



# Parent Handbook

2017-2018



**New Paris Church of the Brethren**

574-831-2434

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## Welcome!

It is a pleasure and a privilege to have your child attend the New Paris Church of the Brethren Awana program. We look forward to getting to know you and your child. We strive to provide a fun learning environment that creates excitement and a desire for children to discover more about Christ.

Anticipating you may have some questions about the NPCOB Awana program, we have prepared this handbook for your convenience. Please read it thoroughly for it will tell you how your child can gain the most out of the program and answer a lot of your questions.

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New Paris Church of the Brethren offers children an opportunity to grow in Christ through the Awana program. This biblically based nondenominational ministry allows us to share the Gospel in a unique and fun way.



Awana stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed." It is based on the Bible verse *2 Timothy 2:15*, which says:

*"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."*

Children learn about God's Word and memorize scripture to build a solid foundation in their faith. They also enjoy singing, playing games, participating in theme nights, and receiving awards for their accomplishments.

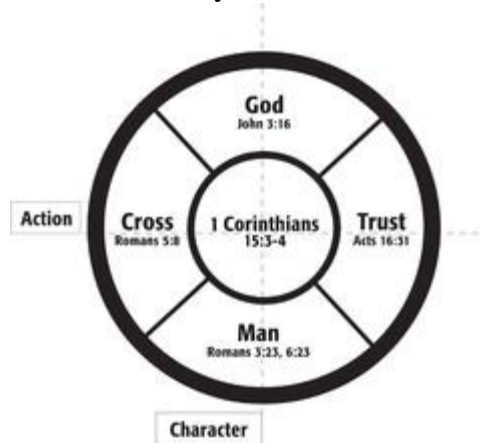


Dear Parents,

As a Church of Jesus Christ, New Paris Church of the Brethren is interested in ways to serve our community. One of the community's most valuable resources is its children. Over the years, NPCOB has conducted different children's programs. For several years now, we have been offering a weekly Awana program

Awana is Biblically based. The children learn new songs, have fun times, recreation, read and memorize scripture, have a lesson and community-building opportunities. The main focus of Awana is introducing children to Jesus Christ and teaching them how to bring their friends to Christ.

Maybe your child already knows Christ. If so, great. If not, their decision with what to do with Christ is the most important decision they will ever make. Your children will receive a tool to help them understand and share the gospel with their friends. This tool is the gospel wheel. I would like to introduce this tool to you.



The Gospel wheel is founded on the inerrant Word of God. At the center of the gospel is the truth of the gospel.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

*3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:  
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

*4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

We understand that Jesus did not give up His life for His sins. He committed no sins. So whose sins did he give up His life for? Yours and Mine. Okay now, you are a pastor and you are a sinner? Yes, I most certainly am; we all are. The following scriptures tell us about the character of men and women.

**Romans 3:23**

*23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

**Romans 6:23**

*23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This doesn't sound so good for us, does it? We are sinners and God is sinless, how are sinful men and women reconciled to a perfect God? For this to happen, God had to take an extreme action.

Here is the character of God.

**Romans 5:8**

**8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

So, if Jesus gives up His life for us, how do we pay him back? We must do something right?

**Romans 10:9-10, 13**

**9** *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. 13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

How do you call on the name of the Lord? You simply say, "Help me Lord Jesus, Save me Lord Jesus." Then our Lord and Savior will save us. He has done and is doing all the Salvation work.

You may or may not realize it, but you have just read the plan of salvation. Many of you reading this letter may already be saved. I hope this makes sense to you, if so great. If you do not understand this, feel free to call me at 831-2434. If I am not here when you call, I will get back to you. If you do not have a Church home, we would invite you to give us a try. We are not perfect, but we love Christ and are learning more about him. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are being changed and are living the way he taught. Thanks in advance for sending us your children. It is an honor to serve them and teach them about Christ.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Stanley (Stan) L Godfrey Jr.  
Pastor  
New Paris Church of the Brethren

## NPCOB's Awana Clubs

We offer three Awana clubs, Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T.



**Cubbies** (3 – 4 years of age) celebrate the spiritual potential of preschoolers by helping them develop respect for God, His Son and His Word.

Preschool children must be potty-trained to attend Cubbies.



**Sparks** (Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) ignites the curiosity of early elementary-age children to learn about the people and events of the Bible, building a foundation of wisdom for knowing Christ.



**T&T** (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade) engages kids by answering their questions about God and the Bible, guiding them through this pivotal life stage to grow in Christ's grace.



### Bring Your Friends

friends.

Your child may invite friends to join him or her at any time during the year. Clubbers will receive extra Awana Bucks for bringing

## Registration Fee

We have chosen to assist parents with the cost of participating in Awana by paying for most of the supplies. Your portion of the registration fee helps offset the cost of your child's handbook, vest or shirt, bag, and awards. The fees are as follows:

- \$10 for each returning clubber who has the appropriate supplies (shirt, handbook, bag) for his or her club
- \$25 for returning clubbers moving up to a new club
- \$25 for new clubbers

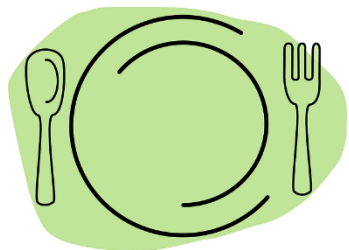
We will order your child's supplies once we receive payment.

## Nightly Activities

Awana Clubs meet on Wednesday nights from September through March. Every evening has a theme attached such as Crazy Hair, Jammin' in your Jammies, BARF (Bring A Real Friend) Night, and a Drive-in Movie. The clubbers enjoy participating in these often-unusual activities.



**Drop Off** – Please escort your child **into** the church building through the east doors (under the canopy) and proceed down the stairs. Stop at the registration area and follow the signs. Your child may then join the other clubbers for supper or wait until the activities begin at 5:50.

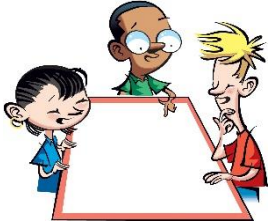


**Supper** (optional) – is served at 5:30. You will receive a menu in the monthly newsletter. If your child does not like what is being served for supper on any evening, please feed your child at home. We have experienced a lot of food waste. There have been entire uneaten meals placed in the trash.

Parents of Cubbies and Kindergartners – please stay to help your children during supper time. We are hoping this will help decrease food waste as well.



**Opening Ceremonies** – begin at 5:50 and is held in the sanctuary. The children will have devotions and prayer from Pastor Stan, participate in music, and receive announcements.



**Large group time** – Each individual club has a separate large group time. This includes a Bible lesson and other activities.

**Handbook time** – The children work in a small group with a leader to pass handbook sections and do scripture memorization.



**Game time** – The children participate in various games. They learn about teamwork and good sportsmanship. Please be sure your children wear tennis shoes to Awana.

**Pick Up** – club activities end at 7:30 pm. Please come **into** the church to pick up your child. Please proceed to the designated area in the basement where the staff will release your child. The leaders will bring the clubbers downstairs after closing ceremony.



The Cubbies will be near the long table in the fellowship hall (registration area.)



The Sparks will be in the back hallway near the kitchen (on the side where the children have supper.)



The T&T Clubbers will be on the east side where the kitchen is (opposite of the eating area.)



While you wait, ***please*** check your child's folder in the mailbox. There may be a newsletter or other information that is important for you to know.

The staff will release the clubbers ***one at a time***. Please be prepared to present a picture ID with your name on the card (a driver's license will be ideal), when you come to pick up your child. There are several of you who have brought your children to our Awana program for many years. We will most likely not ask for your ID. Please do have it available in case a new (or substitute) staff member does not recognize you.

## Handbooks



**The Cubbies Curriculum** features two handbooks (one per Awana year) written in a fun, storybook style with read-aloud stories and lovable characters that appeal to preschoolers.

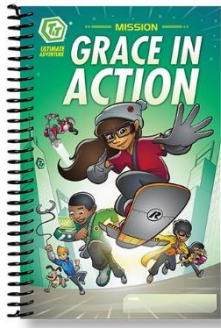
The AppleSeed and HoneyComb handbooks combine basic Scripture memory with parent-child activities to help Cubbies grasp simple biblical truths. Each Cubbies handbook contains a helpful review CD to use at home.



**The Sparks** handbooks build 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), which centers on the Gospel message of John 3:16.

*WingRunner* and *SkyStormer* handbooks challenge Sparkies to learn about 15 more verses than the *HangGlider* handbook. Each handbook includes an audio CD with readings of all the Bible biographies, memory verses and character stories featuring Sparky the Firefly and his friends Chloe, Jacob and Joel.



**The T&T Curriculum** has changed with new books and method of teaching. Each clubber will begin using the Start Zone. It walks kids through the gospel, the plan of salvation, and gives an overview of basic Bible information.

The clubbers will use a handbook each evening. It engages the clubbers by answering their questions about God and the Bible while guiding them to grow in Christ's love and live out their faith.

The all-together method of teaching moves kids together as a group from week-to-week. This ensures all the kids understand and apply the biblical concepts presented in each lesson before going further in the handbook.

Small Group time helps reinforce the verses and values presented each week in the Large Group time. The clubbers progress together from week-to-week throughout the handbook as they memorize Bible verses. Kids are still welcome to complete the handbook at their own pace.

## Awards



**Awards** play a big part in the Awana Club experience. They motivate and reward curriculum and service achievements.



**Cubbies** like wearing their vest and showing off the awards they have earned. The emblems have specific areas for attachment.

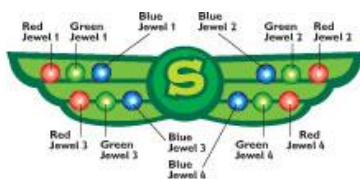
1. AppleSeed / HoneyComb Trail Emblem
2. Red Apple Achievement Emblem
3. Green Apple Achievement Emblem

Cubbies who have completed their handbooks within one Awana year will receive the appropriate ribbon on Awards Night.



**Sparks** earn patches, emblems, and wings as they complete activities in their handbooks. The awards also have specific areas for attachment.

1. Sparks Emblem
2. HangGlider Rank Emblem
3. WingRunner Rank Emblem
4. SkyStormer Rank Emblem
5. HangGlider Review Emblem
6. HangGlider Pilot Wings and Jewels
7. HangGlider Extra Credit Pin
8. Church Attendance Emblems



Sparks receive wings and jewels. The picture shows where to place the jewels.



To earn a Sparky Award, a clubber must complete the three Sparks handbooks, which involves memorizing 107 verses. The recipient must have completed the second grade.

## T&T Awards



The T&T clubbers earn emblems for sections completed. These emblems may be placed on the jersey to form shapes and patterns. You may sew your child's patches onto his or her shirt or you may ask about using our award badge stickers (they are much easier than sewing.)

1. Discovery emblems
2. Extra-Credit emblems
3. Book completion pins
4. Special Events & Awana GO Emblems
5. Passport Collector pins
6. Handbook Review Emblems



T&T clubbers earn trophies based on how many handbooks they complete while in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

## Lost Awards

There is a fee to replace any lost awards, handbooks, handbags, vests, shirts, or if your child needs a different sized shirt. The fees are as below:

Vest – \$11.00

Shirt – \$16.00

Handbook – \$10.00

Cubbies bag – \$6.50

Sparks bag – \$5.00

T&T bag – \$8.00

Patches and Wings – \$1.50 each



## Awana Bucks and Awana Store

The children have fun earning Awana Bucks as they accomplish certain activities. The point system serves as a motivation for the children. Each activity is worth 10 points. Points are given as follows:

1. Attending an Awana night
2. Being in “uniform” (Awana shirt, handbook, handbag, Bible)
3. Bringing a friend
4. Passing handbook sections
5. Attending church or Sunday school

Clubbers exchange their Awana Bucks for items in the Awana store. The Awana store will be open several times during the Awana year allowing clubbers many opportunities to earn enough points to cash-in their Awana Bucks for prizes. The store items are an assortment of toys, school supplies, and etcetera.

The children will **not** be purchasing these items with real money.

## Clubber's Responsibilities



To have a safe, enjoyable, and orderly club for all, we expect every club participant to show responsibility. We ask your child to follow these rules:

1. Have fun! ☺
2. Participate in all activities.
3. Bring his or her Bible, handbook, and Awana bag **each** week.
4. Wear his or her appropriate Awana vest or shirt.
5. **Come prepared** to pass handbook sections and say his or her Bible verse each week.
6. Walk carefully and quietly through the hallways and common areas.
7. Respect all church property.
8. Remain with the Awana leaders at all times.
9. Show respect for all adults and other children.
10. Do not use any coarse language for it is *not* acceptable.
11. Do not leave the church grounds during club time.
12. Do not bring any valuable belongings to club. This includes cell phones.

## Discipline

**AWANA 5-count** is used to get all clubbers' attention. The director or leader who is in charge will begin to count aloud, slowly from one to five. When clubbers hear this count begin, they should immediately be quiet and give their full attention to the one in charge.

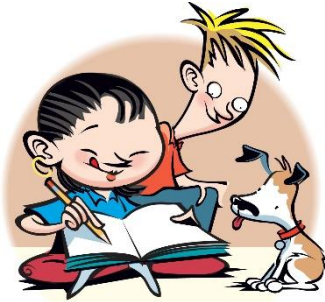
**AWANA 3-count** – The 3-count is a tool for maintaining individual discipline and helping the children focus on club activities. This tool is necessary for the child who refuses to cooperate, is disruptive, and misbehaves.

1-count: Verbal warning from leader

2-count: Verbal warning from director and pastor

3-count: Parents will be called and clubber will be sent home. The clubber may return the following week when he or she is ready to respect club rules.

## Parent's Role in Awana



Your parental involvement in Awana is **important**. Below you will find ways to help your child to get the most enjoyment and fulfillment out of the Awana Club.

1. Invest in your child's growing faith by reading and discussing the Bible and the handbook sections with your child.
2. Help your child complete the handbook activities. Two to three sections per week will practically guarantee your child will earn the handbook completion award by year's end.
3. Assist your child in memorizing the Bible verses so he or she is prepared for the next club meeting.
4. Help your child attend Awana on time each week.
5. Have your child wear his or her Awana shirt or vest, and athletic shoes each week.
6. Have your child bring his or her Bible, handbook, and Awana bag each week.



7. Do not bring your child to Awana if he or she is ill. We follow the standard public school and childcare guidelines of 24 hours free of fever and symptoms before returning to club. We are not staffed or equipped to handle sick children. Children who appear ill will be sent home.



### Awana at NPCOB Facebook Group

We have a Facebook group (closed to the public) and hope you will send a request to join us. It is a wonderful place for:

1. Learning how well the clubbers are doing
2. Receiving announcements
3. Getting reminders
4. Learning about cancellations



## Inclement Weather Policy

We will automatically cancel Awana when the Fairfield schools close due to weather conditions.

If the weather deteriorates after the school hours end, we will make the decision to cancel the club night by 4:30 p.m. At that time, we will initiate the following:

1. Post a message on the Awana at NPCOB Facebook page.
2. Begin our telephone tree. You will receive a phone call from a member of the Awana staff notifying you we are cancelling Awana for the evening.
3. Post the cancellation on the WNDU website. The notification may or may not appear on the television, so please check the WNDU website.

If you have any questions about us cancelling a club night, please feel free to call the church office at 831-2434 or Angie McFarren, the Awana Ministry Director, at 831-4643.

## 2017-2018 Awana Calendar

Date	Theme	Description
Sept. 6	Welcome Night	Family event with supper, games, learning about Awana, and registration  5:30 – Supper 6:00 – Parent Meeting & Clubber Orientation 6:20 – Games 6:45 – Dismissal
Sept. 13	BARF Night	<b>Bring A Real Friend</b> to Awana.
Sept. 20	Ratty T-Shirt Night	Wear that one very special, old torn up, “I don’t want to part with it,” T Shirt!
Sept. 27	Crazy Hair Night	Tease it, wear odd objects in it, or do anything else that’s crazy to your hair.
Oct. 4	‘90s Night	Come dressed in ‘90s attire. <b>Bring a friend to Awana.</b>
Oct. 11	<b>Candy Challenge Night</b>	Say all the verses you have learned since Sept. 13 to receive one piece of candy.  Say all the verses you have learned since Sept. 13 and one <b>new</b> verse to receive 3 pieces of candy.



		One random person from T&T who says all his or her verses he/she has learned since plus one <b>new</b> verse will go home with something special.
Oct. 18	Harvest Night	Dress like a farmer or scarecrow.
Oct. 25	Royalty Night <b>Awana Store</b>	Dress like a prince or princess. Receive prizes based on accomplishments.
Nov. 1	Western Night	Dress like a cowboy or cowgirl.
Nov. 8	Crazy Socks & Ties Night	Wear crazy looking socks & ties. <b>Bring a friend to Awana.</b>
Nov. 15	<b>Lollipop Challenge Night</b>	Say all your verses you have learned since Oct. 18 to receive a lollipop.  Say all the verses you have learned since Oct. 18 and one <b>new</b> verse to receive a bigger lollipop. One random person from T&T who says all his or her verses he/she has learned since plus one <b>new</b> verse will go home with something special.
Nov. 22	<b>No Awana</b>	<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>  <b>Keep learning your verses!</b>
Nov. 29	1980's Night  <b>Awana Store</b>	Come dressed in 1980's attire.  Receive prizes based on accomplishments.
Dec. 6	Ugly Sweater Night	Wear your ugliest sweater. <b>Bring a friend to Awana.</b>
Dec. 13	'Twas the Night Before Jesus <b>Time Change:</b> 5:30 – Supper 7:00 – Pick up time	Wear your PJs.
Dec. 20	<b>No Awana</b>	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>  <b>Keep learning your verses!</b>
Dec. 27	<b>No Awana</b>	<b>Happy New Year!</b>  <b>Keep learning your verses!</b>
Jan. 3	<b>No Awana</b>	<b>See you next week!</b>  <b>Keep learning your verses!</b>

Jan. 10	Drive-in Movie	Sit in the car (decorated box) you made as you watch a movie. <b>Bring a friend to Awana.</b>
Jan. 17	Blackout Night	Wear black.
Jan. 24	Camouflage Night	Dress in camouflage.
Jan. 31	Mustache Night	Wear a mustache.
Feb. 7	Sports Night	Dress in your favorite sports attire. Bring a friend to Awana.
Feb. 14	<b>Candy Kisses and Hugs Challenge Night</b>	Say all the verses you have learned since Nov. 29 to receive one Hershey Kiss or Hug.  Say all the verses you have learned since Nov. 29 and one <b>new</b> verse to receive 3 Hershey Kiss or Hugs. One random person from T&T who says all his or her verses he/she has learned since plus one <b>new</b> verse will go home with something special.
Feb. 21	Detective Night	Come dressed like a detective.
	<b>Awana Store</b>	Receive prizes based on accomplishments.
Feb. 28	SdrawkcaB & Inside Out Night	Wear your clothes backwards and inside out.
March 7	Jammin' in your Jammies	Wear your favorite PJ's (nothing revealing please.)
March 14	Fashion Disaster	Dress like a mess.
March 21	<b>Cookie Challenge Night</b>	Say all the verses you have learned since Feb. 21 to receive one cookie.  Say all the verses you have learned since Feb. 21 and one <b>new</b> verse to receive 3 cookies. One random person from T&T who says all his or her verses he/she has learned since plus one <b>new</b> verse will go home with something special.  Receive prizes based on accomplishments.
	<b>Awana Store</b>	
March 28	Awards Night	WOOHOO! Come celebrate all you have achieved this year!  <b>Parents</b> , please join us as we celebrate the clubber's accomplishments.