



Approved
Workmen
Are
Not
Ashamed

AWANA Club Handbook
First Baptist Church of Universal City

Updated Jan 2021

PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"A life long, Christ centered, Bible based process of leading a child to Christ, building a child up in Christ, equipping a child to serve Christ."

Dr. Glen Schultz, Director: Life Way Christian School Resources

Food for Thought

"The goal of etching Scripture in our minds is to have it fill our hearts and motivate our actions. Memorizing opens the mental door to God's Word. Review gives it a permanent home in our hearts."
— David C. McCasland, *Our Daily Bread*

HOW AWANA BEGAN

While Paul was in a Roman prison he wrote II Timothy 2:15 to serve as an encouragement to Timothy. II Timothy 2:15 says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth." This is where the AWANA acronym comes from. Just as Paul taught Timothy to study the Scriptures and to serve the Lord many years ago, a pastor in Chicago influenced thousands of young people to follow Christ. Pastor Lance "Doc" Latham wanted to find a way to reach un-churched boys, girls, and teens for Christ. One of the young people in his church, Art Rorheim, helped develop the AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) ministry.

The AWANA Youth Association was officially started in 1950. Many other churches heard about AWANA and wanted to start clubs at their churches. The first Canadian clubs started in 1973. During the 1980s, the AWANA ministry spread around the world. By 1984, AWANA clubs were operating in more than 100 countries. In 1986, "AWANA Youth Association" became "AWANA Clubs International." AWANA materials are now available in more than 15 different languages.

AWANA OVERVIEW

AWANA is an international, non-denominational, Bible-centered youth organization providing weekly clubs and programs for three-year-olds through high-school-age students. Club meetings are held weekly during the school year and generally last from an hour and a half to two hours.

The Pledge to the AWANA Flag best describes the purpose of AWANA. It says, "I pledge allegiance to the AWANA flag, which stands for the AWANA clubs, whose goal is to reach boys and girls with the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST and train them to serve HIM."

Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Known as "The Great Commission," it starts with evangelism, includes teaching and training, and is the ultimate purpose of AWANA. Since AWANA is an exciting program, it attracts children to the church, where they can receive Christ as their Savior and learn how to live for Him. Parents who are uncomfortable with sending their child to church are often willing to send them to AWANA. Children who visit are instrumental in opening doors in order to reach their family and friends.

Training and teaching are the second part of the Great Commission. Through Bible memorization and other Bible-based achievements, clubbers learn the Word of God. AWANA provides other training opportunities through mission studies, achievements, emphasis nights, testimonials, Bible Quiz, leader involvement, and much, much more.

OUR AWANA CLUB

Our club began in October of 1994 and is one of the 19,000 plus worldwide AWANA clubs. Our charter number is 10214. We meet on Wednesday evenings. For Cubbies, Sparks and T&T clubs, check-in is from 6:15 – 6:30, and opening assembly begins at 6:30 PM. Trek (JV) and Journey 24-7 (Varsity) meet from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Children who are not in the room when opening assembly begins should remain in the hallway and wait until clubbers are ready to go to their individual classrooms. Parents are encouraged to visit at any time and to become a leader/listener in their child's club. You are also encouraged to work with your child(ren) daily so that they may learn the Scriptures in their handbooks. With your help and the exciting AWANA program, you will see tremendous spiritual growth in your child(ren). Committed and dedicated Christians are serving as leaders and we trust that you will see great things in AWANA.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Weekly meetings will be held on Wednesday evening at the church. Children must be at least three years old by September 1 of the club year to participate in the program.

CLUB	AGE/GRADE	WHOM	TIME
Cubbies	Age 3-4 (Preschool)*	Boys & Girls	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Sparks	Kinder – Second Grade	Boys & Girls	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Truth & Training	Third – Sixth Grade	Girls	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Truth & Training	Third – Sixth Grade	Boys	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Trek	Seventh & Eighth Grade	Boys & Girls	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Journey 24-7	Ninth – Twelve Grade	Boys & Girls	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

*Note: Cubbies must be out of diapers.

Parents MUST sign in their children each evening and pick them up from their room at the end of club each night. Children will only be RELEASED TO THE DESIGNED ADULT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT CHILD. This is to ensure the safety of your children.

THREE SEGMENTS OF CLUB

Handbook Time: Consists of one-to-one interaction between clubbers and their leaders. Clubbers recite memory work and discuss Bible reading assignments to ensure comprehension. When the leader is satisfied that the clubber has completed the handbook assignment, he/she will sign off in the clubber's handbook.

Game Time: Offers the clubbers opportunities to participate as team members in physical activities. The activities are designed to help develop team spirit, sportsmanship, self-confidence, and gross motor skills, as well as coordination. Games in general are competitive and winning are always fun. But in AWANA, Directors and Leaders give top priority to building and preserving each clubber's self-esteem.

Council Time: Includes but is not limited to singing, instruction from the Bible, object lessons on the Christian walk, mission studies on the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, and AWANA mission programs.

AWARDS

AWANA awards can be earned for handbook achievement, regular AWANA attendance, and Sunday School attendance.

Handbook Awards: Clubbers must work on their handbooks at home in order to finish during the course of the year. Parental encouragement and involvement will greatly enhance a clubber's prospect for maintaining a pace of 1 to 3 sections per week. Once clubbers have earned their handbooks it is helpful for them, along with their parents, to skim through the book to see what the requirements are and to plan accordingly in order to ensure completion. However, keep in mind that the handbook activities must be completed in order.

AWANA Attendance Awards: regular club attendance, having no more than **one unexcused absence** per quarter, is required to receive the AWANA attendance award. Illness, family emergencies, and being out of town will be counted as excused absences if documented by a parent's note.

DISCIPLINE

AWANA uses two main methods of discipline in club: the FIVE-COUNT and the THREE-COUNT.

The FIVE-COUNT is mainly used in large group settings. The person in charge does a FIVE-COUNT by counting to five slowly, but firmly and with a loud voice. The desired goal is to get the clubbers' attention and redirect or refocus them. The FIVE-COUNT is used regularly throughout the club meeting.

The THREE-COUNT is used for individual clubbers who may be having difficulty, even after repeated instruction about their behavior. If an individual clubber receives THREE counts in one meeting, he/she will be taken to the commander and the commander will consult the child's parent. For example, a leader may say, "I have warned you repeatedly and now you have a one count." If the behavior continues, the leader will issue a second count and remove the clubber from that activity. When a third count is given, the individual club director, if possible, will bring the child to the commander and the parent will be notified.

CLUB OFFERING

FBC UC AWANA collects an offering from each clubber on a weekly basis. Offerings are encouraged to be 25 cents. The offerings that are collected are given to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program in order to support home and foreign missionaries.

PARENT AND LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in the AWANA Ministry. There are always openings where you can serve. **All parents are asked to volunteer to assist a minimum of three times during the AWANA year.** If you do not meet the requirements listed below, you can always help with administrative duties. At First Baptist Church, there are specific requirements that must be fulfilled in order to work with children, which include:

- You must be a born-again Christian.
- You must be a member of FBC-UC or a local church of similar beliefs.
- (To be a regular Worker) You must submit a completed Child Abuse Prevention Policy Form.

Please see the Commander (Jim Brown) or Club Secretary for a registration form or if you have questions. If you need to speak with Jim Brown at any time, you may contact him at (210) 748-4417.

AWANA HANDBOOKS and UNIFORMS

After a clubber completes the entrance exam, he/she is eligible to purchase a handbook and a uniform. Handbooks give clubbers guidance in not only memorizing the required scriptures for their club, but also explaining the fundamental truths of God's Word for particular verses.

Each clubber is encouraged to wear the appropriate uniform. AWANA requires that clubbers wear their uniforms in order to receive awards and to participate in certain AWANA activities. .

**** We want every child to have a handbook and uniform. Please do not allow the cost to interfere with your child's participation in AWANA. If the cost is a problem, please see the Commander or the Club Secretary.**