



2018-2019
PARENT HANDBOOK

Cornerstone First Baptist Church



What is AWANA?

AWANA stands for Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed. This ministry helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong children and youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. AWANA offers a proven approach for evangelizing and to discipline kids in the church and community. The major emphasis in AWANA is scripture memory. The AWANA website has a ton of information about AWANA from a parent and leader perspective. Be sure to visit and read all about it at <http://awana.org/>. Community clubs are open to all youth and have children attending from many different faiths and churches.

What is the purpose of AWANA?

AWANA's goal is to help children develop physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Our personal goal is to make AWANA the highlight of your child's week!

What AWANA clubs does Cornerstone First Baptist Church offer?



Cubbies: Three-and four-year-old boys and girls (must be 3 by September 1)

Sparks: Kindergartners through second grade boys and girls

Truth & Training: Third through sixth grade boys and girls

What Happens At An AWANA Meeting?

AWANA Clubs always begin with a flag ceremony. This is followed by the three main club parts: Game Time, Handbook Time, and Council Time. (Note: Each of these special segments have different names in each club) Game Time features fun games you won't find anywhere else. The competition involved teaches sportsmanship and teamwork. The fun attracts kids to AWANA and keeps them coming back. Handbook Time when the children recite their Scripture memory work and qualify for individual awards. Council Time is a special story time for learning about God and the Bible. Throughout the meeting, clubbers learn what God has done for them. The meeting ends with award presentations. By making AWANA fun and rewarding the children's achievements, scripture memorization becomes easier.



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What does my child need to bring each week?

Please see that your child brings his/her Bible and the entrance booklet or handbook that he/she is working on. Please provide a carrying bag for them. AWANA handbook bags are available for purchase but not required.

What will AWANA cost me?

Parents or clubbers are responsible for paying the registration fees, which include the handbook and uniform (vest or shirt). If the cost is a problem, please speak privately to one of the club commanders.

Is that the only expense?

At this time, yes. There may be some incidental expenses we have not thought of. In addition, you will need to pay additional money if your clubbers handbook or uniform is misplaced. Also, we are taking part in Adopt A Club campaign, to support children in a third world country to attend an AWANA club. We ask each child bring a donation each week to contribute to this cause.



How can I help my child with AWANA?

1. Help your child arrive on time with his/her Bible and handbook.
2. Once your child has earned a uniform, ensure that it is clean and that the awards are worn correctly. Your child must be in uniform to receive the awards he/she has earned.
3. Help your child keep track of his/her accomplishments; verify that he or she has received his/her awards. Praise them for their accomplishments!
4. Consider volunteering to help at AWANA! Children love to have their parents involved.



Preparing Your Child Each Week For AWANA:

Much of the success of AWANA is left up to the encouragement and involvement of the parents. Below is a list of ways that you can help your child. Remember that AWANA also has a great

website www.awana.org with additional tips and ways parents can use AWANA to help their child develop spiritually.

- ❖ Help your child practice his/her memory verses. They need to come to AWANA prepared to recite the sections they have worked on at home that week. Encourage them! You can help the leaders by initialing or marking the sections your child is ready to recite.
- ❖ Cheer your child on. Remember your child's spiritual development has eternal value rather than temporary value. Many times we get caught up in cheering them on more academically, musically, or athletically than we do spiritually.
- ❖ Review your child's book with them, encourage them to memorize scripture, and complete activities.
- ❖ Use the idea of AWANA rewards to motivate them but remember to motivate them by helping them understand the greatest prize is pleasing Jesus.
- ❖ Rather than making this feel like homework help your child understand more as time with God and having a time to study His Word and spend time with him.
- ❖ Going through AWANA can truly be great family fun and a great excuse for you to spend time with your child in the morning or at bed time in the word of God.

Scripture Memory Tips:

- ❖ Learning verses to a familiar tune assist with retention and can make memorizing fun!
- ❖ CD's to accompany AWANA handbooks may be purchased to assist your clubber in scripture memorization
- ❖ Incorporating the verses your clubber is working on into family devotions or dinnertime prayers will provide extra practice and assist in retention.
- ❖ Take time to discuss the meaning of verses with younger children will help them commit it to memory
- ❖ Ask clubbers about the meaning of the verse they learn and then discuss briefly
- ❖ AVOID last minute memorization of trying to learn a new verse just prior to class. This may cause young clubbers to feel unnecessary pressure and miss the joy of learning God's Word.
- ❖ Allow your child to work at his/her own pace, but encourage a one verse per week minimum.
- ❖ Handbook time is designed for AWANA leaders to listen to each clubber recite the verses memorized from the prior week. Thus the scripture memorization portion is primarily to be done outside of class. However, our AWANA leaders strive to provide extra assistance when needed. It is our desire to help all clubbers feel successful in learning God's Word.

How many sections should my child complete each week?

Cubbies and T&T are on an all-together pace, completing one verse/section each week. Sparks work at their own pace throughout the year.

Will my child be expected to recite the verses perfectly?

Each child is allowed two "helps" per section. A section consists of one or more verses. You will be amazed at how quickly and well your child learns the verses. Clubbers from kindergarten through sixth grade are required to learn the Bible reference and verse. Ex. John 3:16 God so love the world...

I would prefer that my child memorize verses from a bible translation other than the AWANA book version. Is this a problem?

Not at all.

When can my child begin wearing a uniform?

Your child earns the right to wear a uniform by completing the entrance book for his/her club and attending club twice. This takes most children two to three weeks. We do not keep a large inventory of uniforms on hand, so it may be a bit longer if we need to order that size.

What kind of awards can my child earn?

Each handbook details the awards your child will earn and the requirements for each. Your child will earn awards for completing parts of the handbook, for attending AWANA, wearing uniform, participating in theme nights, bringing their bible, good behavior, bringing a visitor, and for attending church or Sunday school on a regular basis.

When are awards presented?

Awards are presented weekly at each club at the end of their respective game time section.

Are there any other awards?

There are special awards for completing handbooks, uniform inspections, and other opportunities at Commander's discretion.

What is a uniform inspection?

Because the AWANA uniforms are an important part of the club concept, it is important for the children to wear their uniforms with pride. Throughout the year we will have occasional inspections. **Please wear shorts or pants (no skirts) and athletic shoes (no boots or sandals) with your AWANA shirt or vest.**

What are the teams my child has mentioned?

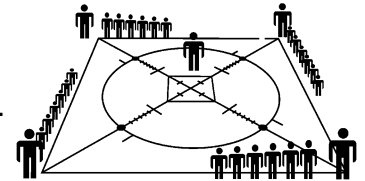
Each child is assigned to a team – red, blue, yellow, or green. These teams will compete against each other during game time.

What do you mean by “first-time” visitor?

A first-time visitor is a child who attends our AWANA Club for his/her first time this year.

I think I'd like to be part of this great organization. How can I get involved?

We can always use help. Please speak with one of our Commanders.

**How can I get more information about AWANA?**

You can go to the Cornerstone First Baptist Church website: <http://www.cornerstonefbc.us/> to get current club information such as the 2017-18 club calendar, which has all of this year's events. You may contact the Commander Kari Lesmeister 701-341-0216 at any time. AWANA website www.AWANA.com.