



PARENT INFORMATION

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH • 425-255-4751

Awana Ministries Director: Jerry Mays awana@highlandsc.org
HCC Elementary Director: Jennica Osborne jennicao@highlandsc.org

Dear Sparks Parents,

Welcome to Awana! Sparks is an Awana Ministries Club designed for children in kindergarten, first, and second grades. Your child will learn God's Word through: memorization of Scripture, using the handbook, listening to recordings, and Bible teaching. We also make Awana fun and exciting by playing games in the Family Life Center (FLC) gym as well as earning awards. We are looking forward to a fantastic year together, working toward our goal of training children to know, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ!

*Because Kids Matter to God,
Richelle Elenzano and Olga Palanciuc
Sparks Co-Directors*

Earning the Handbook and Vest

Every new Spark starts with the *Flight 3:16 entrance booklet* which consists of Bible verses to be memorized at home with the help of parents/guardians or other family members. Upon completion of *Flight 3:16* your child will receive their red Sparks vest!

Handbook Progress

Sparks will follow the "Together We Move" format and all grade levels will work through the *HangGlider* handbook this year. They will progress through the sections together, following a pre-determined schedule. Clubbers who want to work ahead in their current handbook and do the section reviews and extra credit for additional awards are free to do so. Clubbers who have missed club nights or not finished a previous year's handbook may complete those sections in parallel with the handbook sections scheduled for the current year.

During Small Group Time your child will typically recite one or more verses in a section to their Leader. A section includes everything that needs to be memorized or completed on that page before the Leader may sign off. Up to two "helps" may be given per section.

The weekly schedule for *HangGlider* handbook section activities may be found on the HCC Awana website at: <http://highlandsc.org/awana/>

Wednesday Sparks Schedule

6:15 pm Check-in – Parents must use the computerized check-in system and obtain a check-in slip prior to check-in with the Awana Secretary at Room 300. Coats should go in the Sparks team color bucket. Handbooks and Bibles go in the team color bins by their Leader in Room 300.

6:30 pm Large Group Time – Club starts with salutes to the American and Awana flags, followed by prayer and Bible teaching.

7:00 pm Game Time/Small Group Time – Half of our Sparks transition with their Leaders to Game Time. The other half transition to Small Group Time.

7:30 pm - The groups rotate from Game Time to Small Group Time and from Small Group Time to Game Time.

8:00 pm Parent pickup of child - Parents must obtain a checkout slip from the computerized checkout system. Leaders will greet parents at the dismissal room doorway, verify information on the checkout slip, and bring the child to the parent/guardian.

Phone Calls from Leaders

Awana Leaders do their best to call each Sparkie once a week. The purpose of the call is to let you/them know what's coming up at Awana, encourage your child in their handbook progress, and to get to know them better! It's been our experience that sometimes phone calls are not the best way to reach the clubber. If texting or emailing is a better option for your family, please let your Spark's leader know what works best.



Awards - Emblems, Wings, and Jewels

For each handbook, there are twelve achievement jewels, four of each color, which go on the pilot wings:

Red – For completion of Bible verse memorization sections.

Green – For completion of activity sections.

Blue – For club attendance with no more than one unexcused absence per quarter.

Sparks finishing the Book Review will earn the Book Review Emblem and those completing the Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Cards will receive a Frequent Flyer Pin. Refer to the Uniform Awards page at the back of the handbook for awards placement on the vest. The Rank and Book Review emblems are iron-on.

Awana Clubber Expectations

- Respect God, others, and our church building
- Walk carefully in the hallways
- Always stay with your Leader
- Obey a Leader's instructions
- Be aware of your personal space, and keep hands to yourself
- Be escorted by a Leader when going to the restroom or leaving the group for any reason
- Do not bring gum, candy, food, soda, or personal items to Club

Approved
Workmen
Are
Not
Ashamed

2 Timothy 2:15

Theme Nights and Events

Many Awana nights have a special theme, which could involve dressing up or bringing an item from home. The themes are listed in the Awana Calendar and the weekly Parent Newsletter. We also host Sparks Drive-in Movie Night in January. This event is optional and designed as an outreach to friends and family to share the gospel of Christ.

HCC Children's Health Policy

To protect the health and safety of our children and Leaders, please keep ill children at home to rest and recover. When well enough to attend again, bring a written note to the check-in Secretary (explaining that child was ill) so the absence will not be counted against the blue jewel attendance award.

HCC Children's Safety Policy

Awana Team members are identified by a HCC ID Badge, name tag, and Awana Club uniform. Parent or guardian must come into the church building to drop off and pick up their clubbers. Information and digital pictures of registered children and persons authorized to pick up the child are stored in the HCC computerized check in system. All Clubbers must first check in using this system and obtain a check in slip prior to check in at Room 300. If someone other than the authorized person is picking up a child, a parent/guardian must notify the Awana Ministries Director or Sparks Director. All guest children must complete a visitor card and give it to the secretary before participating in club.

Awana Discipline

We use a 3-count method for individual discipline. At the first warning, the clubber is asked to change his/her behavior; at the second warning, the clubber is removed from the activity; at the third warning, the clubber will talk with the Sparks Director and parents will be notified of the behavior issue.

Weather and Cancellations

Our club follows weather cancellations announced by the Renton School District. If school is closed due to weather, Awana will be cancelled that night. If school is delayed, Awana may take place, depending on conditions. Please check the HCC delay/cancellation information line at **206-957-2345** for current status.

Lost and Found

Coats left at the church will be hung on the pegs in the 2nd floor hallway near Room 200. Books will be stored in the Awana workroom or in your child's team bin.