

# Working with Student Leaders

[Student Leaders](#) are used in Awana to describe teens who are leaders in your church's Awana clubs.

The Prayer of Awana is for all children and youth to come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Serving in Awana clubs is a great way for teens to serve and be involved in the life of the church.

Student Leaders are a source of joy for Awana Ministry Directors and club directors. It's so great that the clubber from yesterday wants to be a leader today! Student leaders usually are enthusiastic, full of energy and love working with kids. Clubbers gravitate toward Student Leaders who appear to be both cool and approachable.

Along with the joy can come some frustrations. Frustrations tend to stem from two areas: 1) many Awana Ministry Directors and club directors are good with adult leaders but feel less competent to lead teenagers and 2) teens often do not have the maturity of adult leaders.

It's hard to create overall guidelines because Student Leaders fit into Awana clubs differently from church to church. The best thing you can do is to plan a meeting with your pastor, youth pastor and Awana directors to discuss several topics. This list is not exhaustive but gives you some places to start in your discussions.

- Do Student Leaders in our church need to be in a certain grade or be a certain age to work with Puggles? Cubbies? Sparks? T&T? (We recommend considering each club separately.)
- Student Leaders should be required to adhere to all leader policies, but are there additional rules you think may be necessary for Student Leaders? (Consider items such as contracts, parental involvement or allowable absences, but do not hold your Student Leaders to different standards than other leaders when it comes to how they dress and behave. For instance, don't scold Student Leader girls for wearing short shorts, while allowing older leaders to be similarly dressed.)
- Should we have contracts for Student Leaders? If so, who should be involved in those conversations and in the accountability?
- Do Student Leaders need to be involved in the church's youth ministry? Do Student Leaders need to be working through the Journey Ministries curriculum? What if youth group and Awana are on the same night?
- Will we provide mentoring or leader meetings just for Student Leaders, to help them as leaders, recognizing that they often are less mature than their adult counterparts?
- How will we involve Student Leaders in the life of our leader team? Often Student leaders understand Awana better and may have a better grasp of the Bible than many adult leaders – how can we use this to everyone's advantage?
- Who will help teens thoughtfully evaluate their participation in Awana and whether or not it is the best place for them to serve?

That teens want to be part of evangelizing and discipling younger children is exciting, but can cause some stress. If you work with other leaders in Awana and in your church, you can help create a great and fulfilling experience for everyone.