



We are so glad that you are bringing your child(ren) to AWANA! Memorizing God's Word and learning to apply it to their life has eternal value. When you make scripture memorization and application a priority for your child, you reinforce to them what YOU value. Children need their parents to be their primary teachers in spiritual matters, which is why we like the AWANA program so much. AWANA understands that need! It is critical that parents work with their children at home during the week. Not only will they be able to memorize their verses, but they also learn to value God's Word and have a better understanding of how it applies to their lives.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to an amazing year of club! This will be our 19th year of having AWANA at First Baptist Church. We have clubs for children who have turned 3 years old by September 1st (and are potty trained) up through 12th grade.

In this newsletter, you will find some important information. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We want your child to get the most out of AWANA!

We look forward to working with you as your child discovers eternal treasures in God's Word!

The first night of club is Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Club is held from 5:50-7:30pm.

Important highlights for 2023:

- Club times are 5:50-7:30pm
- Drop-off for all classes will be at the front main doors
- There will be a check-in table in the front lobby for parents to sign in their child, pay for any supplies or ask questions
- Pick-up is as follows:
 - Cubbies will be picked up at the Cubbies room down the hall to the left of the front lobby
 - Sparks and T&T will be picked up in the sanctuary at their designated spots
 - Trek and Journey will be picked up in the youth room on the other side of the parking lot
- Registration is \$15 and books will cost \$5
- The last official night of AWANA will be April 10, 2024
- The AWANA awards ceremony will be April 17, 2024

Registration

We ask that you please pre-register your child before the first night. This enables us to get a more accurate estimate of the number of children participating. For children in the Cubbies (pre-

school) class, they must be 3 years old as of September 1st and be potty trained! They may not start in the middle of the year of they turn 3 later in the year.

You will find the registration form online at www.fbcgettysburg.net, look for the yellow/rainbow »Awana Clubs« logo, click that and it will take you to KidEventPro. This is the online registration form for club. Please include at least one active email address in order to receive club reminders/important information. Emailing is our primary method of communication for reminders and updates (cancellations due to inclement weather, etc). When you receive an email regarding AWANA, it will be titled »First Baptist Church« and the subject line will say something about »Awana 2023-2024.«

Cost of supplies/books/awards

- All clubbers will be required to purchase a book at the discounted rate of \$5.00
- If a clubber loses their book and wants to purchase another, you will be charged the full price of \$10.00

Registration online is required and a fee of \$15.00 will be charged. This fee can be paid at the check-in table on club night. (If cost is an issue or you need to discuss scholarships, options are available! Please see Karen Holsopple at the check-in table before club starts for the night.)

Clubbers will receive individual patches/jewels periodically throughout their handbooks for completing designated sections. These patches/jewels are meant to be put on the clubbers' uniforms.

— Uniforms:

Cubbies vest: \$10.00

Sparks vest: \$10.00

T&T shirt: \$15.00

Drop-off and Pick-up

— Drop-off will be at the front main doors of the church for all grade levels. You must check-in each week at the table in the lobby in order for us to keep track of nightly attendance. Children MUST be parent supervised until the doors to the sanctuary open for the start of club.

— Pick-up will be at 7:30pm in the Cubbies room for all Cubbies, in the sanctuary for all Sparks and T&T, and in the youth room (at the other end of the parking lot) for all Trek and Journey. Please be prompt in picking up your children at 7:30.

— At 7:25, your child's group will conclude their last session and leaders will get the children ready to leave with all of their belongings. For Sparks and T&T, parents may enter the sanctuary through the center doors once they are open. If someone other than the person dropping off your child will be picking them up, please notify us at the front table when checking them in.

**** Please note that children will be under parent supervision after you have picked them up at 7:30. Leaders will be released to leave as soon as all children from their class have been picked up by a parent.****

Weather cancellations

Our club schedule follows Gettysburg Area School District. If the school is closed or dismisses early for weather-related reasons on a Wednesday, there will be NO club that evening. Even if the weather clears by the evening, we will still not have club, as it is too difficult to try and contact everyone on such short notice. A club email will also be sent out announcing the closure.

Discipline policy

By having a discipline policy written down, we can eliminate any questions when discipline needs to be given. We strive to teach good behavior and ask for help from parents and all volunteers involved with AWANA. Each child will start with a clean slate in their respective class. If a child needs correction at any point in the evening, they can receive up to three warnings before further discipline will be taken.

After a child has received three warnings in class and the behavior has not resolved, or in the event that a single behavior involves bodily harm to another child or adult, the child will then be removed from class to talk with a Commander (Eric or Karen Holsopple). After talking with the child and the child is warned about further consequences, he/she may be sent back to class. At the end of the evening, Eric or Karen will inform the child's parent of the behavior and that their child now has **Strike #1**.

Strike #2 occurs when the child's behavior happens again in the same night or repeats on a different night. The child will be removed from class to sit at the check-in table with Mr. Eric or Ms. Karen for the remainder of the evening. At the same time, the child's parents will be contacted and informed of the repeated behavior and the consequences.

Strike #3 occurs if behavior continues after Strike #2. At that point, a parent will be asked to come to club each week and stay with the child until the behavior has resolved.

We strive to teach appropriate classroom behavior and good sportsmanship at game time, all while having fun and learning God's word. We understand all children learn in different ways and want to help if we can. Please feel free to talk with your child's teacher or the Commanders about any issues.

Safety policy

We at FBC vow to keep your children safe every night at AWANA. We cannot do this alone, and need your help on AWANA nights. We also understand the need to pick up multiple children, and we want to be as much help to you as possible. Please let us know if you need help while picking up multiple children. As stated before, **children will be under parent supervision**

after you have picked them up at 7:30pm. Leaders will be released to leave when all children from their class have been picked up by a parent. We say this to let you know that if you would like to stay and mingle with another family, your children are your responsibility after you pick them up from club. Please keep safety in mind when navigating the parking lot in the evening with cars coming and going. Children can get away from you quickly. We will do our best to keep the upper parking lot area blocked off for foot traffic only. The side doors near Lewis Hall/nursery, and the front main doors, will be locked at all times during AWANA. A church-staffed safety leader will be securing these doors and will allow parents to enter if needing to pay/ask questions at the front desk.

Health requirements

- We are asking that parents/caregivers do a symptom check of their child before coming to club. If your child has a fever or is not feeling well, please keep them home.
- If they were home from school that day for a medically related reason or illness, please keep them home.
- If your child becomes ill or is not feeling well at club, you will be contacted to come pick them up from club.
- If your child's school is impacted and closed due to COVID-19 and they attend school in-person, we are asking that they NOT attend club for the duration of the closure even if they are asymptomatic. This means your child may not participate at club in-person until the school resumes normal operations. This would also apply to leaders who have children attending an affected school, they are asked to communicate with the Commanders and not attend club either.

Adult leaders/helpers

All AWANA leaders and helpers have been cleared by the State of Pennsylvania to work with your child. For safety reasons, only those with clearances are allowed to be in contact with your child. There will be at least two cleared adults with your child for the duration of the evening.

Questions

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk with Eric or Karen Holsopple, the AWANA Commanders. You can usually find Karen at the front check-in desk. If you need or would like to speak with Pastor Carl, please make arrangements by calling the church office at 717-334-2564.

One final note...we want your child to succeed!! It is critical that parents work with their children at home in order to memorize the verses in the handbooks. Some of your children cannot read yet and need adult help to learn their verses. Even if your child can read, please check your child's handbook for the weekly verse - some sections require a parent's signature and at-home work.