



PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

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

Puggles Director: Dawn Blake

Cubbies Director: Branan Hackney

Sparks Director: Jamie Pope

T&T Director: Carol Dawson

Trek – Brenda Temple

Journey – Tommy Cecil

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 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 delighted that you have chosen Antioch Baptist Church as a place for your child to grow in the Lord. We believe our AWANA club will provide both learning and excitement, offering a positive and lasting influence on your child's life. The AWANA program is organized into age-specific groups, beginning with children age 3 (potty-trained) through Grade 12th.

AWANA offers many opportunities for your child to grow spiritually through Scripture memorization and a foundational understanding of biblical principles and doctrines. In addition, AWANA encourages teamwork by helping children learn to work and compete together—not just as individuals. Along the way, they will also develop the ability to win and lose with grace, demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship.

We ask for your support in encouraging your child to complete their handbook materials before each club meeting. This allows us to spend more time helping them apply what they learn to their everyday lives. We also appreciate your cooperation with drop-off and pick-up. Please plan to have your child at the club check-in area at least five (5) minutes before the start of AWANA so they are ready and in place when the opening ceremonies begin.

Once again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with and minister to your child. We view this as both a privilege and a responsibility—one that we hold with great care and commitment.

AWANA Commander

Pat Cecil

The History of AWANA

“Awana is a global, nonprofit ministry with fully integrated evangelism and long-term discipleship programs for ages 2 to 18 that actively involves parents and church leaders. Each week, there are more than 4 million children and youth, 470,000 volunteers and 260 field staff take part in Awana in over 47,000 churches around the world. Offered through local churches, Awana reaches kids where they’re at and walks alongside them in their faith journey.

How did the Awana program begin

In 1941, the children's program at the North Side Gospel Center in Chicago laid the foundation for the principles of Awana. Lance Latham, North Side's senior pastor, collaborated with the church's youth director, Art Rorheim, to develop weekly clubs that would appeal to church and nonchurch kids. As a pioneer in children's ministry, Art created new and innovative ways to reach kids with the gospel and lead them to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

Other churches learned about the success of the program and inquired about its availability. In 1950, Latham and Rorheim founded Awana as a parachurch organization.

By 1960, 900 churches had started Awana programs. By 1972, Awana began its first international club in Bolivia. Today, children and youth in 104 countries participate in Awana programs and millions of adults are alumni. Awana serves churches from 100 different denominations.

Across the globe, Awana gives kids from every background and cultural settings a place to belong, build their confidence and grow in faith. Awana continually expands to make disciples by pursuing new locations and partnerships. God is using the ministry of Awana in prisons, refugee camps, slums and other hard to reach places around the world.

Reach Kids

Build lasting faith foundations for children and youth!

Equip Leaders

Prepare to lead with proven resources.

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

- We acknowledge that parents are spiritual leaders in the home, and we are here to support
- 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 extraordinary 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 to ensure that all clubbers have an opportunity to gain experience as well as having 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.
- 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.
- Please notify AWANA Secretary if you intend to stay with your child for him/her to gain a sense of security before leaving him/her in our care. We have strict policies in place for the safety of all children we serve. Adults who have access to children are required to follow policies, have a background check, and be trained in child safety policies and procedures. If you need to stay with your child for greater than 30 minutes or beyond the first 3 weeks of AWANA, you will be required to complete a background check.

Rules

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

• Use the school rule for illness - don't come to club if you have cold symptoms, are running a temperature, have been sick in last 24 hours, or have not been fever free in the last 24-hour period

- 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 always
- Stay in your room unless a leader has given permission for you to leave
- Respect each other, no swearing, fighting, hitting or pushing.

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 must 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

\$35 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.
- **NO open toe shoes or flip flops.**
- **ALWAYS wear tennis shoes.**

AWANA Special Activities

Occasionally clubs plan special activities either on the Church property or away from the Church. You will be notified in advance of these activities. Activities off 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 5:25	Council Time, Game Time, Handbook Time, etc.
5:25 to 5:30	Award presentations if any, Announcements/Reminders
5:30	Check Out

AWANA Awards

Each AWANA Clubber can 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. But sometimes children do not 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 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
Participating 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.

AWANA Security

PARENTS: All parents should enter the property through the main entrance and turn right at traffic control (security) Officer, to ensure one-way traffic only.

STAFF: Should enter through the main entrance and turn left at traffic control officer to Park at the fellowship hall. If you need to park at the Educational Building turn right as if A parent transporting a Child.

NOTE: Outside Doors are locked once AWANA begins for security reasons.

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 always abide by them.

Child(ren)'s Name

Printed Name

Signature

Date Signed

Date Fees Paid: _____ Amount: \$_____ by: _____
Check Cash EFT

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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.**