

Sparks Parent Guide

Dear Sparks Parents,



We are pleased and excited to have your children in Sparks Club at Derwood Bible Church! We consider it a privilege to serve your children by ministering to them during the club night. It is our pleasure to contribute to their spiritual growth and understanding of God's word. If at any time during the session we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to speak with any AWANA leader, director, or commander.

Within this Parent's Guide, we will provide you with everything you need to know regarding handbooks and memory verse reciting, achievement rewards, miscellaneous additional awards and decorations, end-of-year awards, as well as goals and expectations.

Sparks Club will begin promptly at 6:30PM and end at approximately 8:00PM every Wednesday evening. Please arrive on time (before 6:30PM). You may sign-in your children as early as 6:15PM.

*Parents are **required** to accompany their children to the attendance desk in the church foyer to sign-in, and children will not be released at the end of the night until the parent informs a director at the door to the MPR. This is for obvious safety reasons, and because on occasion throughout the year we may need to provide parents with club materials or information which we prefer not to distribute to the children. Thank you for your attention to this request.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me any time via email at: kml2professional@gmail.com

*Thank you,
Kendra Lennon
Sparks Director
Derwood Bible Church Awana*

PARENT GUIDE TABLE OF CONTENTS	
1. Nightly Schedule	4. Handbook Rules
2. Handbooks and Memory Verses	5. Additional Awards
3. Uniform and Achievement Awards	6. Your Role

NIGHTLY SCHEDULE

Time	Activity
6:15 - 6:30 PM	Clubber Arrival <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign-In (main foyer) - Supervised pre-session activities
6:30 - 6:35 PM	Opening Ceremonies (multipurpose room) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announcements - Awana Motto - Prayer
6:35 - 6:55 PM	Game Time (multipurpose room)
7:00 - 7:20 PM	Handbook Time (classrooms) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recitation of handbook memory verses
7:25 - 7:45 PM	Large Group (council room) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warm-up - Group lesson
7:45 - 7:55 PM	Awards Ceremony (multipurpose room)
8:00 PM	Sign-out / Clubber Pick-up (multipurpose room)

In a Nutshell: How Parents Can Help...

1. Please **bring your child to club on time** (before 6:30 PM). Pick up your child promptly at 8:00 PM.
2. Help your child prepare for Sparks Club each week by studying handbook material **at home**. Learning Awana memory verses is best accomplished at home. A brief teaching session each morning and evening should work well.
3. **What to wear:** Casual clothes; tennis shoes/sneakers; pants/shorts; NO flip-flops, crocs, etc. (shoes must be securely fastened).
4. Make sure your Sparky **wears their uniform vest** to club. Proper wear and display of clubbers' awards contributes greatly to their sense of achievement and responsibility. Sparkies who forget to wear their vest (or forget to bring their handbook) will not receive awards earned during the evening.
5. Encouragement, encouragement, encouragement!! Every step of the way. There are many Bible verses to memorize and understand. At-home practicing and encouragement is key. Don't forget to make use of available handbook audio downloads. The songs help make verse memorization fun and easy!

Handbooks and Memory Verses



Flight 3:16



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade

All newcomers to Sparks will complete an entrance booklet 'Flight 3:16' which centers on the gospel message of John 3:16 (the Sparks key Verse).

The Sparks curriculum is comprised of three handbooks. Each handbook builds a foundation of biblical wisdom through memory verse drills, crafts, activities and review of key doctrine and Bible facts. Basic truths about God, Jesus Christ, salvation and the Bible are provided in a clear and consistent presentation of the gospel message. With increasing emphasis on scripture memory, in three years a child will have the opportunity to learn over 200+ verses.

The first handbook, Hang Glider (K), begins a sequential journey through the Bible, starting with Genesis and ending with Joshua. The Wing Runner Handbook (1st) takes Sparkies on the next leg of the trip from Judges to the birth of Christ. The Sky Stormer Handbook (2nd) will bring the curriculum in for a landing, exploring Gods Word from the ministry of Christ to Revelation. Each flight-themed handbook also has available a review CD featuring dramatic readings of each biography — with music and sound effects — and a timeline to help Sparkies follow along.

Memory Verses

- Parents are encouraged to work with their little ones at home to memorize verses. The key role of our leaders is to listen to verse memorizations and provide an understanding of scripture in terms and ideas the clubber will understand. Learning and studying handbook Bible verses is best accomplished at home.
- The handbook is to be done page-by-page memorizing verses in the order in which they appear.
- Each handbook begins with the "Rank Path". This is a series of key verses for new Sparks to memorize which is repeated throughout the handbooks.

Uniform and Achievement Awards

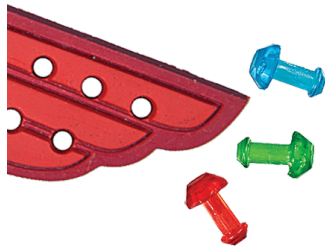
Rank Patches / Pilot Wings / Jewels / Etc.

• Rank Patches: When finishing a Rank Path, a Spark will receive their Rank Path Patch... the first award for their vest. (The Sparks vest and first handbook are earned following completion of the Flight 3:16 (John 3:16) entrance booklet.)

• Pilot Wings: Following the Rank Path, Sparkies will begin their Red Jewel and Green Jewel handbook sections. Red Jewels are Bible drill awards and Green Jewels are activity awards. As the Sparkies complete each of the four Red Jewel or four Green Jewel sections, they receive a Red or Green achievement jewel to wear on their Rank achievement pilot wings. Wings are earned upon completion of the first achievement jewel award within their respective handbook.



• Achievement Jewels: There are 3 different colored jewels: Red / Green / Blue. Red and Green jewels are awarded for completing handbook sections. Blue jewels are awarded quarterly for regular club attendance.



1. Sparks Emblem (pre-embroidered)

2. HangGlider Rank patch

3. WingRunner Rank patch

4. SkyStormer Rank patch

5. HangGlider Pilot Wings and Jewels

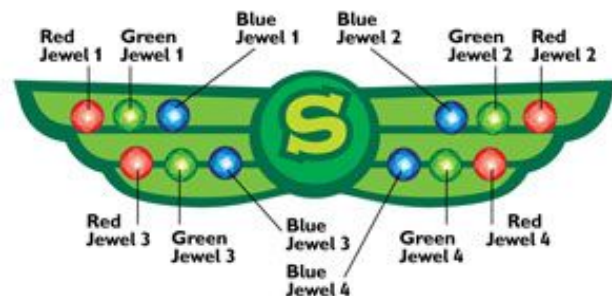
6. HangGlider Review patch

7. HangGlider Extra Credit Pin

8/9: Extra patches



HangGlider Pilot Wings and Jewels



Replacement Materials: Throughout the session, any items that need to be replaced will need to be repurchased. DBC's Awana club has a regulated budget. As such, we thank you for helping your child learn responsibility and respect for their uniforms, handbooks, awards, etc.

• **Bring-a-Friend (BAF) Requirement:** Please note that due to COVID-19, the Bring-a-Friend requirement is waived due to safety concerns. This section will be signed off automatically.

• **Book Review (Frequent Flyer Extra Credit cards):** After completing the Rank Path, Red Jewel, and Green Jewel sections, a Clubber may earn their Book Review Emblem patch. To achieve this patch, Sparkies must RE-review their entire handbook (if March 1st or later) OR complete the entire Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Cards (if prior to March 1st). This patch is placed underneath the corresponding pilot wings. An additional award in recognition of completing either review is an extra credit pin which is placed on the vest.



Handbook RE-review OR
Frequent Flyer Emblem Patches
(Received upon completion)



Handbook RE-review OR
Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Pins
(Received at end of year
awards ceremony.)



Handbook Rules

- Sparkies can recite up to **3 sections per night**. There may be multiple verses per section. Sparkies must recite the book of the Bible as well as the chapter/verse. During recital, **a leader may help a Sparky twice per section**. Any more assistance than that and we believe that the child has not fully memorized the section well enough. The goal of club is memorization and keeping the Lord's word close to heart, not book completion. Leaders may allow for more practice/study during handbook time and retest later that evening.
- If a leader finds that a Sparky is memorizing their verses very well, with little to NO assistance, then more than 3 sections may be recited per night. Upon reciting four or more sections, **NO** help will be given. (Please note however, it is preferred that Sparks do 3 or LESS verses per night and demonstrate that they have not only memorized the verses well but also understand their meaning.)
 - Note: Beside study verses, there are at times several words which are pulled from the verse text. These words are further defined to help the child understand exactly what the verse is telling them. A leader may ask the Sparky, "Do you understand what this verse means?". After the Sparky makes an effort giving their interpretation of the verse, their leader will then help them to better understand the verse's meaning in words or situations a young Sparky might better relate to.
- When finished with verses, Sparks will be provided with fun Bible-based activity materials: word searches, coloring pages, mazes, etc. If a clubber comes to club unprepared to do verses, they will not be provided activity sheets until they have spent ~15-minutes of handbook time studying their verses. For clubbers who can not yet read, they must wait until their leader is available to provide help studying. During the 1-1/2 hours of club, only ~20 mins is devoted to handbook time. Sparks leaders do not have the time to teach entire verses to clubbers. Learning and studying handbook Bible verses is best accomplished at home.
- Earned awards will be handed out at the end of the evening. Please note...in order to receive awards, Sparks must bring and wear their **Sparks vest**; must bring their **handbook**; must participate in **game time**. Sparkies who fall short of any of these requirements will receive their awards on the next club night in which they fulfill the requirements. Remembering to bring vests and handbooks to club night teaches Sparkies responsibility and encourages them to be proud of their uniform and respectful of club materials.

Additional Awards

- Awana Bucks:** Bucks are earned for each section (not verse) recited. Bucks awarded at handbook time are placed into an envelope taped to the handbook's inside back cover. Throughout the session, Sparks use their AWANA dollars to make purchases at the 'store' events. Tables are filled with lots of toys, knick-knacks, fun stuff, etc. We teach responsibility by allowing clubbers to keep track of their own bucks. Lost or forgotten bucks will not be replaced. *(Bucks are not awarded for Frequent Flyer or handbook review verses.)*



- End of Year Book Awards:** If a Sparky completes their handbook during the club session, they will receive a special certificate/ribbon acknowledging their accomplishment at the end of the year awards ceremony:



Participation Ribbon - Awarded to Sparkies when a club milestone (handbook completion) isn't reached, but they still deserve recognition.



First Book Award Ribbon - Awarded to Sparkies who have completed their first Sparks handbook: Hang Glider



Second Book Awarded Ribbon – Awarded to Sparkies who have completed two handbooks: Hang Glider and Wing Runner

- Sparky Award:** To earn this award, a clubber must complete all three Sparks handbooks (Hang Glider, Wing Runner, Sky Stormer), which involves memorizing 200+ verses. The recipient must have completed second grade. The Sparky Award trophy is presented at the end of the year awards ceremony.



- Additional Extra Credit – 'God Made Me' and 'God Loves Me':** These verses are received when a clubber has finished their Frequent Flyer or handbook review verses. Clubbers will receive one sheet of additional extra credit verses at a time.



Your Role

Invest in your child's growing faith by reading and discussing the Bible and the handbook sections with your child and by helping them memorize their verses. Learning and studying handbook Bible verses is best accomplished at home. With only ~20 minutes per club night devoted to handbook time, leaders have little time to teach entire verses to children. Please use the Parent Ideas section in each handbook to help your child understand the biographies and see how they fit in the Bible.

*(Updated 8/16/2023)