

Programs To Reach Families

“Seventy-five percent of our clubbers are not from this church! A number of them do not attend any church,” an Awana leader excitedly shared. That’s a fantastic statistic as the club year begins. But things should change during the first four or five months of club. If some of those boys and girls are not drawn into additional areas of your church program, something’s wrong! In planning a club year, Awana leaders need to ask themselves, “How can we draw the unchurched clubbers into our Sunday school and other youth programs? Then how can we reach their parents?” Both Sunday night programs and club family nights are tools to reach the families in your community for Christ. They are not options for your casual consideration. Rather, they are Awana! Make club nights so exciting that clubbers will bubble over with enthusiasm at home. Then when parents are invited to an Awana activity, they’ll want to come and share in what has captured their child’s heart and interest. It often takes many links for a person to be drawn to the Lord. Don’t limit your ministry to your group of clubbers. Your ministry can reach family members of all ages and introduce them to Jesus Christ. It has been said that the greatest gift a child can receive — beyond his or her salvation — is a Christian family. Your Awana program should be dedicated to giving boys and girls this gift.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR REACHING PARENTS

September – Club begins. Send letter to parents after the second or third week of attendance.

October – Schedule one club night as a parent open house.

November – Set aside an evening (other than club time) for a family night. This may be an informal supper and/or fun activity for the entire family.

December – Many churches are over-programmed during this busy season. Check your church calendar and correlate this month’s Awana parent emphasis with another church activity. For example, does your Sunday school present an annual Christmas program? Sunday school kids are also your Awana clubbers. They’ll bring their parents to the Christmas program. Together with Sunday school teachers, visit and invite parents. At the program, extend a warm welcome to visiting parents and their children.

Ask your church women’s group to consider inviting Awana girls and mothers to a Christmas tea. Invite dads and kids to decorate the church.

January – Schedule a snow retreat or overnight for clubbers and dads.

February – Plan a mother-daughter valentine banquet or party. Invite dads to attend an award ceremony for the winners of a floor hockey tournament.

March – This is National Awana Month. Plan a Sunday night program and invite all parents.

April – Many area Awana Games meets occur during April. Be sure leaders make an all-out effort to encourage parents to attend. Many moms and dads have accepted Christ as a result of the gospel message presented during the Awana Games.

May – Boys invite their moms to a cookout. Girls bring their dads for a baseball game.

June – During a Sunday night program, recognize this year's achieving clubbers.

FAMILY NIGHTS

Parent Open House

Hold an open house early in the season, so parents can visit and see an entire Awana meeting. It gives parents a chance:

- to become better acquainted with the Awana program.
- to understand more fully the uniform and achievement system.
- to see first-hand the benefits of their child's active involvement as an Awana clubber.
- to meet the club leaders and workers.
- to informally discuss club activities.
- to better appreciate the parent-clubber role as it relates to the individual clubber's achievement.

Many club directors invite Sunday school teachers to the open house. The teachers can meet parents and help visitors become acquainted with each other.

Open House, although a regular club meeting, must provide special features for parents.

- A time for parents to observe their child in action at club, particularly during game time
- A general session for parents, led by the commander or director, to promote better understanding of your club goals and program.
- An occasion to visit with leaders.

The Council Time message should clearly present the gospel. Consider having one of your most qualified leaders speak, rather than the pastor or a guest, to provide an additional opportunity for parents to observe leaders in action.

Publicity – Promote Open House in and out of club. It's essential that you encourage clubbers to bring their parents. Leaders should also visit their clubbers' homes or invite them with a phone

call. Special invitations should be sent home with clubbers, and posters should be displayed in club rooms and throughout the church.

Registration –Set up a table to register guests as they arrive. Make sure each guest and leader is wearing a nametag. During the following week, write a short, personal note to the parents who attended. Thank them for coming and remind them that the Awana staff is available to help their children in any way possible.

Commander/director/parent session –Sometime during the evening –Handbook Time is probably most suitable –plan a short session for parents to meet with the commander or director. This should include:

- An explanation of the Awana program. Review the purpose of club; schedule of a typical club meeting (including the purpose of Game, Handbook and Council Time); importance of the uniform, handbooks, awards; and use of club dues.
Stress your interest in helping each individual child develop physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Remind parents that your primary goal is to teach clubbers the Word of God, not to take them from another church. Recommend that parents check their child's handbook and listen as he or she recites sections.
- An introduction of your pastor followed by a brief word from him on how he believes Awana Bible training benefits clubbers. He can offer an invitation for parents to talk to him on any subject.
- A time for parents' questions. If there are many questions, indicate that you will be available to answer additional inquiries after club. Also invite parents to stay for refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Display –Exhibit an Awana blouse and shirt, a complete set of handbooks, and award charts where parents will see them. Post additional displays and achievement charts in hallways and clubrooms to show individual progress of each clubber. Also, display a completed handbook project.

Refreshments –Serve coffee and dessert to promote a friendly atmosphere in which leaders can circulate and meet parents after club. Leaders should express special interest in the achievement of each boy and girl. Be ready to compliment each clubber in front of his parents (i.e., how a clubber cooperates, his or her readiness to recite one section each week, his or her ability in games, his or her dependability in wearing the uniform, bringing the handbook and dues, etc.). In addition, always thank parents for the interest they have shown by attending Parents' Open House.

Nursery –Encourage moms to attend by advertising in advance that nursery facilities are available. Assure moms that infants are well cared for and supervision for toddlers and preschoolers will be provided.

Evaluation –

1. How many parents attended? How could you have interested more in coming?
2. What elements of the program went well? Which elements could be improved for the next Parents' Night?
3. Which parents would benefit from a personal follow-up visit by an Awana staff member or the pastor?
4. When is your next parent event? How will you motivate additional parents to attend?

Record all evaluations and file that report for reference a month or two before your next Open House.

Pancake Party

Invite clubbers and their parents to come to club half an hour early for “all the pancakes you can eat.” Keep the meal simple with pancakes and maple syrup, juice and coffee, or if you prefer, provide a variety of toppings.

Parents can leave after eating or stay for the entire club meeting. Either way, the remainder of the evening runs according to the regular schedule.

Dad-Daughter Baseball

On a club night play baseball with girls and their dads. Use a batting order of a batting order of dad, daughter, dad, daughter, etc. After the game allow time for girls to recite sections.

During this time, dads can talk together or informally converse with club leaders.

Ask a Christian dad to present the Bible message in Council Time.

Note: Instead of playing baseball, take dads and daughters to a college or professional baseball, basketball or football game. Afterwards, gather at a leaders home for snacks and a devotional.

Mom-Son Cookout

Have T&T boy clubbers and their moms arrive at church a little early for a trip to a picnic site.

On arrival, some leaders can build a campfire while others lead informal games for sons and moms. Be understanding if some moms decline. If they would rather just watch the fun, let them!

Serve hot dogs and buns, relishes, chips, cold drinks and coffee. Let everyone roast his or her own marshmallows for dessert.

After eating, gather around the fire for singing and testimonies. Conclude the cookout with a brief Bible story or gospel message. Note: If time and daylight allow, you can have Handbook Time at the picnic site. If not, head back to church and allow clubbers to pass sections.

Family Picnic

On a Saturday during warm weather, schedule an all-day picnic for Awana clubbers, leaders and their families.

Provide sports equipment, such as baseballs, bats, volleyballs and a net, and flying discs such as Frisbees®. Plan activities for every age group, but do not pressure parents to participate in games. Some prefer to simply sit in lawn chairs and relax. Provide free time for families to enjoy together. The highlight of the day could be a family kite-flying contest or another group activity. For lunch, serve hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill and salads and desserts brought by Awana moms. (Club leadership should provide meat, garnishes, drinks, etc.)

After lunch, your pastor or commander can give a short devotional that includes the gospel.

Skating for All

On a weekend evening or night before a school holiday, rent a skating rink and invite all church and Awana families to a skating party. (If possible, provide your own organist or suitable records to play music consistent with your Christian testimony. If you must use the musician employed by the skating rink, be sure that he or she understands what music is acceptable.)

Halfway through the evening, ask everyone to sit in the middle of the skating rink floor for a short song time and brief devotional. The speaker may be the pastor or a guest. Skating continues after the devotional.

Family Bowling Party

Have an afternoon or evening bowling party for either entire families or just Awana clubbers and their parents. Reserve sufficient lanes so everybody can bowl for an hour or longer. Many bowling alleys provide a side room where you can serve refreshments. At the conclusion of the evening, sing popular Awana songs which are easy for parents to learn. Ask the pastor or a church leader to give a short devotional.

Big Brother/Big Sister Night

On a regular club night, ask each T&T boy clubber to invite an older brother to attend club with him and each T&T girl clubber to invite an older sister. Clubbers without a big brother or sister may invite a teen friend, baby-sitter, cousin or neighbor.

Ask the high schoolers in your church to stand in as “brother” and “sisters” for clubbers who can’t bring anyone. You may need to assign more than one Clubber to a teen.

During Game Time, teens play on their little brother’s or sister’s team. Run one heat of a game for clubbers, then one heat for teens. Clubbers will have as much fun cheering for their big brothers and sisters as they have playing the games themselves. Because teens may feel self-conscious, plan fun activities rather than running or skill games. Your goal is for the teens to

return home with exciting reports about Awana! Their involvement in this club night may inspire some of them to volunteer as Awana leaders.

In Handbook Time, teens listen to their siblings say their sections. If clubbers are unprepared, their brothers or sisters can help them learn sections.

In Council Time, ask church teenagers to prepare a dramatization of the account of Moses in the bulrushes (Exodus 2:1-10). As it is acted out, encourage clubbers to imagine they are Miriam. Ask them how they would have felt if they were in her place? After the skit, have a leader discuss the following questions with clubbers: What if Miriam had been caught by soldiers? Do you think she was bored with baby-sitting her baby brother? Was her faithfulness as a baby-sifter important to God's plan for the nation of Israel? Conclude the message by emphasizing the importance of each clubber and leader doing God's will.

Grandparents' Night

On a regular club night, encourage your clubbers to invite their grandparents to attend club. Substitute grandparents may be invited by clubbers whose grandparents live out of town or have died. Club leadership may also invite "grandparents" from the church who would enjoy being a grandpa or grandma for an evening.

Plan a few simple games in which grandparents can participate, then let them watch and cheer during the remainder of Game Time. Ask an older adult to teach an "old-fashioned" game.

During Handbook Time, serve refreshments to guests while the club director explains what children do in the Awana program. For the Council Time message, ask an older, energetic church member to tell an exciting Bible story.

Dads' Theme Nights

Invite clubbers and their dads to a unique club evening. Choose from the various theme ideas listed below. Add your own ideas and specifics.

Popular Night

Fathers-Are-Special Night

Dad's *Gym* Night

Dad's Basketball Night

Top the Pops

Dad/Lad Night

Father/Daughter kite Fly

Dad and Daughter Spree

Father/Son (or Father/Daughter) Talent or Stunt Night

Dad and Daughter Cake Night

As a special treat for girls and dads, encourage each daughter to bake and decorate a cake depicting her father's hobby or vocation. (Moms can help!) Have the girls bring their cakes to Dad/Daughter Night for display and eating. Suggestions: a cake iced in green with a real golf ball and tee on top; an open book drawn in icing; a miniature frosting garden.

Create it with Dad Night

The week before this dad and son evening, send each clubber home with the following list of items to bring the next week. Items may be substituted when necessary or to keep costs down.

- 1 egg carton
- 1 coffee can
- 3 tongue depressors
- 2 pieces of cloth one-foot square
- 3 screws
- 6 nails
- 1 scrap of wood 1" x 10" x 12'
- 4 pipe cleaners
- 8 buttons
- 2 coat hangers
- 1 sponge or foam rubber piece
- 1 piece of foam 12" x 12" x 1"
- 2 paper clips
- 1 large grocery bag (into which all these materials are placed)

Each clubber is also given a flier with the following information:

Dad and son - spend time working together! Use your imagination to create something from the items provided. Note the following rules:

1. Use only materials provided. You are not required, however, to use them all.
2. Cut items any way you wish.
3. Use glue or tape.
4. Use tools as necessary.
5. Use pencil, crayon or magic marker if you wish. Do not use paint or varnish.

Come to club next week (date). The highlight will be judging your creations and awarding prizes. (Dads wear gym shoes and dress casually).

Judges should not be Awana leaders. This avoids the unpleasant situation of dads of clubbers becoming angry with club leaders if their creation doesn't win. Make prizes exciting and worthwhile, such as a free week at camp for first place and silver dollars as additional prizes.

SUNDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

Awana Sunday night programs, planned and conducted by clubbers and leaders, offer your club and church many satisfying, fruitful results.

- *Sunday night programs bring parents, relatives and friends of clubbers into the church to hear the gospel. Parents meet club leaders and ask questions about Awana. As they chat, parents are informed of club goals so they can spur their children on to greater achievements.*
- *Sunday night programs provide your church with an expanded visitation list. Club leadership becomes aware of prospective clubbers (sisters and brothers of present clubbers and other children who accompany adult visitors).*
- *Sunday night programs inform church members of Awana goals and accomplishments. Church members become more aware of the part they can have in the Awana ministry. This can motivate clubbers to purchase uniforms and earn awards. It develops enthusiasm for Awana Games, summer Bible camp, etc.*

Special Considerations

1. Scheduling

Schedule Sunday night programs at least once a year but preferably more frequently. Two especially appropriate times are National Awana Month in the spring, and the end of club season in May or June.

In small churches, all clubbers should participate in the same Sunday night program. In larger churches, each club may present separate programs. Space the programs throughout the club year. For example, schedule various groups of T&T clubbers in November, January, March and April; JV in May; and Varsity in June. Or your girls' clubs could present *one* combined Sunday night program in the fall and the boys' clubs a program in the spring. The more boys and girls who participate individually, the greater the number of parents who will attend.

Set the goal of having 100 percent clubber participation and 100 percent of clubbers in uniform. All leaders must be in uniform. Clubbers not in uniform should be assigned back positions on the platform.

For additional motivation, include an award ceremony. Clubbers will be proud to receive awards in front of their parents.

2. Program Plans

Sample programs are given in this chapter. An imaginative, creative leader in your church, however, may be challenged to write a customized program. Focus on the specific message you want to convey to the parents of your clubbers.

Usually Sunday evening services last approximately one hour. The clubbers' presentation will require about 15-20 minutes. Practice the program to eliminate faltering recitations and uneasy gaps. Include as many clubbers as possible in the presentation.

Every Sunday night program should include the following elements;

- Clubbers marching into the church sanctuary to the music of the “AwanaTheme Song”.
- Awana clubbers or the entire congregation singing the “Awana Theme Song.”
(If you expect guests to participate, print words in the church bulletin, on a separate overhead transparency or slide.)
- Presentation of flags.
- Presentation of awards.
- Interesting statistics and brief club announcements.
- Introduction of club leaders.
- Scripture recitation.
- Salvation emphasis.
- Slide or movie presentation highlighting the club year. Include pictures from Game, Handbook and Council Time; and special outings.

The program may include Scripture recitation from handbooks, songs, choruses, skits, dialogues about club, and leader and clubber testimonies. If you have an especially sharp clubber, ask him to emcee the program or lead the singing.

Reserve the last segment of every Sunday night program for the pastor to present a clear salvation message and invite unsaved parents to accept Christ as Savior. He can also challenge all parents with their responsibility of providing spiritual leadership in the home. The pastor should also stress his availability and desire to meet and counsel those with spiritual needs or questions.

3. Publicity

Most parents will not attend a Sunday night program just because their children invite them. Use every means of publicity to attract parents to your program.

- Fliers distributed through personal visitation in the homes.
- Letters sent to parents by club directors or leaders.
- Posters and bulletin announcements.

- Announcements during Council Time urging clubbers to invite parents, relatives, neighbors and friends.
- Personal phone calls to parents.
- Newspaper advertisement.
- Prior to the program, run a club contest to create interest and enthusiasm for passing handbook sections, purchasing uniforms and earning awards. The excitement among clubbers will overflow to their families.

4. Leader's Responsibilities

Visit the home of each clubber on your team at least two weeks before the Sunday night program to personally invite parents to attend. Inform moms and dads that a nursery will be available for younger children. Remind them that the awards their children receive will be much more meaningful if they are there. Leave fliers or printed invitations giving date, time and place.

Keep a list of parents' responses (yes, no or maybe).

Call every parent personally the week before the program.

Urge every clubber to earn at least one award to be presented that night.

Share your enthusiasm with church members. They need to be reminded that their support of this missionary outreach is vital. Urge them to pray for unsaved parents and families who will be attending and, of course, to warmly welcome them at the program.

Pray.

5. Bulletins

Bulletins are available through the *Awana Supply Catalog* for printing the program.

Ushers –older T&T boy clubbers, Jr. Varsity and Varsity teens, men leaders in uniform – distribute the bulletins as guests arrive. Include following in bulletin:

- Awana key verse, 2 Timothy 2:15.
- Words to the Awana or club theme song.
- Names of clubbers receiving special awards –trophies, ribbons, etc.
- Names of leaders.
- Note of appreciation to parents for allowing their children to attend club and a thank you for their attendance at the Sunday night program.

6. Displays

Display handbooks, uniforms, awards and club emblems. Make charts of clubber progress. Decorate the Awana bulletin board with snapshots and news of current club happenings.

7. Refreshments

Serve refreshments after the program so parents can meet the Awana leaders. Church members should mingle with and welcome the guests and invite them to regular church activities. Ask Awana mothers and women from your church to bring cookies, donuts or cakes. Ask the church women to assume serving responsibilities so Awana leaders can visit with parents.

8. Evaluation

After the program, evaluate the evening. The pastor, commander, directors and leaders should write their comments and impressions. At the next leaders meeting, discuss the following questions:

- How many parents attended?
- How effective was the program in accomplishing your goals?
- Did the program hold the attention of the audience? Was it too long or too short?
- How could the program be improved? What can be done better next year?
- Was the refreshment and fellowship hour after the program successful? Was there enough food? Did church people mingle with guests? Did Awana leaders meet the parents?
- Which features of the evening were especially good?

Keep a file of comments and copies of the bulletin and script. Refer to these when planning future programs. Remember that some new folks will attend every year. While you don't want future presentations to be the same old thing, you do want to present the Awana essentials (goals, club format, salvation emphasis) at every Sunday night program.

9. Follow-up

Plan to follow up every unchurched parent who attended the program. Send a thank-you note to each family. Leaders should assume responsibility for the parents of their team members, strengthening ties between club and home.

The pastor or church leaders should visit unchurched families who may be interested in the church. Do not pressure them to attend your church. Convey the message that the church wants to be of service. Sometimes, you will be able to share the plan of salvation with those whose hearts God has already prepared.

Suggested Programs

To help you plan effective Awana Sunday night programs, several program themes are developed on the following pages. In each program, the setting and cast are different and may be adapted to your particular situation.

God's Plan for the World

Clubber processional: Clutters and leaders march into the auditorium to the music of the "Awana Theme Song." Clubbers carrying flags enter first.

Flag ceremony: Present colors
 Pledge to Awana and American flags
 National Anthem
 Post colors

Each club sings its own club theme song

Welcome (clubber states his name and club): As you know, our clubs meet every _____ night from _____ to _____. We do lots of things that really get kids excited, if you don't believe me, take a look!

Slide Presentation:

Narrator: All these activities are just part of our program. We are grateful that God has given us the Bible, His Word, to teach us about His love and plan for our lives. (Third- and fourth-graders recite 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in unison.)

Narrator: What instructions have we received? We don't have time to talk about everything, so let's begin with Christ's first coming to this earth.

T&T clubber: When Adam and Eve lived, God promised that He would send His Son. Then more than 3,000 years later, the prophet Isaiah wrote: *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).*

Narrator: And the promise didn't stop there, for Isaiah also gave this wonderful prophecy about the coming Savior who would take the punishment for our sin

T&T clubber: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).*

Narrator: Later, the prophet Micah declared

T&T clubber: *But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands*

of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2).

Narrator: The wonderful thing about Christ's coming is that He came for a purpose. The Scriptures tell us so in Matthew 1:21.

T&T clubber: *And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.*

Narrator: Yes, Christ came in order to save all people from their sin.

T&T clubber: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*

Narrator: The Bible tells us that because we have sinned, we must pay for our sin.

T&T clubber: *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).*

Narrator: Did you notice in this verse that God paid the penalty for our sins through Christ?

T&T clubber: And that's not all. He gives us salvation as a free gift. *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*

Narrator: What did Christ do for us on the cross of Calvary?

T&T clubber: He paid the penalty for our sin. *But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

T&T clubber: He also became sin for us. *For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

Narrator: Will doing good works take us to heaven?

T&T clubber: Not according to the Bible! *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9).

Narrator: How, then, do we get to heaven?

T&T clubber: Although it cost God a great price, the death of His Son, God now offers heaven to us as a free gift. All we must do is believe that Christ died in our place and paid the penalty for

our sin. *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:5).*

T&T clubber: How about John 1:12? *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*
(Two fifth- and sixth-grade boys and two fifth- and sixth-grade girls give testimonies.)

All clubbers sing “Now I Belong to Jesus,” “For God So Loved the World” or another suitable song.)

Narrator: Is Jesus coming again?

(Third- and fourth-graders sing “Countdown” and recite John 14:3: *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.*)

Narrator: When Jesus comes again, what will happen?

T&T clubber: *For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).* (All sing “Jesus is Coming Again.”)

T&T clubber: *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).* I’m ready to meet Him. Are you?

Narrator: Tonight you have heard some of the important truths we learn at Awana.

Thank you so much for coming. Please keep thinking about the good news from the Bible that we have shared with you tonight. It’s the best news you will ever hear.

Good Times

Two clubbers enter auditorium from opposite sides.

First clubber: Hey, _____ I How ‘bout playing some ball before we go to Truth & Training tonight?

Second clubber: Boy, I don’t know. My mom’s kind of mad at me right now. First clubber: Why, what happened?

Second clubber: Well, Mom baked a real treat for the family for supper –some apple pie. And when she served me my first piece, I really dove into it. You know I ate that $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pie in 27 $\frac{1}{2}$

seconds by the kitchen clock. At first, Mom thought I ate it so fast 'cause it was so good. But then I told her I was practicing for the Awana pie-eating contest, and ...well ...she's not so happy now!

(Another clubber enters with basketball.)

Third clubber: Hi, guys C'mon, let's shoot some baskets. We've got to practice to win a trophy. They're really neat, aren't they?

Other clubbers: Yeah!

(Another clubber enters carrying wheeled dolly.)

Second clubber: Hey, what are you doing with that dolly from Awana?

Fourth clubber: I'm taking it home to show my dad what it is. He keeps kidding me cause I told him we have lots of fun with the dollies at Truth & Training. He thought I meant the dolls girls play with. I'm gonna show this to him and set him straight

First clubber (laughing): You'll show him, all right!

Third clubber: Hey, let's all go to my house and call _____ to go with us to club.

Fourth clubber: Yeah! I've got to drop this dolly off at home anyway.

Second clubber: You know what we're having tonight at club, don't you? It's "Challenge the Champ Night!" We're going to run our races against a stopwatch and see who's the fastest. (Three clubbers in uniform enter. All clubbers greet each other.)

Fifth clubber: Say, isn't it about time for winter sports camp? We sure had fun there last year. Boy, I hope we can do that again! Maybe they'll tell us something about it tonight.

Sixth clubber: Yeah! We sure have had good times at Awana. Remember "Magic Night!" And besides the super games we've been playing, there's always something special happening.

Seventh clubber: Hey! Look at the time. We'd better leave for Awana right now. Third clubber: Yeah! Look at all those kids going in already. (Other clubbers enter to the music of theme song. All clubbers and leaders join in singing.)

Seventh clubber: We, the Awana clubbers and all our leaders, welcome you moms, dads, friends and relatives to our annual Awana program. All of you who are wearing an Awana welcome badge, please stand up.

(All clubbers clap.)

Fourth clubber: Thank you. Please be seated. Now we want to show you some of the things we do in Awana club.

(Slides of club activities.)

Sixth clubber: Well, you've seen that we have plenty of good times in club, but we have some serious times that we'd like to tell you about, too. Before we do though, let's sing a song together.

(All sing club favorite hymn or chorus.)

Fifth clubber: One interesting part of Awana is our handbook sections. Some include word puzzles, drawing activities and service projects. But the most important part of our Awana handbooks is memorizing Scripture. Right now, we'd like to recite some verses we've learned in club.

(Several clubbers recite selected passages.)

(First clubber announces special music.)

Second clubber: Now some of our clubbers and leaders will share what Jesus Christ means to them.

(Testimonies by fifth- and sixth-grade boys and leaders.)

Clubber or leader thanks everyone for coming.)

RadioStation—AWANA

Uniformed Awana clubbers sit in choir loft, on platform or in front rows of sanctuary.

Flag ceremony

Presentation of colors

Singing of "Awana Theme Song"

Prayer

Platform arranged with announcer's desk on one side and chairs set up for the special announcers. Announcer and local reporters take their places during singing of theme song.

Announcer: Welcome to Station A W A N A. We are on the air every ____ from ____ to ____.

Awana is geared to attract all boys and girls from preschool through high school to a Christ-centered weekly program. This includes a fun time of games, Bible time with songs and stories and challenging Bible memory work. We sign on tonight with this verse.

Third- and fourth-graders: Ephesians 2:8-9 recited in unison.

Announcer: And now we hear this verse.

Fifth- and sixth-graders: Titus 2:11-12 recited in unison.

Announcer: And now for your local Awana news.

Local Reporter: Here at home, we have a report that the Awana clubs of the _____ have reached a peak attendance of ___ during the recent camp contest. Stay tuned for contest winners to be announced later in the program.

(Add here other news of special club meetings, achievements, outings, etc., which are unique to your club situation. Include humor by relating something funny which has happened to a clubber, leader, etc.)

Announcer: Thank you for that news.

Now a word from our special correspondent in the state of _____. Come in _____.

Special Correspondent: Things are shaping up on the camp front. Camp _____ is ready to open girls' camp on _____. More than ___ girls are expected to attend, many coming from the Awana clubs at the _____. Boys' camp is _____. Many applications have already been received, and others are coming in daily. The weatherman forecasts nothing but sunshine and warm weather for those wonderful weeks of camp. Clubbers who have not already made application are urged to do so immediately. Several _____ Awana winners are all set for Scholarship Camp at _____.

Announcer: Thank you. Now a word from the world of sports.

Sports Announcer: The _____ Awana clubs recently participated with 15 other teams in area AwanaGames held _____ at the _____. They didn't win, but they sure gave it a good try. We have the team in the studio with us. Let's hear a word from the team coaches or representatives. (Team coaches and/or representatives come on platform and are briefly interviewed.)

Sports Announcer: Looking to the future, plans are being laid for baseball competition in the clubs. (Add details.)

(Sports announcer could also announce picnic or other end-of-club-year activities.)

Announcer: Station A W A N A now presents a musical interlude for your listening pleasure.

Clubbers (singing together): Choose two or three club favorites which clearly give the gospel in song.

Announcer: A W A N A now brings you the latest in the fashion world from the A W A N A boutique. Come in, fashion editors.

You may modify the following portion of the skit for casual or T-shirt uniforms.

Fashion Editor 1: Greetings from the A W A N A Boutique. We are ready to begin our fashion parade.

Here comes the first model with the latest in uniforms from the Awana clubs. (Enter model 1) _____ is wearing a gray blouse with red collar and short sleeves with red piping on the cuffs. This attractively designed wash-and-wear blouse comes complete with American flag emblem on left sleeve, club emblem on upper left front and Awana clubs shoulder patch on right shoulder All girls who have passed Start *Zone* entrance booklet and are entitled to purchase and wear this uniform. (Model 1 leaves platform, and boy clubber walks on.)

Fashion Editor 2: _____ is wearing the boys gray uniform. It includes emblems similar to the girls'. It has something extra, however. It's the neckerchief and slide. This shirt can be purchased and worn after a boy has completed the Start *Zone* entrance booklet. (Exit model 2)

Fashion Editor 1: Accessories worn on the uniform are the award badges earned on completion of the *Start Zone* entrance booklet or the first Discovery in Book *Two* or the first Challenges in Book *Three* and Book *Four*, _____ models her blouse with the second-book badge. She shows the achievement seals earned for completion of Discoveries in Book *Two*. _____ models his shirt to show the placement of the boys' award badge and achievement seals.

Fashion Editor 1: And now back to our studios.

Announcer: Well, A W A N A listeners, it's now time for our "What do you say?" broadcast. Our reporter is located at _____ with his roving microphone. Come in _____. You are on the air.

Reporter: Here we are on this busy corner ready for our first interview. Ma'am, what is your name? What do you say? Do you believe God loves the sinner?

Clubber 1: Yes, He does (quote John 3:16).

Reporter: What is your name? ..What do you say? Can we work for our salvation? Clubber 2: No. Titus 3:5 says (recite verse).

Reporter: Your name, please ..What do you say? What did Christ do to save us? Clubber 3: The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:24 (recite verse).

Reporter: Give me your name, please ..What do you say? What must I do to be saved?

Clubber 4: John 3:14-15 tells us ..(recite verse).

Reporter: Your name, please ..What do you say? What does Christ give us when we believe on Him?

Clubber 5: He gives us eternal life ..John 5:24 ..(recite verse).

Reporter: Please give us your name ...What do you say? Can anyone take away your salvation?

Clubber 6: No one. And here are two verses to prove it ..John 10:28-29 (recite verses).

Reporter (turning to audience): What do YOU say? What have you done with Jesus? We hope He is your Savior today. This is your roving reporter signing off till next time and back to our studio.

Announcer: Our feature program this week comes from the main sanctuary of the _____. On this special occasion, the top awards of the Awana club program will be presented. We are switching from our studio to the church sanctuary now where the program is in progress. The Awana commander, _____, is about to present the awards.

(Also announce names of camp contest winners and other clubbers who may deserve special recognition. Presentation of Awana awards.)

Announcer: We conclude our broadcast with a song sung from the heart of every clubber.

The above program takes approximately 30 minutes. Your evening church service continues as follows:

Announcements and offering
Congregational song
Message by pastor

On the Rock A Great Beginning

(Program appropriate for special Thanksgiving service or harvest festival in addition to a Sunday night program)

Use only one microphone. As each small group clusters around the mike, all clubbers can speak without moving around. This eliminates confusion and distractions. Parts may be read, although memorizing lines is preferable. Costumes, made by club leadership or clubbers' parents, are an added dimension for audience appeal.

Narrator: Thanksgiving is an American holiday. We trace it back to a small band of English settlers who landed at a place they called Plymouth in December, 1620. These men, women and children had no name for themselves, but today we call them Pilgrims. They left their homes to establish a colony where people could worship God without persecution.

The Pilgrims, separatists from the Church of England, had fled to Holland before journeying to Plymouth. More than two centuries later, the Statue of Liberty, symbolic of American freedom for all, was named "Mother of Exiles" and inscribed with these words:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my (arm) beside the golden door*

Pilgrim woman: We Pilgrims were not greeted by the Statue of Liberty when we stepped off the Mayflower at Plymouth that December day in 1620. We did yearn to breathe free, however, and we were tired and tempest-tossed. We brought with us a faith in God which would solve many of our problems as our colony –and later our nation –established its government and laws. In Thanksgiving, we looked to God to supply our needs and to give us needed guidance.

Date card: December, 1620 (Print in large letters on 8” x 24 poster board. Clubber shows card for 15-30 seconds from a spot easily seen by everyone, then retires to back or side of platform.)

Three Pilgrim men:

#1: ‘Tis good to feel this place shall be our home. We have been sailing this sea more than two months.

#2: Yes I thought we would all perish in that storm. I wondered if we did well to leave England. Praise God we lived through it!

#3: But it has blown us very far off our course! Four or five hundred miles north of Virginia, our true destination! It is good we have agreed to stand together, for I know there are those among us who fear we do not belong here.

#1: Yea, this is so. But we can travel no further in the coming winter storms. God has led us to this spot. Let us stay here.

#3: To me, that is right. We must hurry and build shelters before the winter sets in to protect our families from the snow and cold.

#2: We have much work ahead of us, but I thank God we can now worship Him in freedom. We do not have to say the words or do the acts of worship forced upon us by the government. My worship can now come from my heart.

#1 & #3: Aye, so be it. Date card: March 1621

Two Pilgrims –one man, one woman

Man: Lo, Martha, my wife, you are still pale. But I thank God He has spared you and is giving you strength each day. Our neighbor’s wife remains sick in bed.

Woman: Yea, Matthew. She is no better, either. Their children cannot go home. I gladly help by caring for them but

Man: You tire easily. God help you. Our food is running very low, isn’t it?

Woman: Yea, that is so. There is barely enough for us without the children of our neighbor. We may have more to feed, also. Mr. Thomas was taken ill this morning.

Man: We have all suffered this winter. I will see Captain Standish about our need. He and his Indian friend, Squanto, have helped us before. I am sure they will again if they can. Thank God for the friendly Indians here. God is good, our ever-present help in times of trouble.

Date card: Squanto

Squanto: Howl (hand raised in salutation –Indian style). I'm Squanto! Captain Miles Standish, my good friend. My tribe and white man good friends, too. We teach them how to fish, hunt for food and fur, and grow many foods. At first we gave them corn, so they not starve. (As Squanto turns to leave, he whips around as though a thought has just come to him): I tell them to start Awana clubs, too.

Date card: June 1621

Two Pilgrim women:

I am pleased to see you are stronger, Ellen. Truly, you were very sick.

#2: Aye, but you and I have been most fortunate to be able to keep our homes with both father and mother. We have lost 20 mothers. There are only four of us left. Praise God for what we are able to do!

#1: We look now to the future. God has led us here. For those of us who are left, He is supplying more every day. See, the corn that the Indians helped us plant is coming up and promises a good yield.

#2: The older children have stopped their studies for the summer now. They will be able to help in the fields. That will allow the men to do more hunting and fishing. #1: (laughing a little).

Maybe they will even be able to work on our homes, so we will be warmer next winter.

#2: That will help. Our roof leaks very much. We are fortunate that it has not rained these last weeks, so we have kept dry.

Date card: September 1621 Three Pilgrim men

#1: Praise God! Our crops will be better than we ever hoped! #2: It looked like it would not be so a few weeks ago, though.

#3: That is true, but God heard our earnest prayers that day when we asked Him for rain.

#2: It has been dry for too long. The corn withered. The ground was dry and cracked. It looked as though all was lost.

#3: And the morning after our day of prayer, it was so clear –not a cloud to be seen. No sign of rain at all.

#1: And so hot. But God be praised. He heard our prayers. #2: Toward evening it started to get cloudy. Then it began to rain.

#1: But it wasn't a storm! Just such a gentle rain and lots of it! God sent it in answer to our prayers.

#3: Did you ever see anything like how surprised the Indians were? They knew we had prayed to our God. And here was God's answer to our prayers. They saw our corn pick up and our fruit ripen. God is good.

Date card: Governor William Bradford

Bradford: I am William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth Colony. While other English settlements, such as Jamestown, had troubles like we did, they added more problems by

selfishness, poor judgment and lack of discipline. They did not depend upon God for guidance, nor did they praise Him. There was a different spirit among the Pilgrims, one of spiritual strength, unselfishness, discipline and wise leadership. We rested on God's help time and time again, through sickness, drought, hunger and cold. Now our crops are in. We have plenty for the coming winter. Thanksgiving fills our hearts for God's goodness. We will have a feast!

(Remainder of cast, plus a few extras, gathers around Bradford in groups indicated. The idea is that all the Pilgrims joined in the preparation of the feast – gladly. This part must be memorized – no reading!)

Men: What is our part in the feast, Governor?

Bradford: Go into the woods and meadows. Bring back turkeys and ducks for our feast.

Children: What can we do?

Bradford: You can gather nuts and berries and keep the wood boxes filled for all the cooking!

Older girls: We shall bake bread and pies and help our mothers all we can.

Women: We shall cook the turkeys and ducks and prepare the corn and squash and other vegetables and fruits.

Bradford: Squanto, will you join us? We invite you, Chief Massasoit, and the rest of your tribe to our feast!

Squanto: How! We come with happiness. We bring venison!

Bradford: Good! Now, let us go and prepare our Thanksgiving feast!

(All drift away from Bradford.)

Bradford: We did not celebrate Thanksgiving every year. It was President Lincoln who proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving observance in 1863. In 1941 Congress finally declared Thanksgiving an annual, national American holiday. But while we, whom you call Pilgrims, did not celebrate Thanksgiving every year as you do, we did thank God and praise Him all year long. Thus, we gave roots to the Christian faith in America (pause). What about you?

(Bradford walks off.)

Narrator: We thank God for so many things – for food, our homes, clothing, His guidance. Most of all, tonight we are thankful for Jesus, God's Son, who came to earth to die on the cross, so we can be eternally saved from sin. We have many verses in our club handbooks that tell you about this. Here are a few.

Choose from these or other Awana verses:

Isaiah 53:5-6

John 10:28-29

Romans 5:8

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 2:8-9

John 3:16

Romans 3:24

Romans 6:23

Titus 3:5

John 5:24

1 John 4:10

John 3:36

(If the program is performed by one club, the theme song for that club can be sung either at the beginning or end. If all clubs participate, sing the “Awana Theme Song.”)

The Court Scene

Processional: Uniformed clubbers and leaders march into auditorium.

Flag ceremony: Pledge to the American flag

Pledge to the Awana flag

Song: “My Country, ‘us of Thee”

Prayer

“Awana Theme Song”: Sung by entire congregation (words on overhead projector or printed in program)

Welcome: Awana commander or pastor

Congregational song: “Amazing Grace”

Moderator: Because God’s Word is our authority, we must refer to it as our guide. The gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – tell about the life of Christ and His mission on this earth to redeem mankind. The book of Acts is a history of the early church and the spread of Christianity throughout the world. The letters which are part of our Bible – most of them written by Paul, Peter and John – teach us many important spiritual truths.

For example, in the letter to the Roman church, Paul portrays a great court scene. All mankind is brought before a holy God in the court. All men are found guilty because no one can meet God’s standard of perfect righteousness. The scene looks something like this. clubber (dressed in judicial robe, holding a balance scale): God is the Judge. The Record says, *And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge (Psalm 50:6a).*

Paul (clubber, also dressed in judicial robe, holds a Bible): I, Paul, am the prosecuting attorney. You see, I am a *servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God (Romans 1:1b).*

Moderator (holding a globe): The defendant is the world, represented by three kinds of people. The first to take the stand is the barbarian sinner or heathen. (clubber dressed in primitive costume approaches.)

Paul: Those represented by this man are proved to be sinners *because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God (Romans 1:21a).*

Clubber: That’s right *They glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they*

became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things (Romans 1:21b-23).
Paul: God witnesses against them by creation and then by man's own refusal to acknowledge God.

Clubber: *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse ...And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind (Romans 1:19-20, 28)*

Moderator: We call the second defendant to the stand, the cultured sinner. (Boy dressed in suit and tie steps forward.) With all the good they count to their credit, the people this boy represents are proven to be sinners because God sees their hearts, and they are sinful.

Paul: *Therefore, thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest ... (Romans 2:1a).*
Why?

Clubber: *For wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself~ for thou that judgest doest the same things ...For there is no respect of persons with God ... (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified) (Romans 2:1b, 11, 13).*

Moderator: God witnesses against them by conscience.

Clubber: *(Their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel (Romans 2:15b-16)*

Moderator: We call the third defendant, the religious sinner, to the stand. (clubber enters carrying three or four Bibles and looking very pious.)

Paul: The religious sinner is proved guilty by the inconsistencies between his life and God's perfect standard of righteousness.

Clubber: God witnesses against the religious sinner by the law: *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty~ of all (James 2:10).*

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20).

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident for, The just shall live by faith." And the law is not of faith: but, "The man that doeth them shall live in them" (Galatians 3:11-12).

Moderator: The indictment: all men are already in the death cell, awaiting the day of judgment and death.

Paul: *"There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10b).*

Clubber: *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).*

(Pause)

Moderator: Is there no one who can deliver these people from their sin and the condemnation that awaits them?

Paul: God is just. He must keep the law which demands death for sin. But clubber: Galatians 3:13a says, *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.*

Paul: All sin was paid for by Christ.

Clubber: *For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

Paul: Because Christ died for us, now God offers us His righteousness. Those who will believe and accept the work God did for them on the cross are free from the penalty of their sin.

Moderator: Where is boasting then, regarding a person who is working for his own salvation?

Paul: *it is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law (Romans 3:27b-*

28).

Closing song

BANQUETS

Why should you, a busy Awana director or leader, spend hours to plan an Awana banquet? The primary purpose is fulfilling the two Awana goals: introducing the unsaved to Christ and encouraging Christians in their spiritual growth.

Awana banquets also provide opportunity to give clubbers a special treat. At the same time, the Awana program may be more fully explained to both church and unchurched parents. You can use banquets to celebrate a special holiday or event, provide a family affair which encourages fun in a Christian atmosphere or recognize outstanding clubbers by presenting awards in front of their families.

Banquet Committee

The first step in planning an Awana banquet is selecting a committee. Then decide on the following issues.

Purpose of banquet

Banquet theme (correlated with the purpose)

Date –Before announcing any date, check church and community calendars for conflicting activities.

People invited. Should an attendance limit and/or age qualification for young children be established?

Place. Will the banquet be held at church? If not, check suitable restaurants or halls. Do not announce a definite banquet date before securing a location.

Finances. Does the church or club treasury cover expenses? Should tickets be sold or an offering taken?

Committee members should be given assignments.

Publicity and Reception

Make pulpit announcements, skits, church and clubroom posters, church bulletin inserts/fliers and clubber take-home invitations.

- Prepare and mail invitations, fliers, letters, etc. Time, date, location of banquet and persons invited must be given as well as cost, type of dress and interesting facts about the program. Mail at least three weeks prior to banquet.

Print, distribute, sell and take care of accounting for tickets sold.

- Make food reservations at least three days before the banquet, so there will be adequate food. No tickets should be available at the door. To accommodate last-minute adjustments, however, ask caterers to prepare food for at least 10 percent above the number of reservations.

Greet guests. Two or three leaders should welcome all guests as they arrive and direct guests to coat racks.

Decorations

- Develop the theme through table and room decorations. Concentrate on overall effect rather than overemphasizing any one phase of decorations.

- Begin preparations early, considering the following elements; wall, ceiling, door and entrance decorations; table centerpieces; place mats; individual favors, nut cups and programs for each guest.

Program

- Choose an outgoing, relaxed emcee. Prior to the banquet, include him or her in program planning sessions, so he or she will be familiar with every program detail.

- Schedule a guest speaker who interests both believers and nonbelievers. Tell him or her that the audience will include both unsaved children and parents as well as mature Christians. The speaker should be prepared to give a straightforward gospel message while also challenging Christians to a closer walk with the Lord.

- Arrange for any needed honorarium, travel arrangements and accommodations for the speaker. Make definite arrangements for these matters well before the banquet.

- Plan the music. Set a comfortable atmosphere as guests arrive. During the meal, provide suitable background music. Ask church members to share special music (soloist, instrumentalist or musical ensemble) during the program. If you prefer a guest musician, check that your budget covers extra banquet ticket(s) and honorariums. If the performer is a vocalist, you may need to provide accompaniment. Consider planning two musical packages during the banquet program. The first package, at the beginning, is in a rather light vein. Towards the end of the program, the second musical package becomes more serious. Specify the types of songs you desire from the musician(s) and the amount of time allotted. When making arrangements with musicians, be sure they know that unsaved guests will be present. Group singing, just after the meal, loosens up an audience. Start with familiar, fun-type songs and then progress to more serious choruses. Sing

songs clubbers know and enjoy during club time. If songs are unfamiliar to your adult audience, print the words on a sheet or use an overhead projector.

- Design and print program folders. The following details may be included: date, time, theme; actual program schedule; menu; acknowledgment of committees, servers, etc.

Food and Service

- Choose an appetizing, reasonably inexpensive menu. Decide who will prepare and serve the meal.

1. Although not the least expensive, a catered banquet is easiest. Caterers will normally suggest a menu for your approval. When booking the dinner, ask for the total cost, including gratuities. Usually the caterer supplies waitresses. You can often save money by providing your own.
2. Order prepared food from a caterer or local food store and serve it yourself. Or purchase the main course and ask guests to bring salads, side dishes and desserts.
3. Serve potluck. Ask every family to bring a specified food item which serves eight to 10 people. You may assign single guests to bring rolls, butter or coffee.
4. Ask church ladies and/or men to cook for your banquet.

Consider which serving style is most effective. Will dinner be served at the tables, or will guests serve themselves from a buffet table? If served at the tables, will food be set out family style or on individual plates prepared in the kitchen? Buffet style reduces the number of waiters or waitresses needed and normally cuts the cost of a catered dinner.

Setup and Cleanup

Arrange and set tables

Put up decorations

Inform the church custodian (or hall manager) when you plan to set up, the number of tables needed and the banquet hours.

Put any equipment in place –microphones, a speaker’s stand, a piano, spotlights, etc.

Evaluation

After the banquet, compile a written report for those who will plan future banquets.

Sample Awana Banquet Evaluation

Number of guests planned for _____

Number who attended _____ Children Adults

Names of committees and members _____

Money received _____

Cost of food _____

Cost of decorations_____

Cost of special music

Cost of speaker_____

Other banquet expenses_____

Total cost of banquet_____

What was the purpose of this banquet?

To what extent did the banquet fulfill its purpose(s)?

What additional benefits were derived from the event? _____

Strong points of banquet

Weak points of banquet

Menu

Suggestions for next banquet

Comments (quality, variety, etc.) _____

Evaluation of caterer (service, cleanup, etc.) should be included in the Food Committee report.

Banquet Suggestions

Award Banquet —The Award Banquet honors all new Sparky, Excellence, Timothy, Meritorious and Citation Award winners. The achieving clubbers and their parents are guests, so the cost of their meals should be subsidized by the Awana treasury. Others who attend –Awana leaders, Sunday school teachers, former award winners, etc., can purchase tickets. In addition to Awana trophy achievers, all clubbers completing the current year’s handbook should be invited along with their parents. Decorate with a banner across the front wall reading “Approved workmen are not ashamed.” Use Awana place mats and candles for centerpieces. Consider inviting your Awana missionaries to this special event. They might show Awana slides, take pictures of award winners and present a brief challenging Bible message.

Clubbers’ Dinner –Once a year, begin your club meeting half an hour early. Treat your clubbers to a spaghetti supper, potluck dinner or other special-food night. Lead the clubbers in fun songs before and after the meal. Often, this fill-in prevents discipline problems. Plan seating ahead of time. If four or more clubs are eating together, assign tables for each club. Or if older boys and girls might enjoy mingling, allow for that possibility. One or two leaders should supervise each

table while the others work in the kitchen and serve. Meet with leaders ahead of time so each understands his role. Plan how food is to be served and how tables will be cleared.

Family Dinner –An informal family dinner features good food and a relaxed atmosphere. Mail an invitation for parents to return, indicating how many family members will attend and what food they'll bring. Begin the evening with a short slide or movie presentation of clubbers in action. After thanking God for the food, serve the meal buffet-style. Once tables are cleared after dinner, lead the guests in singing, play a few table-against-table games and perhaps present a funny skit. Ask your pastor to give a warm welcome to the guests and briefly explain the various church ministries. He can mention that Awana does not intentionally draw families away from other churches. Those who have no church home, however, are welcome to attend. Present clubber awards, special music, an evangelistic film, puppet show, Christian musician or special speaker.

Father/Son Banquet –Recognize that some clubbers' fathers won't attend with them. Ask men in your church to act as substitute dads for a morning breakfast or evening dinner. Ask each "dad" to pick up the "son" for the meal as if he were bringing his own son.

Pancake Breakfast — Invite men and boys to a low-cost breakfast of sausage, pancakes, syrup, milk and coffee. Decorate the walls with large cutouts of chef's hats, frying pans, flapjacks and roosters. Begin the program with a few fun songs, an old-time film or a skit. Introduce your pastor or Sunday school superintendent to welcome the men and invite them to return for Sunday school and church the next morning. Make the invitation casual. Don't pressure.

- **Pioneering in the Wild** –Encourage everyone to dress western-style and bring old-fashioned items to display. Offer prizes for the following categories of mementos –oldest, best condition, and most unusual. Western relics, such as old lanterns and tools, make appropriate table and room decorations. Sit around a fireplace or enjoy this dinner outside around a real campfire. Construct a covered wagon facade for the serving window. Make the menu simple with an outdoor flavor: barbecue sandwiches, potato chips and salad; or barbecued ~ chicken, baked beans and potato salad. Serve pie or cake for dessert. Show an outdoor video featuring a trek across the Australian outback, canoeing in Canada, aiding conservationists in Africa, etc.
- **Presidents' Supper** –During the month of February, feature former United States Presidents Lincoln and Washington as a theme. Make log cabins of Lincoln Logs for centerpieces. Choose a speaker with an interest in colonial history or the Civil War to shed light on the importance of God's Word and religious freedom. Or have an Awana leader, skilled in dramatic presentations, help clubbers write and present an original skit relating to the banquet theme.

Leaders' Appreciation Banquet –As the club season ends, enjoy an informal meal with your leaders. Reserve a banquet room at a local restaurant. Invite all Awana leaders and their spouses or dates. The main purpose is to recount God's working throughout the club year. Remember the past year's highlights. Recognize the most enthusiastic leader (relating some funny incident

caused by his enthusiasm) or the slowest leader (for whom you were always waiting). Be sure awards are not in any way insulting. Award distinctive trophies from tin cans, wire, glue and spray paint. Include favorite Awana songs interspersed with spontaneous testimonies about blessings of the year. If leaders' service pins haven't yet been awarded, this is an appropriate time to recognize leaders for their faithfulness.

Mother/Daughter Banquets –Develop an atmosphere to honor Mom at a special club meeting, mother/daughter tea or banquet. If your theme does not suggest specific decorations, plan an interesting color scheme.

- Garden Party –Decorate with flowers from your yard to save time and money. Consider constructing a garden walk through one area of the banquet room. Rent artificial green turf from a florist, set out planters with flowers and add a cobblestone walk and garden bench. If possible, invite a Christian florist to explain flower arranging. Better yet, ask your speaker to combine her floral demonstration and personal testimony to illustrate the principles by which God directs and arranges our lives.
- Many Thanks Tea –Your clubbers can use this opportunity to say “Thanks, Mom.” Although appropriate all year, this tea is an especially tangible way to say thank you” during the Thanksgiving season. Schedule the tea a week or two prior to the holiday and announce it well in advance. A mother/daughter tea is also appropriate just before Mother’s Day or Valentine’s Day. Decorations should center around the time of year.
- Patterns for Loving –Make sewing basket centerpieces with real or artificial flowers. Work spools of thread and packages of needles into the arrangements. Sell decorations at the conclusion of the banquet to help cover expenses. Print a program on a sheet of paper folded to resemble a sewing pattern envelope. Draw mother and daughter figures on each envelope. Paste pieces of material over the drawings to provide the mother and daughter with colorful, attractive dresses. Include the banquet theme, time and place on the front of each pattern. Inside the envelope, list the program, names of committee members and songs on pattern pieces. Center the program around fashions. Perhaps a local children’s shop will stage a display of girls’ clothing, using Awana clubbers as models. Or give six seamstresses in your church a basic pattern. Ask them to choose material and make dresses for themselves and their T&T-age daughters (or adopted daughter for this event). The pattern may be altered by adding or dropping sleeves, making the garment long or short, and decorating with buttons, bows, laces, etc. Model the finished dresses at the banquet.