

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

1. I create a calendar with picture of them on it and on one side of the calendar I list all the "November Nuttiness/September Silliness, etc. Then I mark a couple of those holidays on the calendar and we can do something to celebrate them. The contest part of this is that I mark on there an average of where the girls should be each night if they want to pass their books. Then they get a sticker every time their on the right spot. You can carry it farther with telling the girls there will be a party if after the 1st quarter of the year all the girls are where they should be. (Note to leaders: this didn't work with my group of girls because there are two or three who just can't get that much done. No matter what I do they can't keep up and I couldn't use those girl's weaknesses against the others. It would just develop attitudes toward those who were slower. But if you have a class where all the kids can keep up the speed then go for it!)

2. This is for the kids who do NOT want to practice at home. Have the girls go around saying their verses for the week to as many people as possible (or to the same person over & over again) and every time they say them to someone, that person signs their name on a piece of paper saying that the girl said it to them. The girl with the most signatures the next week gets a candy bar.

3. Lollipop Marathon! All T & T Girls are invited to join the Lollipop Marathon! All competitors will receive small suckers and big winners will receive large lollipops! To Compete: 1. Each clubber must bring a form signed by a parent saying they practiced 10 minutes 5 days each week. Clubbers will receive a sucker for each form they turn in. 2. Clubbers will receive a sucker for each section they complete in their handbooks. The stick of each sucker will be a certain color on the bottom. The color determines how many extra points your team will receive that night. The goal is to get as many suckers as possible to gain the most points for their team! Each clubber who brings in their form each of the 4 weeks will receive a lollipop at the end of the contest! Color Values: Red = 5 points Blue = 10 points Green = 15 points Yellow = 20 points Purple = 50 points

4. Paper Clip Chain – Hang a paper clip from the ceiling. Every time a clubber passes a section/says a verse (depending on how you wish to do it) a paper clip is added to the chain. When the chain touches the ground, the group gets a party.

5. Silly Supper – Set a number of weeks, then set how many sections clubbers should pass within that number of weeks. Every clubber who passes the correct number in that time period gets to attend a Silly Supper. At the silly supper, the children are provided with a list of all the food items and dishes and utensils they will need for that meal, but they are all written in jibberish or code. Students must list 3-4 items for each of their 3-4 courses. What they choose is what they get for that course. What this means is that a student may wind up with a course where they have a spoon, spaghetti, and a toothpick. The next course may be ice-cream, a knife and a piece of garlic bread. Be sure to have a camera on hand for this event!

6. In Your Face - This was our 1st year of Awana and near the end of the year everybody is very busy and tired of memorizing sections. So we decided to have a contest for 4 weeks to push all kids - no matter where they were in their book - to memorize the most sections. The top two kids (over all the clubs) who said the most sections just during that 4 week period put a pie in the Commander's and Game Director's faces. Then the top two kids in each club were allowed to do one of the following.

1. Put make-up on their director
2. Put a pie in the face of their director
3. Have a water gun show down with their director

We found this fun for all kids, not just the kids who have blown through their books. This In Your Face night was loads of fun.

7. I have done a baseball game where for 2 sections they got to first base & so on. Prizes were popcorn, peanuts, pop & a hot dog.

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

8. Explode into the new year with a BLAST-OFF CONTEST that encourages clubbers to start passing sections right away. Decorate bulletin boards and contest charts with a space theme. All Sparks and third- through sixth-grade clubbers who pass six sections (a complete entrance test or six handbook sections) in five weeks qualify for a Splash Down Pool Party. Rent a local pool or use the backyard pool of a church member. Play pool games and provide snacks or supper.
9. A church in Oregon has an annual POP CAN CONTEST. All clubs (Cubbies through Varsity) battle to see which can bring in the most empty soft drink cans. The members of the winning club get a prize. The cans are then turned in for a deposit and the money is used to send clubbers to Scholarship Camp. — Bethany Herrington, Oregon.
10. Challenge your church to a BIBLE MEMORIZATION CONTEST. The object is to find out who can memorize the most verses, the Awana clubbers or the adult members of the church congregation. The scoring is done on a per capita basis (the total number of verses memorized is divided by the number of clubbers or church members). If the clubbers win, the church will throw them a pizza party. The church that sent in this idea isn't even planning what will happen if the congregation wins — that's how confident they are! — Jeff Mathews
11. A candy one where if they say 1 section, they get a small piece of candy, 3 it is a little bigger, 5 a candy bar. This is one night, not from night to night.
12. The present in a present in a present....each week, for every section they say, they get their name in a hat. Then at the end, draw a name and the winner gets to unwrap the present that week, leaving a smaller box for the next week. Then in the final night it is a more valuable prize.
13. At the beginning of the year, we do sleepover but they have to pass so many sections to be able to go (but we actually use the grace lesson at the end and have everyone come, but do not tell them until the very end and usually everyone is very close to making it anyway). With this one, we also set the standard of sections to go to the sleepover very low because we actually want as many as possible there. For the over achievers, we try and have an additional prize.
14. We try and have some contest every single month. The one thing we try and do is vary it as far as if everyone will get a prize or if they get entered into a drawing and only a couple will win.

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

15. Sometime back I posted a contest we did called "Go, Dog, Go!". I don't want to retype all of it here, but if you do a search on contest ideas, you'll find it. It was one of the best we ever did. Generated alot of excitement. One of our T & T favorites last year was "Go, Dog, Go!" We made up four posters, one for each color team, with the team names written randomly all over. (Being the crafty person that I am, I found material in each of the four team colors, with dog themes, and used it to create a "picture frame" on the borders of the posters. Looked great and added color!) When a team member completed a section, a dog paw print sticker was placed on their team's poster next to their name. We ran a four week contest. At the end of the four weeks, we awarded each member of the team with the highest number of paw prints a king size candy bar, each member of the second place team got a regular sized candy bar, and the winning members of the third place team got a snack size candy bar. But here was the kicker: the members of the team with the lowest number of paw prints had to eat dog food! We told them at the beginning of the contest that they'd better work hard to get lots of sections done, because the team with the lowest number of sections/paw prints would have to eat dog food. You can imagine how the excitement level was in the room when that team came up to eat their dog food! Now here's the secret: we bought a product called "Kooky Treats", which are cookies that look just like dog food. We put it in a real dog food bowl. There was even a cookie dog biscuit shaped like a milkbone that we gave to the leader. The team stood up in front of everyone looking very apprehensive and nervous. Before we made the team eat the "dog food", we told everyone we were going to have to take them out of the room to give them a "lecture" about how they HAD to eat the dog food, and when we did, we let them in on the secret. They had a great time coming back in the room and pretending to be grossed out by eating their dog food. It was a riot. The whole roomful of kids were shouting in unison, "Eat it!!" We also awarded the Top Dog on each team extra Awana bucks. It was quite a success. Of course, we'll have to wait a few years before we can use it again, now that they know about the Kooky Treats not really being dog food..... I found the "dog food" at this website: www.birthdayexpress.com Enter Kooky Chew in their search engine and it'll come up with the product. The treat comes in a little dog bowl and costs \$1.25. We put it into a real dog bowl so it'd look more real. I think I've seen the same product at one of those candy shops that are often found in shopping malls or outlet malls but I think it was quite a bit more expensive. If you do this, you have to keep a straight face the whole time and not let on that it's not really dog food. During the entire contest, we had kids coming up to us and asking, "do they really have to eat dog food?" and other such questions. They were totally believing it.

16. We have done a Pizza party for those who have said so many sections in certain amount of time, Sections in the bag--this is where we put the child's name in a bag each time they said a section, after 4 weeks we drew names out of the bag and gave out Awana book bags, Count the Candy--we put candy in a jar and for each section said you get to write your guess down as to how many pieces you think are in the jar, we have done sleepovers, outings, etc.

17. Bubble Gum Party: Using poster board, make a bubble gum machine for each team and hang them on the wall. Teams earn one piece of "bubble gum" (colored circles) for their machine for every section completed. Members of the team who fill their machine first get a package of gum.

18. The commander and I dyed our hair (red and green) last year as an incentive to have sections signed off - and it worked - over a six week period, 21 clubbers recited 235 sections... We will do something similar this year, but we will up the stakes - if they accomplish the goal we set out, they get whatever it is that we have set as the target (pizza, ice cream, hair dye, pie in the face, etc). If they don't they have to do something for us in return (we're thinking pie in their face...)

19. Our winter contest one year was to 'build a snowman' out of cotton balls - each ball represented a section, the team with the 'fattest' snowman got to come to our house and build snowman sweatshirts with 3D paints and appliqué fabric snowmen.

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

20. In spring we tried a 'build the pyramids' contest, with each brick being a section. Didn't really know what we'd do for a final prize. I was mulling over a 'field trip' to see a basketball game at the Pyramid here in downtown Memphis.

21. Individual Contest: An idea my lovely wife came up with was a 'March Madness' contest, using basketball stickers for sections, and lining them up on a bar chart - The top 16 section earners would enter the 'sweet 16' narrowing down to the 'final four' in the last week. The winning clubber (not team) would receive a gift certificate to Sports Authority.

22. Those clubbers (Sparks or T&T (OR LEADERS!!) who complete a book will be allowed to 'pie' whichever leader they wish, even the Commander or Children's Pastor.

23. Star Clubber- T&T: Clubbers who get 100% on attendance, Uniform, Book and Bible, and who complete a book, and who go to AwanaGames and Bible Quiz (if we go) get their name in a hat for a \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Certificate. Leaders expressed interest in doing this as well. Think I'll probably do the same for the leaders.

24. The first contest that we do with our girls during the first month of Awana is very simple but gets them to pass sections and it is for each week, not carry over from week to week. If they pass 1 section that night, they get a small piece of candy (penny size). If they pass 3 sections, they can get a couple of the small pieces or a mini bite size candy bar. If they pass 5 sections, they would get a regular size candy bar. This way it is instant gratification and gets them going.

25. We did a BARF (Bring A Real Friend) Night last year and it was a B-L-A-S-T!!! I even found a recipe on the internet to make homemade looking barf and the kids were so grossed out!!! Especially when I touched it, but then they caught on and starting touching it. What a riot!

26. We did two last year - Dash for Cash and Dig for Dollars. We challenged the entire club to complete a certain number of sections over 6 weeks. It worked out to about 2.5 sections/night/ avg club attendance. So for Dash it was 300 sections and for Dig it was 350. I had a poster for each one that went with the theme and we updated it every week during award time. At the end of the contest time we had a chance for the kids to "win" shares.

27. For Dash for Cash, we lined all the kids up (in 4 groups) and had the leaders throw shares up in the air. The clubbers could only keep what they caught before the cash hit the ground. That worked ok, but Dig was better. Once the kids passed the 350 sections we split them up into their color lines. We had 4 garbage bags filled with packing peanuts and hid 1, 5, and 10 shares buried in the bags. We then ran a type of relay where each team sent one person at a time to "dig" through their bag for a share. At the end, we added up each teams total shares and gave that many shares to each person. I arranged it so the minimum any one person would get was 10.

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

28. I saw on another post somewhere a contest where a leader built a double-sized phone booth with a grating bottom and a box fan under it. The clubber with the most sections said for the quarter could go in there for 1 minute and grab as much money (Awana Bucks) as they could! (I would imagine this would be just before the Awana Store). I'd really like to build such a thing but have no idea how I could store it. And I'm a little at a loss for how to get the money in there without having the kid just reach down before the fan is on and grab a stack. Could be the money was poured in from overhead. I'll try to find the post again, and if I can't find instructions for how to build one so it's 'disassembleable' I'll create some plans (in my nonexistent spare time) and post them on the net on our website. I constructed the "Mr. Twister" wind machine and it works great. For that that don't know what it is, it's a box about the shape of a phone booth where a child gets inside, the fan is turned on and money and prizes fly around while they try to catch them.

29. We have one the kids love! We call it "Gold Fish Night" . For each section the clubbers do, they can put their name on a paper gold fish and drop them into an old fashion gold fish bowl. We have one for boys and one for girls. At the end of the night we draw randomly for . . . you guessed it! . . . Packets of goldfish crackers! They now come in many colors and flavors which is pretty cool also. Grace

30. A couple of years ago at my church I told the clubbers from Grades 3 to 8 if they got 1000 cans of food during the second half of the year for the food bank then both the commander and myself would shave our heads bald. The clubbers took on the challenge and not only met the 1000 can challenge but got 1150 cans of food. Another thing I was thinking of doing was getting one of those boards that they have at fairs for ring toss and say whoever does so many sections in say a month gets to throw a ring at the board and whatever number (between 1 and 15) that they hit that is the number of Awana shares they get. ~Alec

31. One sure-fire way my club uses is that of a boys vs. girls contest. The ones that say the most sections per capita get to have the others serve them ice cream or pizza. If you do try this, do not give out the scores before the announcement time. Some members of the losing team sometimes resorts to hiding if you let them know earlier. It does work. The number of sections said almost doubled during the three weeks it was held.

32. My plan was to have a contest between the kids and me to see who could get through the book first. The kids loved it and were always wanting to listen to my verses. In addition, it was good for me too.

33. A talented woodworker in our church built us a small bookcase and 66 little wooden "books" representing the books of the Bible. We had a contest in each club to see which clubber could put the books in order the fastest. The inner received a Bible with his or her name on the cover. Every clubber who as able to put the books in the proper order and tell one event that happens n each book received 10,000 points for his or her team. (We use a high point system!) For Sparks, we use the New Testament books only — Shane Sometime back I posted a contest we did called "Go, Dog, Go!". I don't want to retype all of it here, but if you do a search on contest ideas, you'll find it. It was one of the best we ever did. Generated a lot of excitement.

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

34. Our T&T clubbers are racing me through Book One. I wanted to show them that I believed in the value of memorizing Scripture enough to do it myself. I pass my sections before club, and we have special Saturdays when we work on extra credit together. Any clubber who finishes the book (with the extra credit) before I do will be invited to a dinner at which I will wait on them personally. I've printed out a calendar of the entire club year. If the total number of sections passed in a given week is twice the number of clubbers in attendance, the clubbers get to cross off two days on the calendar. If the total number of sections is four times the number of clubbers, they get to cross off an entire week. I am not allowed to study on any crossed-off days. Occasionally, if my calendar is open, I announce double section weeks to encourage the kids. I'm pacing myself so about half the clubbers beat me through the book. — Schelli Ward, New Life Evangelical Free Church, Hastings, Minnesota

35. On the wall in the Council Time room, we hung up three large poster board bowls, one each for Sparks, T&T girls and T&T boys. The clubs are trying to complete sundaes in the bowls. To earn a scoop of ice cream or a topping, the clubbers must invite a total of three visitors. A completed sundae consists of three scoops of ice cream, a layer of chocolate and a cherry on top. Each club that completes its cardboard sundae earns an ice cream sundae party. The bowls are in a location where adults in the church can see them and be reminded to pray for our clubs and the visitors. — Debbie Wright

36. Build your own sundae - the kids who say the most sections get to go first, so the farther back you are in line, the bigger the chance that you may not get the topping(s) you want. Another fun take on the ice cream contest is to give a point for each section passed that they can build a sundae with, but include the kids having to use points to buy the bowl and spoon. Some kids with not many points would rather have the scoop of ice cream in their hand! It's a little messy, but our kids loved it! Also super sundae. For one section a scoop of ice cream, and a topping for each other section. One year one of the T&T girls earned 32 toppings.

37. Last year we constructed The World's Largest Banana Split. Our clubbers were collectively encouraged to pass at least 100 sections in two weeks. When they made the goal (and participation was almost 100 percent), we rewarded them with the banana split. We used 20 feet of vinyl gutter with end caps, 10 pounds of bananas, large tubs of vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream, a lot of chocolate syrup and whipped cream, a 40-ounce jar of cherries and enough plastic spoons to go around. We had the clubbers stand on either side of the tray, and at the signal start eating. We were amazed at how quickly it disappeared! Make sure you take a lot of pictures. We hosed the gutter down afterwards and are saving it for this year's contest. — Barry Chester, Haltom Road Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

38. Our Sparks and T&T clubbers are competing for a ride in a limo to a lunch at McDonald's To qualify, a clubber must attend club every week between January 26 and March 30 and recite two sections each week. Sections can be made up before the deadline. If a clubber misses a week, he or she can only make it up by bringing a visitor for each week missed. The outing will take place on a Sunday after church. Our pastor will announce the winners from the pulpit, and then the limo driver will enter and escort the winning clubbers to the limo (or limos). — Tami Pearce, Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church, Sopchoppy, Florida

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

39. We've created a Cosmic Contest to encourage clubbers to bring visitors and keep them coming back. On a large poster board we created a solar system with photographs of planets and moons downloaded from the Internet. When a clubber brought a visitor, he or she blasted off from Earth to the Moon. Clubbers and visitors chose one of several pieces of cheese that were scattered on the surface and won the number of Awana shares written on the back. If the visitor returned, the clubber and visitor traveled from the Moon to Mars where they chose one of several rocks. On the back of the rocks were written the value of a coupon to McDonald's or Dairy Queen. When the visitor came for a third time, the clubber and visitor flew from Mars to Jupiter and chose one of that planet's four moons. On the back of the moons there were dollar amounts (from \$5 to \$15) that the kids could use toward items in the Awana Supply Catalog. We had church members sponsor the contest to help with the costs. We found that visitor retention increased dramatically after a third visit, and our club attendance grew by about 10 percent. — Kevin Shope, Grace Fellowship Church, Ephrata, Pennsylvania

40. Each spring we have a Puzzling Contest between the girls and boys in our Sparks club. We give 100-piece puzzles to each team. Whenever a Sparkie memorizes a verse (or completes a section that contains no verses), he or she is given a puzzle piece with his or her name on the front. The puzzle is assembled by gluing each piece in its proper place on a poster board. At the end of the contest, the team with the most puzzles put together wins a hamburger dinner; served to them by the losing team. The losing team gets a self-serve hot dog dinner. In addition, the boy AND girl whose names appear on the most pieces win individual prizes: a \$50 gift certificate for first place, a \$25 gift certificate for second place and a \$10 gift certificate for third place. — Margo Hays, Parkview Baptist Church, Waco, Texas.

41. In celebration of March as National Noodle Month, have each club bring packages of noodles. The club that brings the most packages wins a prize. Use a few packages for club events and donate the remainder to a food bank. On Noodle Night, have a no-hands spaghetti-eating contest with clubbers wearing bibs. Give a prize of Italian ice cream to the clubber who eats the most in three minutes. For younger clubs, use noodles for crafts. Clubbers can glue noodles on cardboard or in freestanding statues to form animals for a noodle zoo. Younger clubbers can make noodles-on-string necklaces. The Council Time message could show different types and shapes of noodles from different countries and talk about how people are different but God loves everyone. — Donna Burns.

42. Our Sparks Club starts each spring season with a Campfire Contest. For several weeks before this night, clubbers are given a cotton ball for each section they pass. On Campfire Night, they exchange the cotton balls for marshmallows. We also give each clubber a few marshmallows just for being at club that night. (We promoted the contest by giving each child a mini-marshmallow when they arrived for club the week before it began.) After Handbook Time, we go on a nature hike that ends at a campfire. Our theme is being a "spark" for Jesus that lights the world. We sing songs, including "It Only Takes a Spark," and give a message on sharing our faith. The grand finale is the marshmallow roast. — Marianne Policastro, South Dade Baptist Church, Homestead, Florida.

43. Spring Up a Well Contest. Clubbers do various activities that reach out to the community. For example: bringing a friend to club; visiting a local convalescent home and giving a testimony or telling a story; writing a letter to your church's Awana missionary; or writing a letter to a government official to tell him or her about Awana and what it means personally. All clubbers who participate receive a 2 Timothy 2:15 plaque (available in the Awana Supply Catalog) in a Sunday morning church service. — Diana Rowe, Houston, Texas.

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

44. Every spring, our church has a Balloon Blast. For one month, clubbers get one point for each section they pass. On the final night, they are given a water balloon for each point they've earned. We replace Game Time with the Balloon Blast. Clubbers get to throw the balloons at the pastor, the commander and the directors. Last year, we had over 1,000 water balloons thrown! (Editor's note: Don't let this be the only time all year that clubbers see the pastor. Ask him to speak in Council Time and at special events in order to build a rapport with clubbers.) — Paul E. Brown, The Woodlands, Texas.

45. We have a theme month called Fashion Disaster Month. Each week we have a different theme and give points to the teams for originality and level of participation (leaders included). The adults in our church are amused and stop by each week to see what the clubbers come up with. The first week is Backwards Uniform Night. The next week is Heart Attack Night (when clubbers come covered in hearts). That is followed by Head Case Night when clubbers come in silly hats, weird hairdos and bad makeup. The final week is No Taste Below the Waist Night, specializing in ugly pants, shoes and socks (with an modesty requirement). On the final night, we have a party to go along with the theme. — Craig Sullivan, Arvada Baptist Church, Arvada, Colorado.

46. For one month each club year, we have a cookie decorating contest. Every Sparkie who passes 10 sections during the month is eligible. We decorate a large poster board and whenever a section is passed, we post a cookie sticker. The clubbers can use the chart to track their progress. Whenever a clubber qualifies for the party, we announce his or her name to motivate the other Sparkies. For the party, we supply large cookies and plenty of frosting and sprinkles. Then we let the Sparkies eat their cookies! Angie Andrews, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Lavonia, Georgia

47. For each of my first-year Cubbies, I make a card with 36 squares (motto, key verse, A, C, 24 Bear Hugs, six special days). The squares are big enough to stamp with the Cubbie stamp. I start with the motto and ask if they remember it. Everyone who can say it gets that square stamped on their card. We continue through what they've learned or until we run out of time. The children love seeing their cards filled up with stamps. It helps them review their work and encourages them to forget their shyness. Elena Mouritsen, University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas

48. Our T&T girls love Bible Mania night. Many of them dress up as Bible characters and the others try to guess who they are. For Handbook Time, each clubber gets to put her name in a drawing for each section she passes. The winner gets a prize such as a nice Bible. For Council Time, we play "Who Wants to Win a Bunch of Shares?" We play it like the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" TV show, except that the girls are in teams. The questions are based on recent Council Time lessons, handbook sections, Awana trivia (How many sections must you pass each week to complete your book in one year?) and facts about the leaders and the church. This is the girls' favorite theme night of the year, and they particularly like the shares game. Jennifer Lester

49. Each week, we put all the clubbers' names into a basket. At the beginning of Council Time, we pull one name. If that clubber is wearing his or her uniform and has passed three sections that night, he or she receives a giant candy bar. It's been a great motivator. Parents have told us that their sons and daughters are interested in memorizing for the first time ever! We also use giant candy bars as a motivator for new clubbers. We staple a yellow coupon to each Start Zone that we hand out. It says, "Do not remove this coupon. When this booklet is complete, return the coupon to your leader and receive a giant candy bar." This really gets newcomers to return and begin passing sections. Gloria Neussendorfer, Evangelical Free Church, Watertown, South Dakota

Awana Contest Ideas:

All ideas taken from: J.), Various Individuals (including the Awana Forums), and the previous Awana leader resource area. (If a name is listed after it, the idea came from this website, from one of the issues listed under "contest ideas") Commander Bill has not used all of these contest ideas.

50. The clubbers at our church love the secret envelope contest. In a plain envelope, I seal a note with a prize written on it. The clubber who passes the most sections in four weeks wins whatever is written on the note. Prizes have included Awana shares, a night out with two leaders and a friend, and a gift card to a local store. Curiosity is a great motivator, and the kids try extremely hard to win the contest Teresa Parker, Liberty Baptist Church, Suffolk, Virginia

51. We have a kite-eating tree contest. I tape two large, sky-blue poster boards together, then glue a large construction-paper tree in the middle. At the bottom of the poster is a row of small girl figures to represent the girls in our club. Each clubber makes her own kite and attaches it to the poster with masking tape, then connects the kite to one of the girl figures with yarn. Every time a clubber passes a section, she earns a sticker to put on her kite. If a girl doesn't say a section one week, her kite is stuck in the tree, and she must say two sections to get it out. At the end of a month, we count up the stickers and award prizes to the top three clubbers. The girls enjoy the contest, and nobody wants their kite stuck in the tree. Debra Kugler

52. We give our clubbers a summer Bible-reading challenge. If they read four chapters of Scripture each week during the summer (36 chapters for the entire summer), we take them out for a pizza party at a local restaurant. We give them a form to keep track of what they've read. Last year, about 25 percent of our clubbers made it!

53. Here's a simple contest, but our Sparkies love it. We put up a large wall chart with each of their names listed. Every time they pass a section, they get a sticker next to their name. When they have completed 12 sections, they get a 12-ounce can of pop. They love it! Linnea Phillips, Grassland Heights Baptist Church, Franklin, Tennessee