



# PARENT INFORMATION

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH • 425-255-4751**

**Awana Commander:** Jerry Mays mays1985@msn.com

**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 the CD, and through Bible teaching. We also make Awana fun and exciting by playing games in the 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,  
Wendy Sweeney and Richelle Elenzano  
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 or other family members. Upon completion of *Flight 3:16* your child will receive their handbook and the red Sparks vest!

## Handbook Progress

Beginning Fall 2017 Sparks will follow the "Together We Move" format and all Sparks grade levels will work through the *SkyStormer* handbook. They will progress through the sections together, following a pre-determined schedule. The following year all Sparks will work together through the *WingRunner* handbook, then the *HangGlider* handbook in the third year. 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 will have to complete those sections in parallel with the handbook sections scheduled for the current year.

During Small Group Time, your child will recite one or more sections to their Leader. A section includes everything that needs to be memorized on that page before the Leader may sign off. Up to two "helps" may be given per section. (As you guide your child's memorization at home, it would be helpful to indicate with a check mark or sticky note which sections your child is prepared to recite that night.) The CD found in the back of the handbook is a great tool for at home (or in the car) studying.

For a weekly schedule of handbook sections - go to 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 the Fellowship Hall. Coats should go in the Sparks team color bucket. Handbooks and Bibles go in the team color bins prior to entering the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

**7:30 pm** - The groups will 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 handbook time room doorway, verify information on the checkout slip, and bring the child to the parent.

## 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 - Patches, Jewels, and Wings

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

**Red** – For completion of Bible drill 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. "Badge Magic" can be ordered online at [awana.org](http://awana.org) to help secure the patches to the vest without sewing.

## Awana Clubber Expectations

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

**A**pproved  
**W**orkmen  
**A**re  
**N**ot  
**A**shamed

2 Timothy 2:15

## Theme Nights and Events

Each Awana night has 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. Awana also hosts the Grand Prix Car Race and Drive-in Movie Night. These events are 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 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 with the secretary. If someone other than the authorized person is picking up a child, a parent/guardian must notify the Commander or Sparks Director. All guest children must complete a visitor card and give it to the secretary before participating in club. All visitors must check in with the Sparks Director or Secretary and wear a Visitor Badge.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway near the Forum. Books will be stored in the Awana workroom or in your child's team bin.