



Ten Standards of Excellence for Awana Children's Clubs

These are the ten standards of a successful Awana children's club. The characteristics beneath each standard illustrate a well-run club and can serve as the pattern for a church's orientation and evaluation. These standards are based on Awana training materials.

- 1. We reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.**
Our hope at Awana is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. To realize this hope, leadership of each Awana club must share the gospel with clarity and urgency, and model a godly life.
- 2. We recruit, train and motivate leaders to serve the local church.**
The effective operation of an Awana club will not only enhance a church's outward ministry to its community, but also introduce and promote the opportunity for individuals to serve the church through leadership in Awana and other ministries. Serving in Awana fosters a strong commitment to God, church, leaders and clubbers.
- 3. We use positive discipline throughout the entire club meeting.**
God is a God of order, and we seek to reflect this part of His nature in Awana club meetings. A fun and exciting, yet orderly, atmosphere is the means to maximum impact in the life of a child, and also serves as a strong testimony to parents, neighbors and other community members.
- 4. We attract children with games and activities.**
Ask children what they like about Awana, and chances are you'll hear one answer: "The games!" There's a reason for that. Awana games are as fun as they are unique, and – along with creative theme-based activities – they keep children coming back to hear the gospel and learn Scripture.
- 5. We encourage memorization, understanding and application of Scripture.**
Scripture memory is a distinctive of the Awana ministry. Children memorize God's Word in Awana, learn to understand and apply it, and see the benefits of Scripture memory firsthand. Our focus on memorization, set in a positive and encouraging context, also plants the seeds of this essential discipline that many carry forward into adulthood.
- 6. We use the elements of Council Time effectively.**
While Awana is well known for games and a focus on Scripture memory, it also provides a unique opportunity to lead children in worship and instruct them in biblical truth. This may be the only such experience some children have each week! These precious times of "rightly dividing the word of truth" are amazing opportunities that should motivate Awana leadership to plan and prepare diligently.
- 7. We motivate children through incentives.**
Awana has developed a system of simple, yet effective, incentives to motivate and encourage children in Scripture memory and handbook achievement. These external motivators help children grow to a place where their own spiritual maturity motivates them to learn and memorize.

8. We manage God's resources with faithfulness and integrity.

The resources entrusted to the leaders of an Awana ministry are precious in God's sight. Club leadership has a responsibility to plan and organize in such a way that people, their time, money and other resources are utilized to maximum benefit. Through these efforts, club leadership heeds God's call to be good stewards, and presents a testimony above reproach to those inside and outside the church.

9. We minister to parents and family members.

Awana is always about reaching children with the gospel, but it must be about more than reaching children. In fact, focusing on families of the unchurched children who attend can be a church's most effective outreach! When family members observe how excited a child is about Awana, they notice and often want to know more. Club leaders must be not only prepared, but purposeful, about connecting with families and sharing the truth that motivates the ministry.

10. We magnify the impact of our church's ministry through cooperation with the national Awana ministry.

The immediate impact of the Awana ministry is on the local church, but our hope is for a far greater impact. By developing a strong relationship and good communication with the national Awana ministry, churches enhance their effectiveness in reaching the world for Christ. Ministry efforts are strengthened when talents, wisdom, blessings, and even struggles are shared with others.

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