



Barksdale Baptist Church

**Awana Club Ministry
2018-2019**

Leader Expectations

Awana Leadership Our Awana leaders and student leaders (high-school students) have committed their time, talent and enthusiasm to helping you nurture your child's spiritual development in a fun, age-appropriate way. Please pray for the Awana leaders that they would be faithful and effective in leading children to Christ and training them to serve Him. We always welcome new volunteers – please see the Awana Servant-Leaders if you are interested in being part of the ministry team. Training is provided, and there is no time commitment outside of the weekly club meeting. You do not have to be a member or regular attendee of Barksdale Baptist Church to serve as an Awana leader.

Standards of Excellence

Awana has few requirements of leaders; however, the expectations set by the program are expected to be upheld with consistency and excellence. The following characteristics are those for which we expect our leadership to labor.

Requirements:

- 1) A leader must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 2) A leader must have a desire to work with and a compassion for children.
- 3) A leader must agree with the Awana Doctrinal Statement as found in the Training Manual. *
- 4) A leader must consistently attend at least one hour of church other than Awana each week.

We EXPECT our Leaders to...

- be on time.
- be examples.
- follow the rules.
- display a proper attitude before the clubbers and other leaders.
- pray for our Club on a regular basis.
- realize Awana is not just another program, but it is a ministry of the church and a place of service to God.
- participate in ongoing training opportunities as they are offered.
- share the gospel with children on a regular basis.
- be involved in regular scripture memory, utilizing curriculum like *The Bible Based Leader*.
- utilize the 5 count and 3 count.
- oversee handbooks to make sure clubbers are going through books in order, sections completed and give maximum of two helps for each signature.

Awana Children's Ministry Curriculum

Kids represent the greatest opportunity to make a long-term impact on our world for Christ. Awana establishes welcoming, supportive environments where kids, from every background and cultural setting, learn how a personal relationship with Christ affects their everyday lives.

Cubbies Club

Cubbies is for preschool children who are no more than two years from entering Kindergarten (3 yrs. old by September 1) and are toilet-trained. Children not toilet-trained must either have to wait to join Cubbies or their parent must remain with their child in Cubbies to attend their child's needs without distraction. Cubbies' parents work directly with their children on the weekly handbook lessons as active participants in their child's spiritual development. Children learn key truths about God, Jesus, salvation and the Bible through memorizing shortened passages of Scripture as well as games and activities. All Cubbies will work together on the same handbook section each week. If your child is absent, he or she can make up the missed sections. As Cubbies clubbers progress through their handbook, they earn award patches to display on their blue uniform vest. Cubbies after their second year will have completed about 64 verses.

The Cubbies curriculum features two handbooks. Both are written in a fun, storybook style with read-aloud stories and lovable characters that appeal to preschoolers.

The AppleSeed and HoneyComb handbooks combine basic Scripture memory with parent-child activities to help Cubbies grasp simple biblical truths. Each Cubbies handbook contains a helpful review CD to use at home. One handbook is completed in a club year. Each handbook contains 26 Bear Hug sections along with four special-day sections.

Sparks Club

Sparks club is for children in K-2nd grade. The Sparks program contains memory verses of gradually increasing difficulty, teaching children more about Jesus, God and His Word. One of the exciting features of the Sparks program is a chronological "journey" through the Bible that kids experience in their handbook work. Sparks learn about important people, places and events in the Bible, how the Bible fits together, and how they can apply its truths to their lives.

All children begin the program by completing the Flight 3:16 booklet, after which they may receive their purchased red Sparks vest and first handbook. The material is self-paced; we recommend that each child have the goal of completing 2-3 sections per week. Parents provide the help and encouragement Sparks clubbers need to not only memorize their verses, but understand their meaning as well. Please help us know what your child worked on at home by initialing each section he or she is prepared to recite.

Sparks® ignites the curiosity of early elementary-age kids to learn about the people and events of the Bible, building a foundation of wisdom for knowing Christ.

Sparks curriculum is comprised of three handbooks. Each handbook builds a foundation of biblical wisdom through memory verse drills, crafts, activities and review of key doctrine and Bible facts.

Before working in the first handbook, HangGlider, all newcomers to Sparks will complete an entrance booklet – Flight 3:16 – that centers on the gospel message of John 3:16. WingRunner and SkyStormer handbooks challenge Sparkies to learn about 15 more verses than the preceding book. To earn a Sparky Award, a clubber must complete the three Sparks handbooks, which involves memorizing 150 verses. The recipient must have completed second grade.

Truth & Training (T&T) Club

Truth and Training Club, for 3rd – 6th graders, is just what the name implies: teaching boys and girls the truth of God’s Word and training them to follow God and live lives of grace. T&T Club is divided into two groups: The Ultimate Adventure for third and fourth graders, and the Ultimate Challenge for fifth and sixth graders. Each handbook is structured around four central questions - children learn eight answers to each question which are supported with memory verses, short Bible studies and other activities. Children learn that following Christ is life’s ultimate adventure, and begin that journey by completing their “Start Zone” booklet. They are then eligible to purchase their uniform shirt – T&T Ultimate Adventure (third and fourth grade) clubbers wear a (new in 2014) customizable green and white jersey, and T&T Ultimate Challenge clubbers wear a customizable blue and white jersey.

All T&T materials are self-paced; however, we encourage clubbers to complete at least three sections every club meeting so they can finish their handbook during the club year and earn a special reward. Parents can help their clubber by making sure they attend regularly, practice memory verses and complete Bible studies and other activities at home and understand the Biblical concepts they are learning. Parents should initial the sections their child has prepared at home and is ready to recite to their leader. By the end of 6th grade clubbers should have completed 432 verses.

Student Leaders

Awana Student Leaders are a dedicated group of high school students who love God and love kids, and serve alongside the adult Awana leaders during handbook time and game time. They also enjoy a time of group fellowship, Bible study, training and discipleship. Student Leaders are selected through an application and interview process and should have their parents’ support in order to serve.

We look for the follow guidelines of 6th grade clubbers wanting to be a potential Student Leader:

- _____ Strongly encouraged 7th Grader to be an active part of the Student Ministry for one year.
- _____ Must have trusted Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. Believes that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross alone forgives his/her sins. Has a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- _____ Must attend a church Worship Service and Sunday School regularly.
- _____ Demonstrates a Christ-like attitude towards adults and fellow clubbers during Awana meetings, worship services, and Sunday School. Meaning respectful in speech and attitude.
- _____ Must complete handbook before the end of the Awana year.
- _____ Full parental agreement and support.
- _____ Must be able to listen and obey instructions. Being a team player.
- _____ Must abide by the Guidelines and Standards in the Awana Handbook.

Weekly Club Schedule

Wednesday, 6:15 – 7:45 PM

We begin Opening Ceremony promptly at 6:15 pm. Upon arrival we request that parents or authorized adults sign in their Cubbie aged children at their respective room. We ask that all first time Spark and T&T clubbers be accompanied by an adult or guardian to the main foyer to complete our registration form, all other clubbers are to check in and report to the Awana Room until called to Opening Ceremony in our Sanctuary.

Clubbers should be picked up by 7:45 pm. Cubbies parents or an authorized adult will need to go to the Cubbie room. No Clubber will be allowed to leave the building without a parent or an authorized adult.

Sparks and T&T clubbers may be picked up in the Awana Room or church foyer. Parents, please be sure to provide the names and phone numbers of those whom you wish to authorize picking up and dropping off your child on the Medical Release Form.

Throughout the club year, club meetings are held on Wednesday evenings. However, meetings are not held on certain Wednesdays due to holidays or conflicts with other church activities. Please consult the club calendar for details. Club calendars are available from the Awana office and from the church web site at www.barksdalebaptist.org. Please note that if the Bossier Parish Schools are closed our Awana Club will be closed as well.

Guest/Visitors/Friends:

We **always** welcome Guest/Visitors/Friends! Sparks and T&T clubbers have sections in their handbooks which require them to bring a friend to at least one club meeting. When bringing a friend, please ask them to wear athletic shoes for game time. Be sure you help your friend check in and complete a visitor's registration and introduce them to your leaders. We encourage you to invite other children to Awana to help build the kingdom of God! Parents are also welcome and encouraged to visit their child's club at any time.

Special Closings (no club)

Because of Louisiana's changing weather conditions, we will follow the school closures. If the schools are closed for weather conditions on Wednesdays we will also close or cancel Awana for that day. We ask for your email and text number, so we may send a message to parents to confirm this situation.

Finances: Awana dues is \$20.00 for Sparks and T&T and \$10.00 for Cubbies, which helps cover Awana Stores and theme night cost. Awana fee prices for uniform, handbook, and weekly awards are listed below. Other optional supplies are available as well; see your club secretary for information. **Please don't let finances prevent your child(ren) from participating in Awana.** Payment plans and scholarships are available; please speak with the Awana Commander, Co-Commander or Barksdale's Pastor, Calvin Hubbard. If the Awana Dues and fees are not paid a month from registration of child, we will send a reminder for the payment.

What does it cost?

Prices vary for clubbers, if your child is a first time clubbers the basic prices are listed on the next page. There will be a replacement cost for second time lost items. Please see our Registration form for current prices.

Clubber Guidelines

To have a safe, enjoyable, and orderly club meeting, our club has established clubber guidelines for behavior. All clubbers are expected to follow them. Your child's cooperation will ensure a good time for all.

1. Respect your fellow clubbers. Treat them as you wish to be treated.
2. Everyone must participate. Whether playing games, listening, studying, singing, or anything else, **all clubbers** are expected to participate. Special circumstances may be requested.
3. No running in the foyer, hallways or sanctuary.
4. Remain on the church property at all times.
5. Leave all food, drink, and chewing gum at home.
6. Respond to the **Five-Count** – stop what you are doing, become quiet, and listen to your leader.
7. Bring your Bible, handbook, and dues to club each and every week.
8. Wear your uniform and athletic shoes every week. Unless the theme night specifies not to wear uniform (Non-scary Costume, Pilgrim & Indian, etc...).
9. Please take care of church property and club equipment.
10. Have a good time in each part of club. Awana is meant to be fun!
11. No electronic devices or toys at club. Clubbers may turn in their mobile phones and receive them back after club.

We hope the Guidelines are not brought to this action of disobedience, but to maintain Awana structure and to understand that our actions result in consequences. Guidelines which are broken and/or abused, the commander and/or the director may need to discipline through a write-up action to instruct the clubber of their disobedience. A deacon or church member not connected with the club will be present as a witness for both clubber and commander or director.

Note to Parents: During the club night, a director may use the

Three-Count. That is, (1) a disruptive clubber will be asked by the director/leader to settle down and warn him or her of the consequences. If the clubber continues,

(2) the clubber will be brought to the commander who will encourage the clubber to obey club rules and then allow the clubber to return to his/her club. If the clubber continues to disrupt,

(3) the clubber will be taken out of their club and either brought to his or her parents, or the parents will be notified when they pick up their child. A meeting of the parents, pastor, commander & clubber may be arranged. The possibility of a one week club suspension will be determined.

Parents:

1. Make sure your child(ren) arrive on time with their uniform, athletic shoes, handbook, Bible and jacket if needed.
2. Make Awana a priority in your plans. Clubbers who receive help at home and have consistent attendance get the most benefit from Awana.
3. Be committed to working with your child(ren) in their handbooks.
4. Provide help as need. Memorize their verses with them. Encourage them and congratulate them on their accomplishments.
5. Pray for our church, Awana club, leaders and clubbers.

WELLNESS POLICY

As we all know, sickness can keep going around with children, affecting not only the other children in your child's Awana group, but your family and other families as the illness goes "back and forth" between the children. Here is our established health policy for the Awana ministry. Children SHOULD NOT attend Awana if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever - 100 degrees or higher within the last 24-hours
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Runny nose if accompanied by other symptoms and/or colored discharge
- Bad Cough - coughing increases the chance of infection being spread to others
- Any rash that is suspected to be contagious
- If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, they must have been on the antibiotic for a minimum of 48 hours prior to attending Awana

Awards:

Cubbies, Sparks and T&T clubbers have the opportunity to earn awards throughout the year. Most awards are earned by completing sections in the handbook, but others are given for attendance at club. Clubbers receive their awards the week after they are earned. The handbook will explain the awards for that particular club and how they should be worn. Award costs are covered by the registration fee, but if your child loses an award upon the second time, you will need to purchase a replacement – see the Awana secretary for details. Clubbers may also earn items such as Awana "bucks" or prize tickets as a reward and incentive.

All clubbers will present handbook completion awards during the last meeting of the club year. Completing an Awana handbook is a major accomplishment, and we invite parents, family and friends to celebrate with us! Parents will be notified by invitation, website, e-mail or phone when your child will receive their handbook completion award.

Christmas Party

We no longer have a Christmas Store, We have decided to have a Christmas Party. This may require your child to have a permission slip if we decide to have the Christmas Party off the campus of Barksdale Baptist Church.