



by **Linda Weddle**

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A Dozen Ways to Celebrate a Great Year!

You need to celebrate—NOT because the year is over but for the great year that you had. Have fun! Cherish the memories! Look forward to next year.

1. Thank the Lord for the great year you've had!
2. Throw confetti or fill the room with balloons the last night of club—not to celebrate that it's summer, but to celebrate the good year you've had in club.
3. Figure out how many days it is to the first fall club meeting. Plan something exciting for the kick-off and let your clubbers know what it is so that they'll look forward to the club start.

4. Ask each clubber and leader what was their best memory of the year. Have someone video the answers on his/her phone, or print out the answers and put them in a scrapbook.

5. Make fun and enthusiastic announcements about any summer kid events at church. Join this year's [VBS mission project](#) to provide critical needs to kids living in refugee areas! Get your clubbers excited about bringing hope to kids in difficult areas.

6. Put together a DVD of photos/videos that were taken throughout the year—show the DVD at awards night. Or, make a copy for each family with a note thanking the family for the privilege of being their child's leader.

7. Plan a memorable last night: grill hot dogs, roast marshmallows, sing your favorite songs, invite a kid-friendly speaker, play energetic games and/or let the kids go wild with sidewalk chalk on the parking lot. (Make sure you block off the area from cars.)

8. Honor your club during a church service. With the [Reach Kids Sunday](#) resources, you can celebrate all the ways God has been working in your club and then challenge your church to get involved in reaching even more kids!

9. Plan a special celebration for leaders. Have the meal catered or ask another ministry group in the church to serve the meal, or plan a get-together at a nearby restaurant.

10. Give a "thank-you" gift to parents.

- Popcorn — "Have a great summer! Looking forward to the Fall start-date for another great year of Awana!"
- Pen with church name and phone number — "Keep in touch!"
- A ticket to a minor league ball game — "Come join us!"

11. Do you have a creative musician in your church? Could he/she write a catchy tune about the year that you could teach to the kids on the last night?

12. Take a group picture with someone in the front row holding a sign (as you would in a school picture: "Awana 2016–2017"). Do you have a hallway where you could keep a gallery of these pictures? Fun way to look back throughout the years.