



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IN BOWIE

Parent Information Guide 2025–2026



To reach young people and their families with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve the Lord with their whole heart.

gbcbowie.org/awana



Grace Baptist Church counts it a privilege to minister to your child and your family. We want to first thank you for allowing your child to come to Awana. We trust your child will have a great time and that after their first visit they will not be able to wait for the next Awana Club meeting! This booklet provides important information about the Awana ministry here at Grace Baptist Church. I am sure you will want to keep it in a safe place so you can refer to it throughout the year.

The Bible, in Proverbs 22:6, instructs us to “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Realizing that today’s young people are confronted daily with life-changing decisions, Awana’s Bible-based curriculum can assist you in establishing a firm foundation for their daily lives. Each young person is special to God and to our leaders who work in this ministry!

*Pastor Jamie Miller
Pastor of Children and Administration
Grace Baptist Church*

GENERAL EVENING SCHEDULE

All clubs from Puggles through T&T start promptly at 6:00 pm each Sunday unless otherwise noted in the calendar of events. Please do not leave your children unsupervised before 6:00 pm. Leaders generally arrive at 5:45 pm, however, parents should not leave their child unless their leader has arrived. It is also extremely important for parents/guardians to pick up their children promptly at the end of the evening.

Every club night consists of the following:

Game Time (except Puggles & Cubbies): Running, jumping, pulling, cheering, etc. in team competition. All games take place in the gym, therefore we ask clubbers to wear pants or shorts, and SNEAKERS. It would be unsafe to have your child running in sandals, socks, or bare feet.

Handbook Time: The clubber recites the verses or sections from their handbook that they studied the previous week to their leader. The leader is only allowed to give two helps per section, which includes help with the reference. The leader then signs the handbook/manual section that was completed in a single setting. Sections are to be signed in chronological order. Clubbers may be asked to explain a verse in their own words after reciting it. This helps promote memorization, retention, and understanding.

Council Time: This is a time of worship, singing, testimonies, and Bible stories. It may also include Awards Time, a very special part of the club night.

RULES AND POLICIES

Show respect for God's House, God's Name, and God's Word.

Show respect for God-given authority

Have a loving, positive, Christ-like attitude towards other Awana clubbers and leaders.

Respect church property and the property of others.

Participate in all club activities: game time, handbook time, and council time.

No running in the building at any time except during Game Time. Awards will be given to clubbers who are wearing their uniform.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is the process of teaching acceptable behavior and self-control.

Clubbers are required to come to attention and stop talking whenever a leader begins a 5-count for a group of clubbers.

Individual misbehavior may require use of the 3-count by directors or commanders.

1) When a child continues to act inappropriately after gentle reminders, a leader may give a one count.

2) If the clubber continues to create disturbances and disobey leaders, the clubber is given a two count. The clubber is pulled aside and talked to by a director and/or commander and is told that continued misbehavior will result in a three count, which means suspension for at least a week.

3) If a clubber continues to create problems, he is placed on a three count. Clubber is removed from club and parents/guardians are asked to pick up their child immediately. Parents will be told of problem and told that the child will be welcomed back provided the clubber adheres to acceptable standards of conduct.

PASSING HANDBOOK SECTIONS

The clubber must pass an entire section (all verses, answers, and word definitions) during one session. They cannot look at handbook during the recitation of the section.

Clubbers must pass sections with no more than two helps. A help equals three words or less, or any other hint. Review sections must be passed with no helps.

Clubbers must recite the reference and the verse. If a leader supplies the reference, it counts as one help.

Clubbers must answer any additional questions and complete any additional, required activities within the section.

Clubbers must pass sections in order, unless otherwise noted in the handbook.

Clubbers must answer questions and give word definitions in their own words.

EARNING ATTENDANCE AWARDS

A **Church attendance award** is given twice a year. A clubber must attend Sunday School or a church service without missing more than two Sundays in the period. Sickness, being out of town, or other reasons deemed by director to be acceptable constitute excused absences.

The **Club attendance award** is earned each quarter if the Clubber attends every scheduled club night except for one. Excused absences include sickness, out of town with family, mandatory school functions, or other reasons deemed by director to be acceptable.

BRING A FRIEND TO AWANA

This section requires that the clubber bring a visitor to an Awana club at Grace who does not attend any other Awana clubs. If extenuating circumstances make it difficult to bring a friend, one of these may be used:

Invite 3 friends. Ask your parent to sign a paper for your leader that says you have invited them to club.

Do an outreach program – visit a nursing home, pass out flyers to a church special program or function, bring a friend to a special event, etc.

Wear uniform to school and be prepared to explain Awana to your classmates. Bring a note from your parent stating what you did.

AWANA AWARDS

FIRST BOOK AWARDS: On completion of the clubber's first handbook, Puggles get a participation certificate; Cubbies get a miniature Cubbie Bear; and Sparks earn a First Book Ribbon.

SPARKS BOOK AWARDS: In the Sparks club, a clubber can earn a Second Book Ribbon for completion of two handbooks. If a clubber completes all three Sparks handbooks, they are eligible for the Sparky Plaque and have qualified to attend the regional Sparks Camp-A-Rama.

ALPHA AWARD is awarded for completion of one handbook (from 3rd grade through 12th grade).

EXCELLENCE AWARD is awarded for completion of two handbooks (from 3rd grade through 12th grade).

CHALLENGE AWARD is awarded for completion of three handbooks (from 3rd grade through 12th grade).

TIMOTHY AWARD* is awarded for completion of four handbooks (from 3rd grade through 12th grade).

MERITORIOUS AWARD* is awarded for completion of six handbooks (from 3rd grade through 12th grade).

CITATION AWARD* is awarded for completion of all ten handbooks (from 3rd grade through 12th grade).

* Email awana@gbcbowie.org to order handbooks for students in Grades 6-12.

POINTS AND TEAM COMPETITION

Teams will be assigned the first night your child attends club and may be changed periodically to ensure balance. Visitors may be on the same team as the clubber who brought them. If that same visitor returns to club, they may be placed on another team depending on total team balance.

Points will generally be awarded for the following items, but may vary from club to club:

WEARING THE UNIFORM
HANDBOOK (or entrance booklet)
VISITOR BROUGHT TO CLUB
BRINGING BIBLE TO CLUB
ATTENDANCE AT CLUB
SECTIONS COMPLETED
CHURCH ATTENDANCE
GAME TIME

Clubbers may say as many sections as they can in one evening, but may be limited to two at a time to give others a chance to say sections.

Bonus points may be given at the discretion of the leadership. Competition is weekly unless otherwise stated.

Points are earned for participating in theme nights.

Points directly relate to Awana shares, which can be redeemed for items when clubbers visit the Awana store at the end of each semester (December and May).

FAQS

What do we do during inclement weather? Awana will generally be cancelled if Prince George's County schools are closed or dismissed early. Parents/guardians may also check the church website for details: www.gbcbowie.org.

What is the Awana store? The Awana store increases enthusiasm, motivates clubbers in their achievements, and is an alternative to the use of candy as an incentive. The store offers a selection of prizes to choose from by exchanging shares for prizes.

What is the Grand Prix and who can participate? The Awana Grand Prix is a model car race event for 3rd – 5th grades. Clubbers may purchase small pine blocks of wood and plastic wheels to construct their cars, usually with the help of a parent/guardian or leader. During the actual Grand Prix, clubbers compete within their own club in two categories: speed and design. A hot wheels race will take place for Sparks.

What is Awana Bible Challenge? Awana Bible Challenge is a competitive event for 3rd – 5th grades which tests clubber's knowledge of handbook material and provides individual recognition and awards. The competition motivates young people from various churches to increase their Bible knowledge.

What is the Sparks-A-Rama? Sparks-A-Rama is an annual event that brings together clubs, clubbers, leadership, and different churches as determined by the Awana missionary. It is a day of fun that features six Sparks games.

What are the AwanaGames and for whom are they designed? AwanaGames are an annual sporting event for 3rd – 6th grades, played on an AwanaGames circle among area clubs. Each church competes with three other churches. The underlying purpose of the games is to reach out to clubbers' families and friends with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

SICKNESS POLICY

Please keep your child at home with any of the following symptoms or illnesses:

- Runny nose
- Fever within last 24 hours
- Diarrhea
- Vomitting
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Chicken pox
- Impetigo
- Measles
- Mumps
- Questionable rashes

If your child is being treated with antibiotics, he/she should be on the medication for at least 24 hours before returning to any Children's Ministry program.

If your child has some of the above symptoms due to non-contagious allergies, just let us know.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Pastor of Children and Administration, Pastor Jamie Miller.

Contact Info: jmiller@gbcbowie.org
(301) 262-1767 Ext 225

ALLERGY POLICY

Upon registration, you are responsible for completing the section concerning any allergies your child may have. This information will help our leaders take appropriate precautions to avoid allergic reactions. Please understand that, although we try our best to ensure the safety of all students, we cannot guarantee an allergy-free environment.

Food is offered to clubbers very infrequently throughout the club year, only occurring on special celebration nights such as Christmas parties or end-of-year parties. Parents and leaders will be notified in advance of such events so precautions can be taken.

The allergy policy we have is based on **reaction severity** and **age** of the children involved.

Severity-Based Policy

Level 1: Allergic reactions due to eating allergens only:

- Room leaders are notified of the allergies.
- Alternative food option(s) are offered to the impacted child.
- Effort is made to minimize the risk of cross-contamination, but a risk-free environment cannot be guaranteed.
- This is the most common scenario.

Level 2: Allergic reaction due to eating or touching allergens:

- Room leaders are notified of the severity of the allergy.
- Effort is made to keep specific allergens out of the applicable classroom (but cannot be guaranteed).
- This is a severe reaction, and we are mindful of the risk when having large parties that include moving around the building since dirty hands can smear the allergen all over the building.

Level 3: Allergic reaction due to the **smell** or **being near** allergens:

- Room leaders are notified of the severity of the allergy.
- Effort is made to keep specific allergens out of the building (but an allergy-free environment cannot be guaranteed).
- This is an extreme reaction and something we rarely face.

Age-Based Policy

For children ages 2 and under, any allergic reaction (regardless of severity):

- Room Leaders are notified of the allergies.
- Effort is made to keep specific allergens out of the applicable classroom (but an allergy-free environment cannot be guaranteed).
- Entire classroom has an allergy-free menu out of an abundance of caution

NOTE: This policy may also be applied for ages 3-4 at the room director's discretion, depending on the developmental state of the children in the classroom.

In the event of an allergic reaction, our leaders will contact the impacted child's parents/guardians and/or the emergency contacts. As our leaders are not trained to render medical assistance, they will call 911 for emergency medical services if a severe reaction is encountered. Per the AWANA registration agreement, parents/guardians assume responsibility for all costs connected to any emergency medical treatment their child may receive and will not hold Grace Baptist Church or anyone involved in the AWANA ministries liable for injuries received related to club activities.

Responsibilities

1. Parents will disclose their children's allergies and their severity levels upon registration.
2. Leaders will notify parents of any activities involving food and ensure appropriate precautions are made to minimize exposure to allergens.
3. Leaders will contact parents in the event of an allergic reaction.
4. Leaders will obtain emergency medical services for children experiencing severe allergic reactions.
5. Parents are responsible for the costs of any medial services provided to children that have experienced an allergic reaction.

Thank you for your attention in these matters. If there are any questions or concerns, please email awana@gbcbowie.org.

DUES AND COSTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (PER FAMILY):

1 Clubber	\$15.00
2 Clubbers	\$25.00
3 or more Clubbers	\$30.00

HANDBOOKS:

Puggles Take-home cards	\$17.00
Cubbies	\$14.00
Sparks	\$14.00
Sparks Frequent Flyer	\$15.00
T&T	\$14.00

UNIFORMS

Puggles	\$13.00
Cubbies	\$15.00
Sparks	\$15.00
T&T	\$20.00

BOOKBAGS

Cubbies	\$10.00
Sparks	\$10.00
T&T Sling Bag	\$18.00

PUGGLES: BOYS AND GIRLS

(AGE 2 BY 9/1/25)

NOTE: Number of Puggles is limited to 10 children.

UNIFORM: The Puggles uniform is a T-shirt for our 2 year olds to proudly wear. Our little “Puggles” love to learn God’s Word in bits just for their age group!

SUPPLIES: Each Puggle needs to come ready to learn with their uniform each week. A story card is sent home each week so that parents can help reinforce what is learned during Puggles time.

EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 – 6:20pm | Song and Story Time
6:20 – 6:50pm | Craft Time
6:50 – 7:00pm | Free Play
7:00 – 7:15pm | Pick-up Time

CUBBIES: BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 3 AND 4 (AGE 3 BY 9/1/25)

UNIFORM: The Cubbies uniform is a blue vest.

SUPPLIES: Each Cubbie needs to come ready to learn with their uniform and handbook each week.

NOTE: a bag to carry supplies is available for purchase.

EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 – 6:10pm | Handbook and Sharing Time

6:10 – 6:40pm | Music and Story Time

6:40 – 7:00pm | Free Play and Handbook Time

7:00 – 7:15pm | Pick-up Time

PACING SCHEDULE: You should work with your Cubbie each week by reading the section for the week and reviewing the Bible verse. Cubbies should be prepared to complete one section per week. Please check inside your Cubbies manual for a pacing schedule.

**SPARKS: BOYS AND GIRLS K-2ND GRADE
(MUST BE IN K FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR)**

UNIFORM: Red vest.

SUPPLIES: Wear sneakers and uniform. Bring handbook and Bible to each club meeting.

EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 – 6:20pm | Game Time
6:20 – 6:45pm | Handbook Time
6:45 – 7:05pm | Green Meadow Time
7:05 – 7:15pm | Pick-up Time

PACING SCHEDULE:

	1st Qtr(10/26)	2nd Qtr(1/11)	3rd Qtr(3/8)
HangGlider	Rank Test	Red Jewel 2 Section 1	Green Jewel 3 Section 4
WingRunner	Red Jewel 1 Section 4	Red Jewel 2 Section 4	Green Jewel 3 Section 4
SkyStormer	Red Jewel 1 Section 4	Red Jewel 2 Section 4	Green Jewel 3 Section 4

T & T: 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH GRADES

UNIFORM: Green Ultimate Adventure Uniform for 3 – 5th graders.

SUPPLIES: Wear sneakers and uniform. Bring handbook, Bible and pen or pencil.

EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 – 6:30pm | Council Time

6:30 – 7:00pm | Handbook Time (boys) Game Time (girls)

7:00 – 7:30pm | Handbook Time (girls) Game Time (boys)

7:30 – 7:45pm | Pick-up Time

PACING SCHEDULE:

(to complete manual by end of year):

Mission: Evidence of Grace – Complete 8 sections each quarter

1st quarter ends 10/26

2nd quarter ends 1/11

3rd quarter ends 3/8

AWANA CALENDAR 2025-2026
SUNDAYS 6:00 PM

September	7 - First Awana Club Night 14 - Awana Club Night 21 - Awana Club Night 28 - Goofy Glasses Night
October	<i>Grace Gives Food/Ministry Collection Month</i> 5 - 1st Night for T&T to Purchase Grand Prix Cars 12 - Sparks Parent Night 19 - T&T Parent Night 26 - Costume Night (End of 1st Quarter)
November	2 - Awana Club Night 9 - Honor Your Military Night 16 - T&T Grand Prix; Sparks Hot Wheels Race 23 - No Awana - GBC Members Meeting 30 - No Awana - Thanksgiving Break
December	7 - Awana Club Night; Double Shares 14 - Christmas Cheer Night; Awana Store 21 - No Awana - CCC at Jireh Place 28 - No Awana - Christmas Break
January	4 - Awana Club Night; Double Shares 11 - Awana Club Night (End of 2nd Quarter) 18 - Awana Club Night; Neon Night 25 - Awana Club Night; Halfway Night

February

- 1 - Awana Club Night
- 8 - "Souper" Bowl Night
- 15 - Awana Club Night
- 21 - AWANA Bible Challenge (for T&T)
- 22 - No Awana - GBC Members Meeting

March

Awana Go Month

- 1 - Silly Hat or Hair Night
- 8 - Awana Club Night (End of 3rd Quarter)
- 14 - Awana Games @ Arlington Baptist Church (for Sparks and T&T)
- 15 - Sparks Parent Night
- 22 - T&T Parent Night
- 29 - Awana Club Night

April

- 5 - No Awana - Easter Break
- 12 - Awana Club Night; Double Shares
- 19 - Awana Club Night
- 26 - Hawaiian Island Night

May

- 3 - Closing Night for Puggles and Cubbies; Last Regular Club Night for Sparks and T&T, 5th Graders Visit U-Turn at Jireh Place. (End of 4th Qtr.)
- 10 - No Awana - Mother's Day
- 17 - Awards Night for Sparks and T&T; Awana Store

HOW CAN A PARENT BE INVOLVED?

The success of your clubber's AWANA year depends greatly on the involvement of you, the parent. Here are some ideas to get you thinking about ways to help your child have a super year:

- Help your clubber pass sections (Sparks and T&T) each week, working to help him or her understand and apply each memory verse.
- Read every flyer brought home by your child ... they are important!
- Volunteer to be an AWANA listener – we need help listening to all the sections the clubbers have worked so hard to prepare each week
- Attend special events in which your child is involved.
- Encourage your child in their efforts. Help them to understand the importance of memorizing scripture and in becoming involved



Church Office Phone (8:30am - 4:30pm):

301-262-1767

