

# Summit Awana Leader Training: Sparks @Home

## (Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Year: 2020-2021

### Welcome:

Hello Leaders! Thank you so much for your willingness to be an at @Home leader for Summit AWANA this year. This has been a crazy year for sure and we appreciate you serving in this capacity to help serve our kiddos so we can continue to help them hide God's word in their heart. In this training we will cover everything pertaining to leading at home verses at the church. However we will not go over the AWANA basic leader information, such as listening to sections, record sheets, awards, etc. That information is in the main training video and will pertain to at home leaders as well. We ask that at home leaders watch that video first and then come back and watch this one. This video will include any new information at home leaders need to know, and will serve our at church leaders in case, heaven forbid, our club experiences another lockdown, and all leaders become at home leaders.

Let's start with the Marco Polo App...

**Marco Polo App:** Every leader and parent of an AWANA child will be asked to use the Marco Polo App this year. After last spring we realized that this age group cannot talk on the phone, but instead loves doing videos. Because of this we have decided this app would be the best since it works across all devices.

**Setting up your Group:** Within the Marco Polo App you are able to set up a group. We ask that you include all the parents of the children in your group along with Renee and Robin. This will make it easy for you to send out your once a week video to everyone at once.

**Why include Renee and Robin?:** One of the hard parts of not seeing leaders every week, because they are serving at home, is that we can't see them. And we are left hoping that they are making the calls or sending the videos. If we are included in the group we will receive your weekly video and see that you are reaching out to your kids. This helps us to know that you are on it. If we don't see this video go out by 7pm we will be following up with you to make sure you can contact your kids. If you are unable to that night, we can cover for you and listen to your kids for the night.

**Leader Absence:** As per the main training, if you are unable to serve one night, please let us know in advance and we will cover it. You can text us, let us know via Group Me or with a video on the Marco Polo App. Please communicate with us! These kids are relying on you week in and week out. The parents are relying on you. We do not want to drop the ball with them. We want to help cover if needed.

Now let's talk about what a typical at home night will look like.

**Tuesday night:** Every Tuesday night please set aside the normal 6:30-8:20 Tuesday night club time to reach out to your group of kids.

**Record a video to your group via the Marco Polo App:** Begin the night by preparing a short video that will go out to all your kids. In this video please include the following:

1. Greet the kids, and tell them who you are. Ex: "Hi Sparkys! This is Ms. Robin."
2. Tell them how excited you are to hear their sections that week.
3. Remind them that in order to be marked for attendance they need to send you a video back, even just saying Hi. If they don't have sections they can still be marked for attendance and earn bucks for wearing their vest and showing their bible.
4. Remind them to show you their vest and bible for Awana Bucks to spend at the store. If there is a theme night on the calendar and they participate in it over the video they can also receive an extra buck point for that.
5. Remind them of the sections on the pacing chart that you are hoping to sign off that week. If you want to talk about the verses or tell them a game they can play to learn it that would be a bonus. There are examples in the Leader books that you might be able to share.

An example video narrative would be, "Hi Sparkys! This is Ms. Robin. I hope you are having a great week. I am so looking forward to hearing from you tonight. Please make sure to send me a video with any sections you are working on, and if you don't have any please still send me a video for attendance. Don't forget to be wearing your vest and show me your bible so you can get AWANA buck points. Tonight we are working on Rank 1 and 2 which are John 3:16 and Acts 16:31 (you can say the verses if you want). If you want to play a game to learn them you can write the verses on a white board and say the verse. Then erase some words and say it again. Repeat this until you can say the verse after it is all erased. Have fun and I'm looking forward to hearing from you."

**Getting Videos Back/Sending a Video Back:** When a child sends you a video back, record their completed sections on the record sheet and count them as attended. Count up their buck points based on the buck system and record their points. Then immediately record a video telling them what a great job they did. If they earned an award make a big deal out of it and mention it in the video.

Example video back would be: "Hey Davie! I heard you say Corinthians 15:3 for the 8<sup>th</sup> section of the rank patch. Way to go! This means you have earned your patch. We will mail that out to you at the end of this month. I also saw that you wore your vest and had your bible. And since you said your verse word perfect that means you earned 4 buck points this week. I am so proud of you. See you next week!"

***Incomplete Sections:*** If a child misses something in a section such as they didn't answer the questions asked to complete the section, but just said the verse. Or maybe they didn't say the verse completely and they need to try again. In this case you would need to send a follow up video kindly letting them know what they missed and asking them to try again. Once they do you can send your final video telling them what they have passed and earned.

Once all your kids have gotten back to you, you have updated their record sheets, and sent them a follow up video, you are done for the night.

***Awards Sheets:*** If your kids have earned an award, fill out an Awards sheet and text a picture of it over to Renee or Robin. We will put them together and mail them out at the end of the month to each kid. We will also let you know that we have sent the award and you can highlight it on their record sheet to show that it was sent.

***What else will be offered to @Home Kids?:*** We want @home kids to have as much fun as kids at the church. Because of this we have given parents game ideas to play with their kids along with suggestions for what their night should look like. They will receive a video from Renee or Robin with an opening ceremony, prayer, songs, and lesson.

***Incase of any problems:*** If there is parent who has an issue please have them call Renee or Robin directly. We do not want leaders to feel they have to deal with issues beyond being a group leader. Feel free to send them to us and we will happily handle it. They have been provided with our contact information.

Since this is a new way of running the AWANA program there may be bumps and hiccups along the way. Please let us know if you come upon any and we will do our best to address and adjust accordingly. Please be gracious as we navigate this new way of serving at AWANA.

Again! Thank you so much for serving in this way. We couldn't do it without you!