will check them out to their parent by matching the parent number to the child's number on the tag.

### **Club Segments:**

Club is broken down into three distinct segments for Sparks and T&T Club. They are: Game Time, Handbook Time and Bible Time. The children spend the evening rotating through these three segments, which last approximately twenty-five minutes each. **Note: Puggles and Cubbies operate in a different manner than Sparks and T&T. Their schedules are different than other clubbers. Activity based centers along with snack and play time are incorporated in their evening. In addition parents should know that Puggles and Cubbies is a non-competitive program. All children will work on the same thing at the same pace each week. The program is designed to keep little ones from becoming stressed out due to competition.**

#### ➤ **Game Time:**

This segment is the one the children love more than anything else. During this time they are working with their team (red, yellow, green or blue), which is distinguished by color. The games they play will teach them to work together and encourage one another. **Clubbers must pass at least one section to participate in Game Time.**

#### ➤ **Handbook Time:**

This segment is one of the most important. Your child will receive a booklet, which contains Scripture to memorize, and other memory work related to the Awana Club. **It is absolutely vital for your child to bring their handbook each week to club. Make sure you go over the memory work with your child, including the reference for each verse.** They will repeat it to their leader each week and be encouraged by that leader. They will also earn their handbook, uniform and awards through this process. **They must complete Scripture memory each week in order to participate in Game Time.** This segment is crucial to their spiritual growth and I encourage you to assist them in learning Scripture and their other memory work each week. *When your child receives their handbook you will find a note of explanation attached as to how it works.*

#### ➤ **Bible Time:**

This segment is an age graded time where Bible knowledge, Bible skills and Life application are shared with the children.

## Shares:

These are Awana dollars the children earn during club and through themed events and projects. It's important for them to keep track of their own shares so they will have the opportunity to purchase items in our Share Store. Share Store will be open after club on designated evenings. Here are some ways they can earn shares.

- ✓ "1" Share for each at check-in: Dues, Bible, Handbook, Church attendance & wearing uniform.
- ✓ "1" additional share for each may be given: Good conduct, Sportsmanship, Random acts of kindness and one per Handbook section passed.
- ✓ "5" Shares for: Bringing a first time guest. NOTE: It doubles to "10" on special "Bring a Friend Night". Shares are awarded to both the clubber and their friend.
- ✓ Mash-it-for-Missions: "1" share for each pound of cans brought on the last Wednesday of the month, "2" shares per pound if the cans are mashed and "3" shares per pound if the clubber takes them to the recycling center and brings us the receipt and money. **Any clubber bringing in 5 pounds or more on that night will receive a token for a trip to the Treasure Chest.**

**Note: Puggles and Cubbies do not receive shares**

## Uniform and Handbook Costs:

These items must be earned. To earn the right to wear the uniform and move on to the handbook each child must first complete their entrance booklet. This is the booklet they received the first night they attend club. The Uniform and Handbook are the only big things you will pay for in Awana. The awards they receive along with any other items of achievement will be provided for by the church. The first Entrance Booklet is free.

**After that the child must pay 25c for each additional booklet.** This helps the child become more responsible.

The Uniform is key to the Awana Club. **A child cannot receive their awards unless they are in uniform.** The uniform puts everyone on even ground. I'm listing below the cost of the uniform for each group. **Remember; if you cannot financially afford a uniform please see Pastor Jerry and he will make sure your child has one.** I assure you this is kept confidential.

**Puggles** Shirt: \$9.00 / Cap: \$10.00

**Cubbie** Vest and Handbook: \$20.00 / Optional Book Bag: \$6.00

**Sparks** Vest and Handbook: \$20.00 / Optional Book Bag: \$5.00

### **Truth & Training:**

**Ultimate Adventure (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade) T-shirt and Handbook: \$22.00**

**Ultimate Challenge (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade) T-shirt and Handbook: \$23.00**

**Optional Draw string backpack: \$5.00**

**\*Additional Handbooks that are lost or earned are \$9.00.**

**\*Sparks** Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Cards are \$8.00.

**Once a child has earned their uniform and handbook you will notify the parent by card.**



The following are Awana Mission Projects during the club year. Children can earn shares by participating in these projects. ***None of these are mandatory.***

- **"Weekly "dues"**. These are not mandatory dues, but are voluntary and will be totally used for church-wide mission projects. The suggested weekly amount is 25c, but each child can give as much or little as they choose. Each child can earn a share weekly by bringing in 25c.
- **"Mash-it-for-Missions" Nights**. The **last Wednesday of the month** we collect aluminum cans the kids have brought in and give 1 share for each pound. If the children crush the cans we give 2 shares per pound. If they take them to the recycling center, bring in the receipt with the money they earned we give 3 shares per pound. The collected cans are taken to be recycled all the money goes to church-wide mission projects.
- **"Salvation Army"**...annual projects to assist their food pantry ministry.
- **"Adopt-a-Club"**, is a project where we support an Awana Club overseas. We currently are supporting a club in Zambia. Each child can earn a patch for their uniform by giving a minimum of \$5.00 towards Adopt-a-Club. They can earn only one patch per club year.
- **"Local Missions"**, throughout the year we are involved in local projects with: InterFaith, Salvation Army, Food4Kids and various others as the Lord leads. We will send home flyers to notify parents of these projects as they occur.

### **T&T Service Passport**

New for 2011 – 2012: a resource that helps clubbers put the *serve* in "to know, love and serve Christ"

The T&T Service Passport encourages clubbers to put faith into action through practical service, both to God's people and those who do not yet know Him. The Service Passport is an optional program for both T&T Ultimate Adventure and T&T Ultimate Challenge. While not required for handbook completion, it is recommended for helping to build active faith in your clubbers.

Here's how it works:

1. Each participant receives a Service Passport booklet with content highlighting selected countries in which the ministry of Awana International thrives.
2. Leaders download service idea pages from ART, which are formatted for printing on labels for placement in the Service Passport booklet.
3. The leader and clubber select an idea and discuss how the clubber will perform the service project described. The leader may also write in a service idea unique to the local church or community.
4. When the clubber completes the service project, the leader stamps the Service Passport booklet with special themed stamps.
5. For every two service projects completed, the clubber earns a collectible pin for the uniform. Pin designs are based on the flags of nations featured in the Service Passport booklet.

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