



PARENT HANDBOOK

2022-2023

Antioch Baptist Church
1707 White Cross Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 929-2230

Parents

Please take the time to read this entire handbook for the Antioch Baptist Church AWANA Club. This will ensure you have complete information regarding this ministry.

Please feel free to contact your child's leader or any member of the leadership team immediately following club time if you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook.

AWANA Commander: Pat Cecil

AWANA Assistant Commander: Tommy Cecil

Club Secretary: Pat Tayloe

Assistant Club Secretary: Ruth Williams

Puggles Director: Dawn Blake

Cubbies Director: Kim Dunn

Sparks Director: Tommy Cecil

T&T Director: Carol Dawson

Youth: Luke Childress

Game Director: Sherry Webster

Contact the Church office (919) 929-2230 or visit the Church website (abccommunity.com) for a listing of weekly worship opportunities and other Spiritual offerings available for all age groups meeting at various times throughout the month.

We begin each Club night with prayer, singing, pledges, and occasional surprises.

Pledges

American Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America
And to the republic for which it stands
One nation under God,
Indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

AWANA Flag

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 Christ
and train them to serve him.

Bible Pledge

I pledge allegiance to the Bible God's Holy Word.
I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

Welcome to AWANA

We are glad that you have decided Antioch Baptist Church is a place where your child can grow in the Lord. We are confident our AWANA club will be a place of learning and excitement, having a positive influence on your child. The AWANA program is divided into age groups ranging from children age 3 (potty-trained) to Grade 5.

AWANA offers many opportunities for your child to grow spiritually through scripture memorization and a basic understanding of biblical principles and doctrines. AWANA also provides an opportunity for children to learn to compete as a team and not just as individuals. They will learn to win and lose with a proper attitude of fair play and sportsmanship.

We ask you to support and encourage your child to complete their handbook materials before each club meeting. This way, we will have the time to show them how to apply what they learn to their everyday lives. We would also appreciate your timely dropping off and picking up of your children. Please have your children at the club check-in area at least five (5) Minutes before club starting time for them to be in place before opening ceremonies begin.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to work with and minister to your child. We consider this a trust and a responsibility that we do not take lightly.

AWANA Commander

Pat Cecil

The History of AWANA

Since 1950, AWANA has grown from a one-church program into a ministry that includes more than 6,500 churches in the United States and another 1,300 in more than 80 countries worldwide. Local churches reach hundreds of thousands of young people every week by using the non-denominational AWANA program. The goal of AWANA is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. The name AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, and comes from 2 Timothy 2:15.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth” 2 Timothy 2:15

AWANA is a fun and exciting way for children to learn Scripture and it works!

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to acquaint you with the AWANA ministry of Antioch Baptist Church, and how it can benefit not only your child, but your entire family!

What We Expect From Our Leaders

We have basic requirements and expectations that our leaders must meet. The following may give you some insight into the type of leadership in our program.

Requirements:

- A leader must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- A leader must have a desire to work with and a compassion for children.
- A leader must pass a background check and be trained and certified in the AWANA policies and basic training.

Expectations:

- We expect our leaders to be on time.
- We expect our leaders to be examples by wearing clean, neat uniforms every night.
- We expect our leaders to follow the rules.
- We expect our leaders to display a proper attitude before the clubbers, other leaders and parents.
- We expect our leaders to pray for our Club on a regular basis.
- We expect our leaders to realize AWANA is not just another program, but it is a ministry of the church, and a place of service to God.

What We Expect From Parents

- Always encourage your child. Children have much more fun when Mom and Dad show interest in their accomplishments.
- Ensure children attend AWANA every week and arrive on time, as consistency builds friendships, achievement and self-discipline.
- Help your children remember to bring the required materials (book, Bible, etc.) and wear their uniform.
- Parents are encouraged to attend the special events indicated on the calendar as a way of showing your support and approval for your child's accomplishments.
- Please review the discipline guidelines in this handbook with your child. AWANA has very few rules of behavior, but in order to ensure that all clubbers have an opportunity to learn as well as have fun, some rules of behavior will be enforced.
- Please pick up clubbers promptly after club in the Sanctuary. Clubbers will not be permitted to leave the building without an authorized adult to pick them up.
- Parents are not allowed to stay, volunteer, or help unless you have completed and passed a background check and are being trained in the AWANA policies.
- No cameras of any kind are allowed. Some parents have asked that their children not be photographed and we cannot control this request if you bring your personal camera. Photo release must be on file.
- No cell phone use in the Church buildings.

Rules

All rules in the AWANA clubs are for the safety and wellbeing of the children and adults who are participating.

- Follow the instructions of your leaders
- Speak to one another with respect
- Move quietly between rooms
- Walk; do not run in the church
- Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself at all times
- Stay in your room unless a leader has given permission for you to leave
- Respect each other, no swearing, fighting, hitting or pushing.
- Use the school rule for illness, don't come to club if you are running a temperature or have been sick in the last 24 hour period

Discipline

In the event discipline is required, we have two procedures that will be used by all clubs, the 5-count and the 3-count. The 5-count is for all clubbers, while the 3-count is for an individual clubber.

5-count

When a leader needs the clubbers to be still and quiet, he/she will count from 1 to 5. All clubbers need to stop talking immediately and be still. Clubbers who are not quiet by the count of 5 run the risk of losing points towards AWANA Bucks.

3-count

If a child is disrespectful or is disruptive to the club, the following procedure will occur:

- A "1" count will be given for the first offense.
- A "2" count will be given for the second offense, and the child will be counseled by a leader outside the club room and then returned to club.
- A "3" count is given and the child is taken by the leader to the commander. If this occurs, there will need to be contact between parents and the Club Director before the next club meeting for the child to return to club.
- If the clubber has to be taken to the parent a second time, they must miss the next two club meetings, and a parent must meet with the Club Director and AWANA Commander to discuss returning to club.
- If a clubber is removed from club a third time, they will not be allowed back into the program for the remainder of the club year.

The AWANA leaders realize that there are many family situations that may affect a child's behavior. We encourage you to let your child's leader know if there is any situation that may help us in ministering to your child. This helps the AWANA leader to potentially minister to the child as opposed to just viewing a situation or action as a disciplinary problem. It is our prayer that no situation will have to be resolved in this manner, but in fairness to all clubbers and leaders, the above will be enforced as necessary.

Enrollment Fee

\$30 per child

The enrollment fee is necessary to pay for the uniforms and materials. If your child loses their uniform or book they must be replaced at cost. See the AWANA commander or pastor if any hardship is involved with making this payment.

Uniform Guidelines

Clubbers and leaders are expected to wear their AWANA uniform to each meeting as soon as they are qualified by their club to purchase a uniform. The goal of each AWANA Club is to have 100% of its attendees in uniform. A properly worn uniform helps AWANA clubbers and leaders earn respect and credibility.

Uniform standards are as follows:

- Cubbies and Sparks vests must be clean and buttoned.
- T & T, Trek and Journey t-shirts must be clean and neat
- **NO open toe shoes or flip flops. Always wear tennis shoes.**

AWANA Special Activities

Occasionally clubs will plan special activities either on the Church property or away from the Church. You will be notified in advance of these activities. Activities off the Church property will require a signed consent form prior to participating in the activity.

AWANA Nightly Schedule

3:55 to 4:00	Check In
4:00 to 4:10	Opening Ceremony in Sanctuary (All Clubs)
4:10 to 5:50	Council Time, Game Time, Handbook Time, etc
5:50 to 6:00	Award presentations if any, Announcements/Reminders
6:00	Check Out

AWANA Awards

Each AWANA Clubber has the opportunity to earn exciting awards. These awards can be worn on the uniform. NOTE: Awards may only be given when a child is in uniform. These awards should be displayed and worn proudly. They represent good achievement and spiritual growth in the knowledge of God and His Word. We will encourage all young people to strive for their highest potential. Each child works at his/her own pace and will be guided and helped by a caring leader.

AWANA Bucks

Our purpose at Antioch Baptist Church AWANA Club is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. This training involves a tremendous amount of scripture memorization. Having God's word hidden in the clubbers' hearts is a priceless reward in itself. But sometimes children don't always realize how important hiding God's word in our heart is! (And children are not alone, even adults lose track of the importance of Scripture memorization from time to time). So, we provide an incentive for the clubbers to work extra-hard and memorize as many verses as possible. Even though they receive the regular uniform awards and other items, we provide the AWANA Store as an added incentive. We have stocked our store with toys, candy, games, jewelry, and various other items that clubbers will enjoy. Clubbers will earn bucks throughout the whole year. See below how they can earn "AWANA Bucks."

The clubbers accumulate their Bucks, and then can spend them on a store night. All Bucks must be spent by the end of the club year and cannot be carried over to the next club year. Please encourage your clubber to participate as much as possible, memorize their verses and wear their uniforms!

Here is how Clubbers may earn AWANA Bucks at Antioch:

Wear Club uniform when you are qualified	1
Bring your Bible to club	1
Bring your handbook to club	1
Scripture Memory each section	1
Being signed in on time	2
Participate in theme night	1
Finish handbook	10
Bring a friend	5

This Handbook can be accessed from our Church website at abccommunity.com

Please "Like" our Facebook page AWANA at Antioch Baptist Church to stay informed about schedule changes, weather cancellations, current events, etc.

Please remove this page, sign and return before your child(ren) can attend AWANA.

Legal Parent/Legal Guardian Agreement

I have received and reviewed the Antioch Baptist Church AWANA Parent's Handbook. I am fully aware of my responsibilities as a parent of a gift from God, and will help and encourage my child(ren) so that they may succeed in the AWANA program and in their Christian walk with God.

I also understand the policies are put in place to ensure the safety of all the children, staff and Antioch Baptist Church and will abide by them at all times.

Child(ren)'s Name

Printed Name

Signature

Date Signed

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## PHOTO RELEASE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Parent/Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize and consent to the use of his/her visual image by Antioch Baptist Church AWANA for appropriate purposes, including but not limited to: still photography, videotape, electronic and print publications and websites. I give this consent with no claim for payment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (in case we need to contact you).

**Please remove this page, sign and return before your child(ren) can attend AWANA.**