



Parents Handbook

For Boys and Girls Ages 2 through 6th Grade

*A ministry of First Baptist Church-Oxford
and the AWANA Clubs International*

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www.gotofirst.org/ministries/children/awana/

Dear Parents, Welcome to AWANA Clubs

General Information

AWANA is an acronym and stands for **A**pproved **W**orkman **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed which comes from 2 Timothy 2:15 which says “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Our prayer is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. To accomplish this we have four age-graded clubs. Puggles is for 2 years olds. Cubbies is for ages 3-4 years old and Pre-K 5 year olds, Sparks is the club for kids in K through 2nd grade, and Truth and Training (T&Ts) is for kids in 3rd through 6th grade with the girls and boys having separate clubs. Each club night has three roughly 30 minute segments: **Council time, Handbook time, and Game Time**. Council Time is a time for praise singing and a gospel message designed for kids and with a frequent emphasis on the Gospel and missions activities. Handbook Time is the opportunity to learn spiritual truths through memorizing Bible verses, understanding scriptures, and for the younger kids, doing crafts and activities. As clubbers complete their Handbooks they earn various awards, such as patches and pins for their uniforms. Game Time is a fun and exhilarating time of playing AWANA games, such as relay races, 4 way tug-of-wars, three-legged races, and other high power and intensity games, all age appropriate. Clubbers need to dress appropriately by **wearing tennis shoes and no skirts!** Please tell the Director of your child’s club about any health issues or allergies. We serve snacks and treats and want to do that in a way that is safe for everyone.

Our registration event will be August 15 and club begins on August 22. Our AWANA clubs are held every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30. We hold Opening Ceremonies in the Old Fellowship Hall, below the Sanctuary, for Sparks (K-2nd grade) and T&Ts (3rd-6th). Sparks and T&Ts will check in in the area below the Atrium. Cubbies and Puggles will check in at the same location and then begin their club separately in the Nursery. Parents of Puggles and Cubbies need to pick their children up **at 7:15** in the Nursery rooms. Sparks will be picked up at 7:25 from the Childrens Sunday School Room. T&Ts will be picked up at 7:30, T&T Girls on the 3rd floor above the church offices and T&T Boys at the CLC. This staggered release schedule allows parents of multiple children to move from club to club.

Clubbers begin their work each year with a short entrance pamphlet, with an emphasis on the fundamentals of salvation . Once the child completes the entrance book they qualify to join their part of the AWANA club at which point they can purchase uniforms and Handbooks. As clubbers progress through Handbook activities they will earn awards for their uniforms. Additionally, Sparks and T&T clubbers earn points for their team for Council Time activities, Handbook section completion, Game competition, and special event participation. The winning team each night earns weekly rewards. Plus, we will have special event nights as described on the Calendar, where clubbers can earn extra points for their team by participating in a special event, Goofy Hat Night and Sports Uniform Night are just two examples.

Costs

First Baptist Church-Oxford members will only have to cover the cost of handbooks for each child and the uniform for their oldest child enrolled. Uniforms for additional children of FBC members enrolled will be covered by donations. FBC members and non-members need to let the Church or AWANA leaders know if additional assistance is needed. We never want cost to prohibit anyone from participating.

Dues are collected as a form of teaching the clubbers to tithe. Cubbie dues are 25[¢] while Sparks and T&T dues are 50[¢]. Dues are used to cover the cost of awards and AWANA store purchases.

	Puggles	Cubbies	Sparks	T&Ts
Handbooks	N/A	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$8.00
Uniform	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$16.00
Total	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$24.00

Discipline

To accomplish all this requires that we maintain discipline with the clubbers. The two basic methods of discipline in AWANA are the 5 count and the 3 count. It is important for parents to understand these methods because at some point we may have to involve you the parent. The 5-Count is used for group discipline. The leader will count out loud from 5 to 1 in a steady rhythm using only whole numbers, speaking loudly at first then softly, and holding up one hand with fingers. By the count of 1 the entire club must be quiet. You would be surprised to see how well this works. The 3-count is used for individual discipline. After gentle reminders to behave, the clubber misbehaving is given a 1 count at which point the leader notifies the Director who talks with clubber. Continued misbehavior results in the clubber being given a 2 count at which point the Director notifies the Commander and the Commander speaks with the child. If misbehavior continues, the clubber is given a 3 count which will result in a meeting or phone call with that child's parents, and could result in suspension from the club. If that takes place the clubber is not allowed to return to AWANA until the Commander again meets with the parent and the child to determine if returning to AWANA is the proper thing to do.

Awards and recognition

Awards are used to motivate the clubbers and recognize their accomplishments. Children earn awards for completing sections in their handbooks. These awards go on their uniform. Should their patches not be affixed to their uniform by the Leaders, parents may need to sew patches on uniforms. Additionally, clubbers receive points each night for coming prepared and in uniform as well as for participation. The team with the most points each night earns a special treat and at four times during the year kids can use Awana Bucks at Store Night. Awana Bucks are earned by completing Sections in Handbook Time.

Council Time: 20 points each for attendance, uniform, bringing dues, bring their handbook, bringing a Bible, and 50 points for bringing a friend.

Handbook Time: 100 points for each section completed that night.

Game Time: 300 points for the winning team each event, 200 points for 2nd place, 100 points for 1st team to line up.

Special Events: There will be many special nights in which any clubber participating will earn 100 points.

Tips on How Parents Can Help

1. Help your child learn weekly handbook sections. Five minutes a night is often enough.
2. Establish a regular time to work with your child in their handbook...morning or evening
3. Read the next few sections to your child, looking at the special notes in the margins that define phrases and terminology using words young children understand. Go over them with your child, making sure they understand what they are learning.
4. Listen to your child practice and recite the verse. Be encouraging!
5. Have your child recite the first portion of the verse out loud, then recite this portion and add a next portion, then recite both portion and add the next until the whole verse is recited.
6. Have your child always say the first few words in the same breath as the reference. This will help cement the reference to the scripture.

Logistics: On time and In uniform

1. Check in starts at 5:30 and AWANA clubs promptly start at 5:45. It takes time to check in so don't arrive at 5:45, arrive between 5:30 and 5:45.
2. Find a special place at home to keep your child's book and uniform, so it can always be found on club night.
3. Be sure your child wears the uniform to club. The uniform is where their awards are displayed and it helps with motivating them to learn and work in their books. Without a uniform, your child will not get his or her awards.
4. Bring your child to club on time, so we can begin and end promptly. Be sure to pick you child up promptly at closing.
5. Clubbers are not to bring or use cell phones or other electronic devices during club nights. If these devices are seen by Leaders they will be confiscated, but will be returned at the end of the night.
6. Clubbers are not to bring food (unless for entire group) to club night.

AWANA Leader's Job Description

1. A saved person-one who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Eph.2:8-9
2. True to the standards in God's Word. Christ-like and living above reproach.
3. Consistent in your walk with the Lord. Eph. 5:1-2
4. Burdened to reach boys, girls, and their families for Christ and to establish them in the Christian faith.
5. Excited about your personal leadership ministry. Regard your service as a personal ministry for the Lord! Be enthusiastic!
6. Patient and gentle, yet firm in your standards. 2 Tim. 2:24
7. Sensitive to the needs of others. Listen to them. Pray for them.
8. Serious about improving yourself in your ministry. Have a teachable, approachable spirit. Memorize scripture and spend time daily in Bible study. Avail yourself of training opportunities.

Annual AWANA Leadership Selection and Approval

1. The Pastor is the Head of the AWANA program.
2. The Pastor selects the AWANA Commander.
3. Following counseling with the Pastor, the AWANA Commander selects the Director for each club and following their agreeing to serve, gains approval from the Pastor for their appointment.
4. Following counseling with the AWANA Commander, each club Director selects the leaders for their club. Following their agreeing to serve, the Director submits these names to the Commander who gets approval from the Pastor for their appointment.

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