



Stuff  
PARENTS  
need to know

Eastern Hills Community Church  
Children's Ministry

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## About AWANA

AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). The purpose of the Awana ministry is to reach kids with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. The Awana ministry at Eastern Hills works in unison with the other ministries at Eastern Hills to help your child learn about Jesus and to grow in Him. We have 3 age groups. All include Games, Small Group Time (Handbooks/memorizing Bible verses), and Large Group Time (or story time for Cubbies). Cubbies is broken down further to cater to the attention span of preschoolers.

**Game Time:** A main goal in games is obviously, to have fun! We also put very strong emphasis on teamwork, good sportsmanship, and encouraging others. This is a wonderful time for every child's self esteem as a variety of games are played with different skills in mind. Cubbies games are all non-competitive games.

**Small Group Time:** Small Group time is the same in all 3 clubs. Each club has one handbook that the kids can work through each year. Most of the sections require some memorization of Scripture to pass and/or some require the child to complete some type of activity. With our older kids, this time is also used to discuss the lesson that week, ask questions, get to know each other better and help them with different memorization techniques.

### Why Memorize God's Word?

- 1) To learn what God says to us
- 2) To keep us from sin
- 3) To help us make right choices
- 4) So we can tell others about Jesus

Our goal is not to develop a "rote" (or empty) memorization program but rather, for kids to learn of God's deep love for them and to develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. What better way to learn about God than through His Word! We put high priority on the child's understanding of the verses; and, as they are just children, review is an integral part of the program. [Handbooks are so much easier for kids to get through if they have a parent or caring adult who helps them during the week. We hope that all parents will "Commit to 10" this year. That means that you commit to sit down with your child for at least 10 minutes every week, helping them with their handbook. This can be broken up a couple minutes every day \(meal-time, in the car, etc.\) or going over their verses or all at once. The possibilities are only limited by your creativity! Learn the verses with your kids! Write them in places you will see every day \(mirror while brushing your teeth, the front of the fridge, the dashboard of the car, etc.\)](#)

**Large Group:** Our third major section is Large Group Time (for the older children) or Story Time (for Cubbies). In Cubbies story time, they will be introduced to many Bible Stories through sensory learning experiences. Large Group Time also includes Bible Stories and the Character Building lessons behind the Bible Stories.

**Awards:** Awards are a big part of all the clubs as it helps kids to be motivated and awarded for their hard work. Awards are given the last 5-10 minutes of club night on the weeks they are awarded. We also have a big "Awards Ceremony" at the end of the year for those who finish their books and general recognition of all the kids involved this year.

## Communication

**Join our Facebook Group: Eastern Hills AWANA Parents & Leaders!** We will also send regular emails to let you know of upcoming events, reminders and weather related cancellations. Please be sure that your email is current in our system. If you need to contact us, see our email and phone numbers on the last page of this packet.

## When to Show Up

AWANA is on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 pm – 8:00 pm.

Children cannot be allowed in the rooms before 6:10. Leaders who are there early are busy preparing for club night so cannot give attention needed to be with kids before 6:10.

## Our AWANA Clubs

**Cubbies** – 4 year olds – pre-K (*Before September and potty trained*)

**Sparks** –Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Truth & Training (T&T)** –3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

## Keeping your Kids Safe

Parents of children in Cubbies MUST sign their children IN and OUT every week. Sparks and T&T children must check in with the Awana secretary at the beginning of the Awana night. Once the clubber has checked in, they must remain in the Awana room unless given permission by an Awana leader to leave.

**At the end of the Awana night, all parents are to pick their child up in their rooms.** No Awana child will be permitted outside without their parent. Our parking lot is often crowded on Tuesday nights. It is for this reason that NO CHILD will be allowed to leave their AWANA room without their parent or a leader. Please make sure that your child knows to wait for you (even if they have a sibling somewhere on the premises.) **This is for your child's safety** – please help us to enforce this. We will notify parents when a child is sick or in rare instances for disciplinary reasons.

## Helping Your Kids be Ready

Help your child to be prepared and ready for club night. **They need to wear their uniform and bring their handbook and Bible.** There are some special theme nights where they may bring something special or dress up. (Check your club calendar.) Game time is active so comfortable shoes are helpful. We have a Penny Drive (competition between boys and girls) each week. If your child would like to participate, help them to remember their pennies. (All proceeds go to buy a gas card for our regional AWANA Missionary at the end of the year.)

## Have a Sick Kid??

**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 anti-biotic, they must have been on the anti-biotic for a minimum of 48 hours prior to attending Awana
- If your child missed school due to illness of any kind, they should not come to Awana that night.**

## COSTS

**\* We NEVER want finances to be an issue with or put a strain on any family. If your family is unable to afford any or all of the expenses associated with your child attending AWANA, please talk to your secretary or director. Financial assistance and Scholarships are available through the Church for those who need help paying for AWANA dues and uniforms.**

AWANA does its best to keep costs to a minimum, however there are a few costs associated when your child participates in Awana as outlined below:

**Registration Fee:** There is a yearly fee of **\$20 per child/ \$30 per family**. This covers a new handbook every year and helps to supplement the cost of awards, supplies, AWANA store items. (If starting after January, \$15 per child, \$20 per family). We realize that between school and other activities, many families have a lot of fees to pay at the beginning of the school year. With this in mind, you can pay this anytime between September and December. \*

### **Uniform:**

If your child is going into Cubbies (3 years old – pre-K), Sparks (Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), T&T Adventure (3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade), or T&T Challenge (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) - they will get a new uniform.

**Cubbies & Sparks: Uniform Vest - \$10.00**

**Truth & Training: Uniform shirt- \$15.00**

## **Discipline (Keeping it fun for everyone!)**

Awana uses two counts, one for an individual and one for the group.

The “5-Count” is used to bring the group to order. As the leader counts to “5”, the children should become quiet and still.

The “3-count” is for an individual. The child is given a “one” the first time they have misbehaved and their action is discussed so they understand the inappropriate behavior. If the child continues to misbehave, then they receive a “two”. The child now stays with their club's Director and discusses their behavior. If the child continues to misbehave or be disruptive, they receive a “three”. When the child receives a “three”, the parents will be called and the child will need to be picked up early. A “three” will only be given as an Absolute LAST RESORT. We hope to Never have to use it.

**The Awana leaders realize that there are many family situations that may affect a child's behavior. We encourage you to let your child's Awana leader know if there is any situation that may help us in ministering to your child.** This helps the Awana leader to potentially minister to the child as opposed to just viewing a situation or action as a discipline problem.

### **EHCC Kids only has 2 Rules:**

- Only say kind words to others.**
- Do not put your hands on another person.**

## **Bad Weather on a Tuesday?**

Parents will be contacted as soon as possible by the contact information provided at registration. We will send out email alerts and post to our Facebook page if we cannot have club. If you do not use email or facebook, you can also call your director if you are unsure about cancellations. We do not anticipate cancellations but in case of severe weather or other unpredictable circumstances, we will do our best to keep you informed.

## **Team Points** (*Sparks/T&T Clubs*)

Each child is assigned to a “color” team (red, blue, green or yellow). Each child earns points for their team by the following each night:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing their Bible                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wearing their uniform     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing their Awana Handbook          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing a friend         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing a missions offering (pennies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passing handbook sections | <input type="checkbox"/> Game-Time Performance/Participation    |

## **AWANA Store**

Kids can earn Awana bucks (Awana money) by completing most of the activities listed above as well as many other things (good sportsmanship, participation, helping others, etc.) These shares can be used in the Awana Store to “purchase” various items. We have implemented a banking system that worked very well in past years. Any Awana dollars they receive during the night can be turned into the bank. When Awana Store Night opens twice a year, they will be given all their Awana bucks to spend. A child does not have to use the banking system. If they want to hold onto their Awana dollars, they can. Any lost bucks will not be replaced.

## **About Eastern Hills Community Church**

Eastern Hills Community Church is a Non-Denominational, Bible based Church. We have kids ministries as well as youth and adult ministries. If you would like more information, you can contact the church office (360.681.4367) or visit the church web site at [www.ehcchurch.org](http://www.ehcchurch.org). We would love for you to come to our worship services Sundays at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

### **Church Contacts**

Church Office – 681.4367, [churchoffice@ehcchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@ehcchurch.org)

Pastor Mark Weatherford, 681.4367(church) or 477.1965 (cell)

Children’s Ministry Director: Lindsey Tollefson, 360. 477.1961      [kids@ehcchurch.org](mailto:kids@ehcchurch.org)

### **AWANA Contacts (call and text ok):**

Club Directors:      Cubbies: Emily Mullins, 360.477.1923 [em27frogs@gmail.com](mailto:em27frogs@gmail.com)  
                                 Sparks: Mandy Sorensen, 360.477.1943    [mandynw@gmail.com](mailto:mandynw@gmail.com)  
                                 T&T: Lindsey Tollefson, 360.477.1961      [kids@ehcchurch.org](mailto:kids@ehcchurch.org)