

What is Awana?

National Survey Says Awana Instills Kids With Lasting Faith in Christ

Most kids trained in Awana become modern-day Josephs -- faithfully following God as adults. Survey results found Awana alumni are more devoted to God, His Word and their local church than even the most committed U.S. churchgoers. Read the alumni study report for full details.

Endorsements for Awana:

For nearly 60 years, Awana has been a leader in children's ministry, helping churches and parents worldwide raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ.

Based in the Chicago area, Awana is the only organization with fully integrated evangelism and discipleship programs for ages 2 to 18 that actively involve parents, church leaders and mentors. Each week, more than a million children and youth, 250,000 volunteers and 300-plus field staff take part in Awana in over 18,000 churches in the U.S. and internationally. (Learn about the prayer, vision, mission and values of Awana.)

Awana works with churches from 100 different denominations. It began as a children's program at the North Side Gospel Center in Chicago in 1941. Lance Latham, North Side's senior pastor, collaborated with the church's youth director, Art Rorheim, to develop weekly clubs that would appeal to churched and unchurched kids, lead them to trust Christ for salvation and grow them in enduring faith and service to God.

Other churches learned about the success of the program and inquired about its availability. In 1950, Latham and Rorheim founded Awana as a parachurch organization. By 1960, 900 churches had started Awana programs. By 1972 Awana had begun its first international club. Today children and youth in more than 100 countries participate in Awana programs, and millions of adults are alumni.

The founders of Awana derived the Awana name from the first letters of **Approved workmen are not ashamed** as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15 of the Bible.

Today, more than 12,000 U.S. churches run Awana with programs in all 50 states. Awana can also be found in over 6,000 churches in 109 other countries. Jack Eggar is our President/CEO. Art Rorheim serves as our Co-Founder/President Emeritus.

Missionaries and ministry teams will assist you in establishing Awana as a vital part of your local church's outreach, discipleship, family ministry and volunteer training. Find your area missionary and contact him or her today or learn more about what we believe as a Bible-teaching ministry. Or register to start Awana online. If you're interested in working for Awana, check out our current job openings. If you're looking for an Awana program in your area, use our program finder to locate local churches with Awana.