



2011-2012

Parents Handbook

Grace Community Church

An Evangelical Free Church

210 McKinley Street

Great Bend, KS 67530

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A NOTE TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your children this AWANA year. Anticipating that you might have some questions about the AWANA club, we have prepared this booklet for your information. If you have further questions after reviewing the booklet, please feel free to call me at the church office, (620) 792-7814 ext 14.

Sincerely,

Kristian Pearson
Pastor of Children's Ministry
Grace Community Church

GENERAL INFORMATION

AWANA is a weekly children's community club offered by Grace Community Church as a positive influence in the development of our area's young people. The AWANA name is derived from II Timothy 2:15 which states "Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."(NKJV) Thus the AWANA name stands for **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed**.

AWANA began in 1950 as a youth program at the North Side Gospel Center in Chicago, Illinois. Lance Latham, the church pastor, worked with Art Rorheim to develop a program that would appeal to young people, reach them with the gospel of Christ, and train them in the Lord's work. Other churches heard about the success of the AWANA program and asked if they could use it. By 1960, AWANA had registered 900 clubs.

Today, there are more than 10,000 churches in the United States that have AWANA clubs, and there are clubs in all 50 states. AWANA can also be found in over 3,000 churches in 110 other countries. Our local club's charter number is 9469.

We encourage you to work with your children to help them learn the lessons and Bible verses in their handbooks. Take a few minutes each day to work with your children, and we are sure they will surprise you with how they can accomplish the goals set forth in the program. We have committed and dedicated people serving as leaders, and we trust that we will see tremendous growth in your children through this program.

MEETINGS

Weekly meetings for boys and girls are held at the Grace Community Church on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. In order to facilitate taking roll and prompt start times for the AWANA club night, we encourage clubbers to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. Children must be age 3 and potty trained by September 1 of the club year to participate in the program.

CUBBIES

Cubbies is centered around Deut. 6:6,7: “And these words which I am commanding you shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children . . .” By nurturing the children, parents and leaders follow this command. Total Time Teaching is implemented in all aspects of each club night. From the moment the Cubbies arrive to the moment they leave, the various club night activities are focused on the lesson they have learned that week from the Bear Hug in their Handbook.

Cubbies night is planned around three primary segments: Story Time, Book Time, and Play Time. During Story Time the Cubbies hear an age-appropriate Bible story. Book Time is spent in small groups reciting the verse or verses learned that week at home. Cubbies spend Play Time participating in non-competitive games and activities.

Cubbies must complete the Bear Hug Brochure before receiving their first Handbook. All Cubbies use the same book, regardless of whether it is their first or second year in Cubbies, and all Cubbies complete the same assigned Bear Hug each week. Cubbies who join the club during the year, after completing the Bear Hug Brochure, work on the same Bear Hug as the other Cubbies.

Cubbies complete a Bear Hug at home each week with their parent or guardian. The Bear Hug consists of both a story and a Biblical lesson. After completing the Bear Hug, the parent is to sign it. Each Bear Hug also contains an optional activity section titled “Under the Apple Tree.” By completing the weekly schedule, all Cubbies should be able to finish their book each year.

If a Cubbie and their parent would like to complete additional work, an optional handbook, Cubbies Character Builders, is available. Cubbies work on this book at their own pace.

SPARKS / TRUTH & TRAINING CLUBS

All club meetings for Kindergartners through Sixth Graders are divided into three segments Handbook Time, Game Time, and Council Time.

HANDBOOK TIME consists of interaction between individual clubbers and their leaders as clubbers recite memory work and discuss Bible reading assignments for comprehension. When the leader is satisfied that the clubber has covered the handbook materials adequately, he or she will sign off that section of the handbook as complete.

COUNCIL TIME is instruction from the Bible, covering a variety of topics relevant to growing up in, and coping with, the pressures of today's society as a Christian youth.

GAME TIME offers the clubbers the opportunity to participate as team members in physical activities which can help develop team spirit, good sportsmanship, coordination skills, and self-confidence. Although games are competitive in nature, and winning is desirable, leaders are encouraged to give top priority to building and preserving each clubber's self-esteem.

WEEKLY AWANA SHARE SYSTEM

Attendance	1	Sections	2 per section
Bible	1	Friend	10
Handbook	1		
Uniform	1		

Clubbers in Kindergarten through 6th Grade accumulate AWANA shares each week throughout the year according to the schedule noted above. These shares can then be used to purchase a variety of items and play games on a special AWANA Carnival night at the end of the year. Occasionally, bonus shares will be awarded for special promotions. Cubbies do not participate in the complete share system due to the controlled pace used to progress them through their books. Instead, they receive bonus shares, gifts, or treats from AWANA several times throughout the year. They do still receive enough shares to participate in the AWANA Carnival.

DUES

Dues are collected from clubbers to help with operating expenses, incentives, and awards. Dues are 50¢ per week and can be paid by semester (\$7.50) or yearly (\$15.00). While the giving of dues is encouraged, no child will be turned away if they are unable to pay.

AWARDS

AWANA awards can be earned for handbook achievements, regular AWANA attendance, and regular Sunday School attendance. These awards are provided at no charge to the clubbers. However, if awards are lost or broken, replacements may be purchased at cost. Clubbers who want to receive all possible awards will find the following information and suggestions in this section most helpful.

HANDBOOK AWARDS - Kindergarten through 6th Grade

After completing their Entrance Booklet, each clubber is given the first Handbook for that particular club, regardless of their grade level in school. Clubbers will continue working in this Handbook until it has been completed, or they advance to the next higher club. In each of the clubs, clubbers are strongly encouraged to complete all of their Handbooks.

To keep the pace required for finishing one Handbook each AWANA year, clubbers will need to work on their Handbooks at home. Parental encouragement and help will greatly enhance a clubber's prospects for keeping the required pace. A pace of about 2 – 3 sections per week with regular attendance should be adequate. Upon finishing their Entrance Booklet, clubbers should look through all the requirements of their Handbook with their parents and plan accordingly to ensure completion of the Handbook by the end of the club year.

If a Handbook is completed before the end of the year, the clubber is encouraged to do advanced work to receive additional awards. This advanced work varies by club.

AWANA ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Regular club attendance, with no more than four unexcused absences per year, is required to receive the AWANA Attendance Award. Illness, family emergency, and being out of town are counted as excused absences.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Regular Sunday School attendance, with no more than four unexcused absences per year, is required to receive the Sunday School Attendance Award. Illness, family emergency, and being out of town are counted as excused absences. Sunday School Attendance Awards are given to all clubbers who fulfill this requirement at their own church.

HANDBOOKS

The Entrance Booklet is free. Upon completion of the Entrance Booklet, a one-year handbook is required to continue in the program. Our AWANA club is able to provide handbooks to clubbers at no charge, thanks to the generosity of the people of Grace Community Church. However, if the handbooks are lost, the replacement cost is the current cost in the AWANA catalog, plus 50¢ for shipping and handling. If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of a clubber's handbook, please contact the appropriate club Director or the AWANA Commander. Clubbers are encouraged to write their names in ink on their handbooks to prevent misplacement or loss at club meetings.

TOTE BAGS

A tote bag may be purchased to keep your child's Handbook, Bible and papers in. However, tote bags are not a requirement for attending AWANA. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$8.00 depending on the type of bag you wish to purchase. See your AWANA Director or Leader for an order form.

UNIFORMS

Upon completion of an entrance booklet, a clubber is eligible to wear the AWANA uniform. We encourage each clubber to get and wear the AWANA uniform so that they can display various awards that they will earn throughout the year. Also, shares are given at club meetings for clubbers who are in uniform. The new uniforms may be purchased through the club or, if available, used uniforms may also be purchased.

An order form with current prices will be sent home with the clubber when they become eligible for a uniform.

If available, used uniforms will be sold at half the price of new uniforms. If parents have a used uniform they would like to sell at this price, please contact an AWANA Leader.

CLUB DISCIPLINE

FIVE COUNT SYSTEM

To quiet clubbers, a leader begins to count to five. When the count has reached “Five!”, absolute silence by all in attendance should reign.

THREE COUNT SYSTEM

For recurring misbehavior on the part of an individual clubber, the three-count system is used. The clubber is taken aside and is given a one-count by the leader in charge of that particular segment of club. If and when a clubber receives a two count on that same night, 5 shares will be deducted from his or her accumulated total. When the third offense that night necessitates a three-count, the clubber will be taken out of the usual club activities for the night. At the discretion of the Commander, the clubber may spend the remainder of that night’s club in the Commander’s office, or the parents may be called to take the clubber home immediately. It will be explained to the parents why the discipline was necessary. The clubber is always welcome to come back to club the next week if their conduct meets club standards.

After three occurrences of the three-count, the clubber will be excused from the club for three weeks. If a fourth three-count is necessary after the clubber returns, he or she will be suspended from the club for the remainder of the club year.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

If the Great Bend public schools are closed or let out early due to weather, there will be no AWANA on that night. If the weather conditions deteriorate after school has let out at the normal time, the AWANA Commander will contact all available leaders by phone, and we will call as many parents as possible to let them know that AWANA is cancelled. Local news agencies will be notified if time allows. If conditions allow, messages will be left on the church answering system concerning AWANA cancellations. You may contact the church at (620) 792-7814 for the latest information on AWANA cancellations. If there is ever a time where you believe it would be a risk to travel due to weather conditions, please do not attempt to come to AWANA. You should always keep safety a priority when you are unsure if AWANA was cancelled.