



**Children's Ministry
2011-2012**

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
Mark 10:14

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Awana-St. John UMC Prospect KY.**

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the AWANA program at St. John United Methodist Church. What an exciting time you and your child will experience. Nothing could be more important than enriching your child's life with the promise that God is always on our side. AWANA provides an opportunity for children to make friends, play games, receive awards and learn and memorize God's Word, the Bible.

This booklet is designed to provide you with the basic information that you and your child need to know about how the AWANA program operates. Your assistance as parents is very important for your child to get the most out of the program. You can help your children by encouraging them to attend each week, by helping them to memorize at least one section per week and by showing excitement over their achievements. We suggest you spend at least five minutes each day reading or reviewing sections for the greatest retention. By spending this time with your child you will show them what is really important. You can even lead by example and complete the sections along side them.

Your assistance in volunteering with this program is highly recommended and greatly needed. In order to meet the needs of all children and give them the time and attention they need to learn God's Word effectively through this program, our leader to child ratio must be low. To keep this ratio low we need you. If we expect our children to put their time and energy into learning God's Word then we as parents, and role models for our children, must be obedient to His Word and serve others.

In Mark 10: 13-16 Jesus shared about the little children. In verse 15 He says; *I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*” If you want to truly experience the child-like faith, what better way to witness this than with His children on Wednesday night AWANA? Come join us and see for yourself what God is doing in the hearts of our future, His precious children. You may find that your souls are fed beyond all understanding.

The AWANA program is filled with volunteers, as well as church staff, that care about the spiritual and social development of each and every clubber. We pray that this experience enriches the life of your child as well as you the parent.

Thank you for joining us with this fun and exciting program. May God bless you and your family through this experience.

God's love,

Traci Katzfey
AWANA Commander
St. John United Methodist Church

St. John United Methodist Church

We believe a great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church.

12700 W. Highway 42

Prospect, KY 40059

502-228-2897

Email: Stjohn@stjohnprospect.com

Website: www.stjohnprospect.com

Emergency number *during* club 643-4648 (Kevin) or 630-730-8252 (Traci).

Sunday Mornings: Separate nurseries are provided for infants, toddlers and 2-year-olds at all services. Pagers are available.

8:30 AM: 3- & 4-Year-Olds meet in Chapel Room 6/7. Children's Chapel for ages 4 to 3rd grade following the Children's Moment. No children's Sunday School.

9:45 AM 3- & 4-Year-Olds meet in Chapel Room 6/7. Sunday & School for ages 5 to 5th grade OR ages 4-3rd grade

11:00 AM: attend worship with family. Following the Children's Moment, children may remain in the sanctuary or go to Children's Chapel with Mr. Kevin.

Children's Ministries at St. John provide many programs throughout the year. They include but are not limited to AWANA, AWANA Children's Praise Choir, Upward Basketball and Cheerleading, Upward Soccer, Vacation Bible School, Music Camp, Preschool and After School Care Programs, and the Fine Arts Academy.

AWANA Vision

AWANA is a Bible-based Christ-centered program committed to reaching boys and girls with the gospel of Jesus Christ and training them to serve Him. Children learn through high-energy games, memorization of Scripture, and understanding of key Bible verses.

The acronym AWANA comes from the first letters of Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15. *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (NIV)*

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 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 churches to start AWANA. Today, more than 11,000 U.S. churches run AWANA. There are clubs in all 50 states. AWANA can also be found in 3,300 churches in 109 other countries and six continents. Jack Eggar is the president/CEO. Art Rorheim serves as the Cofounder. For more information, about AWANA you can visit their website at www.awana.org.

Club Organization

Each club is designed to meet the unique need of a particular age group. Each club is divided according to the child's age and/or grade in school, following the same guidelines as Oldham County School District. If a child brings a friend to club, that friend may stay in the same group for the evening, but if the friend decides to join the program they must attend the group according to their age or grade in school. There are no exceptions to this rule according to AWANA regulations. Adaptations and modifications will be made for children with special needs. Please advise Commander and Director of your child's needs.

Cubbies

AWANA Cubbies have been designed specifically for 4-year-olds and Pre-Kindergarten children. The child must be four on or before September 30, 2011 and potty trained. Cubbies 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. Cubbie Bear, Luv E. Lamb, Ern E. Elephant, Zip E. Zebra, and Gigi Giraffe take preschoolers on a thrilling journey through God's Word. Caring, committed volunteer leaders nurture your children spiritually as Christian role models and teachers.

Sparks

Sparks club meetings combine learning with fun to create an atmosphere of irresistible excitement for children in kindergarten through second grade. Club meetings are divided into three segments:

- Bible teaching, worship, award presentation, and the message
- Small group interaction and completion of Bible-based lessons
- Age-appropriate games on the AWANA Game circle

Along the way, Sparky, the friendly firefly, encourages boys and girls to learn verses and complete assignments throughout the three handbooks.

Truth and Training

The name Truth & Training reflects the passion of AWANA to teach third through sixth-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. T&T will teach children that the ultimate adventure is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our weekly meetings will expose children to the message, Scripture memory, Bible Study, awards, team-oriented games and just plain old fun.

Basic Components

There are three basic components in which Sparks and T&T clubs will participate. Game Time, Handbook Time and Council Time.

Game Time is an exciting and safe time of fun and friendly competition. Each child is a member of a team that competes against other children of their same club. All children are expected to participate in all games unless a parent communicates otherwise with leader. Tennis shoes are a must for safety.

Handbook Time is when a small group meets with a leader and/or a listener to study and complete various Bible memorization sections. Each clubber is encouraged to complete 1-2 sections per week. In order for clubbers to complete a book in one year they must follow this guide.

Council Time is a time for singing, testimonies, recognition, and a special Bible message.

Cubbie Components include Story Time, Snack Time, Book Time and Play Time.

Each week the club meetings are Wednesday, from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm. Check-in starts promptly at **5:45 pm**. We expect all clubbers to be present in the sanctuary at 6:00 sharp, so please have your child checked in and seated before then. It is important to be considerate of our AWANA leaders and their families. Thank you for promptly picking up your children at 7:30. For your child's safety all children are to be picked up by a parent. No child will be released to come find you.

Parent Expectations

- Pay \$20.00 registration fee per child with \$50.00 maximum per family. Purchase T-shirts/vest for your child(ren) as well as clubber books as they progress through the program. Financial assistance is available if needed.
- Encourage and discuss with your child what they are learning. Review with them the Bible verse(s) they are memorizing. *Deuteronomy 11:19*
- All children participating in the program must have a registration form on file. This form must be completed every fall. Please contact us if any information changes throughout the year.
- If your child participates in the program we expect you to serve in some capacity with the AWANA program. We will find a position that best fits your gifts and talents. Positions for volunteering can be weekly or rotating. Please see the Commander or Children's Minister for a place to serve.
- For safety issues **all clubbers must be signed in and out** by a parent, older sibling (13 or older) or designated adult. No child will be allowed to be dropped off at the door at the beginning of the evening. Nor will any child be released to locate you at the end of the evening.
- Clubbers are to be picked up at 7:30 by a parent or designated adult. Parents will be contacted if continually late picking up their child. T&T clubbers are to be picked up in the gym. Cubbies and Sparks are to be picked up in their classrooms.
- If there is a change of contact numbers to reach you for the evening, please leave that number with the secretary at check-in.

- Arrive 10-15 minutes early to sign-in for children and escort them into the assigned location in the sanctuary by 6:00 sharp.
- If you are late and opening pledges and prayer are in process, you must wait with your child at the back of the sanctuary, with the doors closed, until pledges and prayer are finished. You may then escort them to their group during announcements.
- If you are late and the clubbers have already been dismissed to an activity, you must escort them to their activity and make sure their leader accounts for them.
- All clubbers are expected to take part in the entire club program, unless there is a note from a parent.
- Food and drinks are for special occasions only.

Clubber Expectations

- All clubbers are expected to take part in the entire club program, unless there is a note from a parent.
- If you are late and opening pledges and prayer are in process, you must wait with your parent at the back of the sanctuary, with the doors closed, until pledges and prayer are finished. You may then have your parent escort you to your group.
- If you are late and your club has already been dismissed to an activity, your parent must escort you to the activity. You then must immediately check in with your leader.
- To pass a section, no more than 2 helps are allowed. A help is defined as ña one- to three-word hintö.
- All clubbers are expected to bring their handbook each week. Kindergarteners through 6th graders are expected to also bring their Bible each week.
- A clubber must complete the Entrance Booklet before getting their handbook and uniform.

- Clubbers need to be prepared each week to complete a section or two in their books for Handbook Time.
- **WALK** to and from activities throughout the evening and stay with leader. No running except during designated games in Game Time.
- NO chewing gum.
- Respectful language is always expected before, during and after club.
- Care and respect should be shown for church property at all times.

Discipline (K-6th grade)

A 5-count system will be used to quiet the entire group of clubbers. By the time the leader counts to 5, all clubbers *and* leaders are expected to be still, quiet, and looking at the director or person in charge at that time. When the clubbers hear the director or leader begin the 5-count, they are to put their hands into the air and count with their fingers only.

Discipline is usually on a positive basis with rewards and points given for good behavior. However, for clubbers who do not cooperate, a 3-count system is administered to individual clubbers for unacceptable behavior. A clubber will be given three chances to control their inappropriate or disruptive behavior. A warning with verbal redirection will be given after the first offense. A second offense will receive time away from an activity until the clubber is ready to join the group again. For a clubber whose third offense necessitates a 3rd count, parents will be called to immediately pick up the child or the clubber will be removed from the evening activities and parents will be notified. Of course, the clubber is welcome back to the next club night when he or she is willing to meet the club expectations.

Handbooks

Before beginning a handbook, the clubber must complete the Entrance Booklet. Handbooks must be purchased by the parent. If a clubber completes the handbook before the end of the year, there are review sections and additional workbooks which all receive awards. Each week a clubber is encouraged to complete a minimum of one or two sections in their handbook. A "section" refers to a small part of the handbook, which includes one or more memory verses, fun learning activities, Bible drill, and crafts. A leader must sign off on each section. In order to finish the handbook in a year, two or three sections per week are recommended. (Cubbies only do one section per week.)

Uniforms

The AWANA uniform lets others know you are a member of our club. It is available for purchase as soon as you complete the entrance requirement for club membership. The uniform gives you a place to display your awards. A clean and neat uniform helps a clubber feel sharp and well disciplined. Complete uniforms with all awards are to be worn every week after a clubber passes the Entrance Booklet. Soft-soled tennis shoes must be worn for Game Time. NO sandals, flip-flops, Heelys, Crocks, etc. are allowed. Leaders must also be in uniform.

The cost of uniforms and handbooks is listed below (including shipping and handling). When purchasing a uniform, please keep in mind the growth of the child and the number of years they may wear that uniform. Uniform samples will be available to try on in the lobby on AWANA nights. Please try on your uniform before sewing on any patches. Financial assistance is available if needed. Please contact the Children's Minister.

Club	Uniform	Handbook	**Total**
Cubbies (4 year-olds)	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$24.00
Sparks (K-2 nd Grade)	\$12.00	Hanglider WingRunner and SkyStormer \$12.00	\$24.00
T&T (3 rd -6 th Grade)	3 rd 4 th \$14.00 5 th 6 th \$ 15.00	\$12.00	\$26/27
Adult Leader Uniforms (New ladies-cut sizes available)	\$21 S-XL \$27 XXL \$27 XXXL		

We will accept old uniforms in good condition if you would like to donate them.

Awards

Clubbers excelling in the AWANA Clubs can earn a variety of colorful awards. These awards vary from club to club, but most include rank insignias, achievement awards for club attendance, Bible drills, Sunday School attendance and book completion. The Club Attendance Award is presented four times a year for regular attendance. One absence is permitted per quarter. A quarter lasts approximately eight weeks. Awards are not given to a clubber out of uniform. They will receive their award the next time they come to club in their uniform. Cubbie awards will come home in a Ziploc baggie attached to their books. Attendance awards are given quarterly. Book awards are given at the end of the club year. Replacement patches and awards are at clubber's expense.

AWANA Bucks

AWANA bucks are available to clubbers (Sparks and T&T) as an incentive to complete sections or other achievements. They are also used to reward positive behavior or attitude during club. If bucks are lost they are not replaceable.

AWANA Store

Designated times throughout the year the AWANA Store will be open in order to redeem bucks for selected prizes. The clubber may spend all bucks each time or may save them for something larger. All bucks must be returned or spent by the last store night. Donations for the store are always appreciated.

Special Events

Many nights throughout the year will be designated as a theme night. Clubbers are asked to dress up according to the particular theme. Activities may also revolve around the theme during the evening. Please check the St. John newsletter for notices about theme night. A flyer may be handed out at check-in the week prior to the theme night to notify clubbers and parents.

Mission Opportunities

AWANA will help support St. John's Mission team with Christmas Angel Tree Food Baskets and Easter Baskets for local families. We will also support Will and Audrey Partin, St. John missionaries serving in the Dominican Republic, and Kentucky AWANA Missionaries, Tim and Cheryl Welcher. More information will be given throughout the year.

Commonly Asked Questions

We will follow the Oldham County Calendar for scheduled closings. In the case of inclement weather we will follow the closings for Oldham County Schools. Therefore, if Oldham is not in school, we will not have AWANA. Stay tuned to WHAS Channel 11 and WAVE 3 for announcements. A message will also be put on the church phone line.

If you are sick, running a fever or vomiting, please stay home from club that evening.

Children may start the program at anytime during the year. Each clubber will work through their handbook at their own pace.

Emergency number to call during club 643-4648 (Kevin) or 630-730-8252 (Traci).

AWANA Leaders

Commander	Traci Katzfey	292-2094
Children's Minister	Kevin Johnson	228-2897 ext. 124
Cubbies Director	Sharon Sohn	618-1800
Sparks Director	Wendy Rose	292-1222
T&T Director	Connie Ison	228-6408

AWANA Schedule

2011-2012

DATE	<u>Events 5:45-7:30 pm</u>	(Unless times noted)
09-07-11	Parent and Clubber Kick Off Night	
09-14-11	Regular Meeting	
09-21-11	Regular Meeting-Crazy Hair Night	Bring a friend
09-28-11	Regular Meeting	
10-05-11	Early Release Night Due To Kids Kloset	5:45 to 7:00
10-12-11	Regular Meeting	
10-19-11	No AWANA Fall Break	
10-26-11	Fall Festival- Opening and Handbook Time- Release to FF	
11-02-11	Regular Meeting	
11-09-11	Regular Meeting- Wear Your P.Js Night	Bring a Friend
11-16-11	Regular Meeting	Store
11-23-11	No AWANA Thanksgiving	
11-30-11	Regular Meeting	
12-07-11	Regular Meeting	
12-14-11	Regular Meeting- Happy Birthday Jesus (Donuts)	Bring a Friend
12-21-11	No AWANA Christmas Break	
12-28-11	No AWANA Christmas Break	
01-04-12	Regular Meeting	
01-11-12	Regular Meeting	
01-18-12	Regular Meeting- Wear a Hat Night	Bring a friend
01-25-12	Regular Meeting	
02-01-12	Regular Meeting	Store
02-08-12	Regular Meeting- Wear Red Night-Valentines	Bring a Friend
02-15-12	Regular Meeting	
02-22-12	Early Release Night Due to Ash Wednesday	5:45 to 6:50
02-29-12	Regular Meeting	
03-07-12	Regular Meeting	
03-14-12	Regular Meeting- Wear your Favorite Team Night	Bring a Friend
03-21-12	Early Release Night Due to Kids Kloset	5:45 to 7:00
03-28-12	Regular Meeting	
04-04-12	Regular Meeting- March Madness Awards	
04-11-12	No AWANA- Spring Break	
04-18-12	Last Regular Meeting	
04-25-12	Awards Night and Final Celebration, Store (Bring The Whole Family)	

Please
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Please sign, date and return this acknowledgement to Traci Katzfey or your leader.

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We the parent and clubber(s) have read and understand the Information Booklet pertaining to AWANA at St. John United Methodist Church. We agree to follow the guidelines and expectations of the program.

Parent Signature

Date

Clubber Signature

Date

Clubber Signature

Date

Clubber Signature

Date

Clubber Signature

Date

Registration Fee Includes:

- Shipping
- Awards/Badges
- Missionary Giving
- AWANA Store