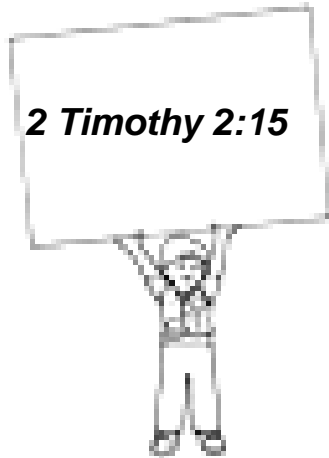


A*pproved*
W*orkmen*
A*re*
N*ot*
A*shamed*

2 Timothy 2:15



A W A N A

*Parent
Handbook
2008-2009*



Gold Country Baptist Church

3800 North Shingle Rd. ~ P.O. Box 768
Shingle Springs, CA 95682
(530) 677-4122
www.goldcountrybaptist.org

AWANA DIRECTORY

Commander: J-P Balmet (530) 672-1622
Administrator: Suzanne Balmet balfam9@comcast.net

Director of Records (Registrar):
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Club Directors

Cubbies: Ryan Masloskie (530) 620-3880
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Sparks:

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T&T Girls: Reneé Badger (530) 642-1676
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T&T Boys: Don Myers (530) 626-5575
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Junior Varsity: Glen Cain (530) 677-5926
(JV Trek) g.cain@comcast.net

Varsity: Mark Freeman (530) 676-7871
(Journey) markkevinfreeman@comcast.net

Web Sites

Gold Country Baptist Church: www.goldcountrybaptist.org

Awana Clubs International: www.awana.org

**Please pray
for all
Awana clubbers
and all
Awana leaders!**



TEEN MINISTRIES



JUNIOR VARSITY

6th-8th Grades



Every Thursday Night

6:25-8:30 PM

(Upstairs – old building)

If you like to play crazy games, dig into God's Word and interact with cool adult leaders, then you will have a blast at JV. You will study and apply Bible passages while developing close relationships with other junior high students and leaders. You should definitely check out our game nights, Trek Weekend and other activities.

Warning: You'll want to come back.

Gold Country Baptist Church welcomes you and your family to the 2008-09 club year.

AWANA is an international, non-denominational, Bible-centered youth program for 3-year-olds through high school students. The acronym AWANA comes from the first letters of the phrase, "Approved workmen are not ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15). Our goal is to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

The program begins at **6:25 p.m.** with a flag ceremony for **Sparks** and **T&T clubbers** in the sanctuary. **Cubbies** and **JV Trek students** start the night in their designated rooms.

The three main parts of the evening are Game Time, Handbook Time and Council Time. Competition during **Game Time** is exciting! We encourage children to play fair, cheer for their team and persevere to finish the race. Directors assign clubbers to teams at the beginning of the year; however, they may reassign teams as needed.

During **Handbook Time**, leaders listen to verses and help children understand and apply them. Clubbers should pass at least one section each week. We strongly encourage parental involvement.

Council Time consists of music, announcements, testimonies, a Biblical message and award presentations. We give major awards for completing books at the Awards Program in May; however, club directors give smaller awards for completing sections in their books throughout the year.

Parents/guardians must submit a **Registration/Medical Release Form** for each clubber no later than their second week of attendance.

The **registration fee** alleviates some of the club expenses. We also encourage families to help by donating recyclable cans and bottles to the club.

JOURNEY



VARSITY
High School Ministry

Every Sunday Night
(Upstairs – old building)

4:15-4:30 PM Check in
4:30-6:00 PM Journey 24/7 Bible study
6:00-6:30 PM Worship/Sharing
6:30-7:00 PM Dinner
7:00-7:45 PM Activity
7:45-8:00 PM Announcements/Closing

A Letter from Pastor Phil Layton



It is a great joy and blessing for us at Gold Country Baptist Church to host AWANA ministries each week for building up children in the Lord. Our goal is to exalt our Supreme God and His Sufficient Word in this church through AWANA by teaching and applying Biblical truth. I still remember many of the Bible verses I learned in AWANA growing up, so I especially appreciate the program's focus on Biblical memorization for spiritual transformation.

I want to extend a special thanks to the many leaders, workers, and helpers who make AWANA a fruitful ministry. I also want to recognize and encourage you parents for your desire to see your children learn God's ways and God's Word. We as a church want to help support and serve your children as best we can, but we know we cannot be a substitute for parents instilling Christian truth and values in the home. Most of all, we know that it is not programs, but trusting Jesus Christ alone that brings lasting heart change. Our prayer is that all involved will experience the liberating transformation that comes with repenting from sin and following Jesus as Lord.

Sunday ministries at Gold Country Baptist Church include:

8:15 & 11:00 AM	Worship services
9:45 AM	Sunday school (<i>ages nursery through adults</i>)
4:30 PM	VARSAITY (<i>High School</i>) Bible Study
6:00 PM	Evening Worship

Please contact the church office for more information about youth and children's activities, or visit our website: www.goldcountrybaptist.org

We have a number of opportunities for adults to fellowship and study. If there is any way our church can serve you, or minister to your family, please let us know. If you do not already have a church home where you are growing in Christ, we would love to have you join us in the work God is doing here.

Blessings in Christ,

Awards



Club attendance: Children from Cubbies through T&T earn awards for attending club each quarter. Clubbers who earn the award may not have more than *one unexcused absence* each quarter. Parents can excuse their absences when they are sick or out of town by giving a note to their children's leaders.

Sunday school: Children from Cubbies through T&T can receive *two awards* for Sunday school attendance each year. We believe Sunday School and church attendance are very important. (*Note: A clubber does not need to attend Gold Country Baptist Church to receive this award.*) Clubbers must attend *15 times* from the start of club to earn the first award. They must attend *29 times* from the start of club to receive the second award.

Handbook Awards:

CUBBIE BEAR: Given upon completion of the first Cubbie handbook.

VICTORY RIBBON: Given upon completion of the second Cubbie handbook.

FIRST BOOK RIBBON: Given upon completion of the first Sparks or T&T handbook.

SECOND BOOK RIBBON: Given upon completion of the second Sparks handbook.

SPARKY PLAQUE: Given upon completion of the third Sparks handbook.

EXCELLENCE AWARD: Given upon completion of two 3rd-8th grade handbooks.

THIRD BOOK AWARD: Given upon completion of three 3rd-8th grade handbooks.

TIMOTHY AWARD: Given upon completion of four 3rd-8th grade handbooks.

MILESTONE AWARD: Given upon completion of five 3rd-8th grade handbooks. Students who complete one year of JV Trek Bible studies and have not completed other 3rd-8th grade handbooks also receive this award.

MERITORIOUS AWARD: Given upon completion of six 3rd-8th grade handbooks.

CITATION AWARD: Given upon completion of 10 3rd-12th grade handbooks. The award winners' names are engraved on a wall at AWANA headquarters in Chicago. Many Christian colleges offer partial scholarships to Citation achievers.

Discipline



We will do nothing that could bring dishonor to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are to do nothing that would hurt any person, any thing or ourselves.

The **five-count** and **three-count** are used in each club to maintain order. Children are expected to behave according to club standards.

Five-count: Leaders count to “five” throughout the night to quiet the clubbers down when we need their attention. By the end of the count, everyone should be quiet and still.

Three-count: Used for disciplining an individual clubber who continues to misbehave after the initial correction by a leader. It follows the “*three-strikes-and you’re-out*” philosophy.

- **One-count:** The *leader* takes the clubber to the Director.
- **Two-count:** The *Director* takes the clubber to the Commander.
- **Three-count:** The *Commander* contacts the parents to take the clubber home early and meets with parents for discussion and resolution

We want all clubbers to come to AWANA and have a good time, but not at the expense of other clubbers. Clubbers who have received a **three-count** will not be allowed to return to club unless they are willing to change their behavior.

Clubs and Programs



Pre-school: *Ages 3 and 4* Room 8
(Must plan to attend kindergarten within two years.)
Emphasizes Bible memorization with parental help.



Sparks: *Kindergarten – 2nd grade*
Emphasizes Bible memorization and Bible-centered activities.

Kindergarten Room 10

1st– 2nd grade Room 7



T&T: *3rd – 5th grade*
Emphasizes Bible memorization and Bible-centered achievements.

T&T Girls Room 3

T&T Boys Room 2



Junior Varsity: *6th – 8th grade* (Upstairs, old building)
Emphasizes Bible memorization, Bible Study and personal application.



Varsity: *9th – 12th grade* (Upstairs, old building)
Emphasizes advanced Bible study, discipleship, and leadership.



Pick-up Procedure

For the protection of each child, parents need to pick up their children promptly at **8:30 p.m.** from each child’s room. Siblings will not be allowed to pick up their younger brothers or sisters without prior *written* approval.

Awana Permission Slips are available for parents to authorize the pick up of their children by anyone other than themselves.

The Clubber Handbook



The handbook is an essential element of your children's success in AWANA. Clubbers learn about God, and the material reinforces positive moral standards.

In the Know

1. **Entrance Booklets:** Clubbers must pass their entrance booklet before they may wear a uniform or start a handbook in all programs.
2. **Passing Sections**
 - a. Clubbers must have their handbooks at club.
 - b. Clubbers must recite references and verses with no more than two helps per section. They also need to understand the meaning of the verse.
 - c. Clubbers must say their verses to an AWANA leader or club director in person and must pass sections in order. They may complete the "bringing a friend" and Sparks **green jewel** sections in the Hiker and Climber books, at any time.
3. **Parental Help**
 - a. **Encourage** your children to learn self-discipline by working on their handbooks for 10 to 15 minutes each day.
 - b. **Listen** to their verses, ask them what the verses mean and give them 3x5 cards to help them learn. If you are not sure what the verses mean, call your children's leaders or directors.
 - c. **Set a pace** that your children can comfortably follow and make sure they understand what they are learning. Determine how many sections your children need to complete each week in order to finish their books by the end of the year (*Two per week is a good pace.*)
 - d. **Initial sections** when you feel that your children have the verses memorized. Clubbers will earn 200 extra points for each section that you sign.



Earning Points and Awana Bucks

Sparks and T&T clubbers receive points and AWANA bucks as follows:

1. **Attendance:**

Showing up	100 points
Wearing uniform	100 points
Being present before flag salute	100 points
Theme participation	100 points
Bringing a handbook	100 points
Bringing a bible	100 points
2. **Handbooks:**

Passing a section	600 points, 1 buck
Parents' initials on learned sections	200 points, 1 buck
Completing an entrance booklet	2 bucks
Completing a jewel, discovery or challenge	3 bucks
Completing a handbook	10 bucks
3. **Visitors:**

Bringing a guest	400 points
Guest returning a second time	700 points
Guest returning a second or third time with registration form	1000 points
4. **Games:**

First place	400 points, 4 bucks
Second place	300 points, 3 bucks
Third place	200 points, 2 bucks
Fourth place	100 points, 1 buck

AWANA bucks may be spent at the **AWANA store** twice a year.

We appreciate those who contribute items to our store.

