



PARENTS GUIDE



Dear Parents,

The 2017-2018 AWANA year begins Friday, September 15, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. If you have not pre-registered, please arrive early to do so. We are so excited to have your child in AWANA this year and we look forward to working with them. This parent's guide is designed to give you some information that may help you get better acquainted with the AWANA program and answer any questions you may have.

What is AWANA?

(Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed)
 AWANA is an international, nondenominational, Bible-centered youth organization. At Cornerstone Fellowship Church, we offer AWANA for Kindergarten through 12th grade. AWANA exists to reach children and youth with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. Sparks is for Kindergartners through second graders; Truth and Training (T&T) is for third through sixth graders; Trek is for seventh and eighth graders; and Journey is for ninth through twelfth graders. All clubs emphasize Bible memorization and Bible centered activities and achievements.

We sincerely hope your child will enjoy their time with us each Friday evening and we look forward to getting to know your family better.

Blessings,
 Dave Krott, Commander
 cfcawana@gmail.com
 Cornerstone Fellowship Church

2017-2018 AWANA Calendar

September 15	Kick-Off
September 22	Regular Club
September 29	Regular Club
October 6	Time Capsule
October 13	Regular Club
October 20	Let Your Light Shine
October 27	Regular Club
November 3	Regular Club
November 10	Ruler Night
November 17	Regular Club
December 1	Regular Club
December 8	Regular Club
December 15	Christmas Party!
Christmas Break -----	
January 5	Half Night
January 12	Dress Like Mon or Dad
January 19	Regular Club
January 26	Messy Night
February 2	Grand Prix
February 9	Regular Club
February 16	Souper Bowl
Winter Break -----	
March 2	Regular Club
March 9	Special Event
March 16	Regular Club
March 23	Regular Club
March 24	AWANA Bible Quizzing, Sparks-A-Rama, AWANA Games
March 30	Stripes Night
Spring Break -----	
April 13	Regular Club
April 20	Cookie Night
April 27	Regular Club
May 4	Regular Club
May 5	Sparks Camp
May 11	Campfire Night
May 18	Regular Club
May 25	Duct Tape Night
June 1	Regular Club
June 8	Regular Club
June 15	AWANA Award Night

CLUB CANCELLATION DUE TO WEATHER

Announcements will be made via email and Church website of cancellations.

The AWANA Schedule

Check-In

Our Friday evening begins at 6:15 p.m. when children check-in at the registration desk. Kids answer questions that give AWANA bucks. Your child may earn bucks at check-in, from their leader, or from games for the following:

- ❖ Coming to AWANA
- ❖ Bringing a handbook
- ❖ Finishing a section or completion of the handbook
- ❖ Wearing a uniform
- ❖ Bringing a Bible
- ❖ Bringing a friend
- ❖ Participating in theme night (see calendar)
- ❖ On the winning game team

At check-in they can also register a guest. After check-in, the kids sit down on their color line in the sanctuary until 6:30 p.m.

Fast Track

From 6:15-6:30 p.m., the children meet with their leaders to recite the handbook verses they have memorized during the week. Leaders reward the kids with AWANA bucks. Fast Track Time occurs in the classroom behind the stage AND IS THE ONLY TIME FOR CLUBBERS TO SAY VERSES!

Opening Ceremony (5 minutes)

The children then participate in our weekly flag ceremony that may involve the AWANA pledge, the Pledge of Allegiance, pledge to the Christian Flag, and the AWANA theme song. (See back of guide for pledges and song words)

Large Group Time (20 minutes)

During the Large Group Time an object lesson is given that introduces the weekly theme and memory verse. Large Group Time is held in the sanctuary for all Sparks and T&T clubbers.

Game Time (25 minutes)

This is the chance for the children to get a little wild and crazy as they compete for color-team points with our terrific game leader! Not only is game time fun for clubbers, but it is also preparation for their participation in the AWANA Games, a collaborative meeting for all area Eastern New York AWANA Clubs! Game time happens in the sanctuary.

Small Group Time (25 minutes)

Small Group time is a chance for individual leaders to go over the lesson taught in Large Group Time more in depth. It is also a time to get to know each clubber better, help that clubber grow in their faith, and listen to prayer requests.

Closing (15 minutes)

After all of the fun, Friday evenings end with a closing time when special awards are handed out, birthdays are recognized, and announcements are made. Special awards are given to clubbers who have reached specific milestones. After a closing prayer, parents pick their children up at 8:00 p.m. inside the sanctuary.



PICKING UP YOUR CHILD

In order to provide the safest environment possible for your child, we will only release children at 8:00 p.m. to parents/guardian from their color lines in the sanctuary. We will NOT release children to meet you in the parking lot. We also request that you come in person, or your pre-assigned designee comes in person, to get your child. Please do NOT send a sibling or a non-designated adult to pick up your child. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter as we seek to provide the safest environment possible for your children.

AWANA Divisions

Sparks



The Sparks program for kids in **Kindergarten through 2nd grade**, builds on the material taught in three handbooks that children work their way through:

- ❖ Hang Glider (K)
- ❖ Wing Runner (1st)
- ❖ Sky Stormer (2nd)

Each year Sparks explore the biographies of people of the Bible from a new portion of Scripture. The curriculum communicates activities and review of Biblical principles. At the end of each year, the children will have memorized 150 Bible verses if their handbooks are completed! This program creates a fun learning environment, and creates an atmosphere of irresistible excitement!

A red vest uniform is earned through finishing sections of handbooks.

Truth and Training (T&T)



The T&T program is for children **3rd through 6th grade**.

- ❖ Mission: Grace in Action is book one of four

T&T ushers tweens on a journey to know God and His Word, love and need their Savior, and live out their faith in the ever-changing world around them. Featuring 30 lessons each year, this curriculum launches outreach efforts and challenges clubbers to understand, retain, and apply His Truth!

A green t-shirt uniform is earned through finishing section of handbooks

Teen Group

Great news, AWANA continues through grade 12!

For youth in **7th or 8th grade** are enrolled in the Trek® Program.



Trek® challenges students to consider their future in Christ and pursue it through life application of God's Word.

A teal t-shirt is earned through finishing sections of handbooks.

For high school grades **9th -12th**, AWANA offers Journey®.



Journey® establishes high school students as lifelong disciples through a deep study of God's Word, mobilizing them to live with Godly perspective and evident faith.

A black t-shirt is earned through finishing sections of handbooks.

AWANA Leaders

There are five kinds of AWANA Leaders.

- ❖ Commander: Runs the show!
- ❖ Administrator: Handles registration, check-in, and keep records.
- ❖ Class Leader/Handbook Leader: In charge of Sparks, T&T Adventure and Challenge classes, Trek and Journey, conducting handbook time, and helping kids with memory verses.
- ❖ Helping Leaders: These are teens and adults who assist is handbook groups and memory verse recitation.
- ❖ Game Leader: Plans and directs game time.
- ❖ Let's not forget Pastor Franc!

AWANA Specials

AWANA Special Events

AWANA Special Events are opportunities scattered throughout the AWANA year that your son or daughter will have to enjoy a variety of unique activities. These activities are held in the both the local church, and in regional venues with other AWANA Clubs!

Planned this year are:

- ❖ Kick-Off the AWANA Year
- ❖ Christmas Party
- ❖ AWANA Bible Quizzing
- ❖ AWANA Games/Sparks-A-Rama
- ❖ March Special Event
- ❖ Sparks Camp
- ❖ Award Night
- ❖ Grand Prix

Look to the calendar for dates.



AWANA Games

Area wide game competition for all clubbers, 3rd-6th grade. One girls' team and one boys' team compete with other clubs on the game circle.



AWANA Sparks-A-Rama

Area wide fun, game competition for all Spark Clubs. One team of boys and one team of girls.



AWANA Bible Quizzing

Area wide handbook competition for all 3rd-6th grade clubs. Two clubbers on each team.



AWANA Grand Prix

Small wooden car races for all clubbers and leaders

Theme Nights

AWANA Theme Nights (listed on the calendar) are special nights clubbers can participate in to gain additional AWANA bucks! Themes are fun, silly, and add to the overall excitement of Friday nights!



Team Competition

Each night of club (except when a special event is planned), there is a separate team contest. Each clubber is placed on one of 4 teams – Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow. These teams may be changed during the year. Each clubber on winning teams during Game Time receives an AWANA buck that can be redeemed in the AWANA Store.

AWANA Awards

Each AWANA clubber has the opportunity to earn exciting awards. Some awards are given monthly, some 2 times a year, some 4 times a year, or as a clubber completes sections of their handbooks.

Special Awards

Perfect Club Attendance

This award will be given 4 times each club year. Clubbers who have perfect attendance for a given time period will receive 10 AWANA bucks. Time periods are:

- ❖ September 15 to November 3, 2017
- ❖ November 10 to January 19, 2018
- ❖ January 26 to March 30, 2018
- ❖ April 13 to June 8, 2017

Perfect Sunday School Attendance

This award will be given by class leaders 2 times each club year. Sparks who have perfect attendance for a given time period will receive 10 AWANA bucks and a Sparks Uniform Emblem. T&T will receive 10 AWANA Bucks and T&T handbook sticker. Time periods are:

- ❖ September 15 to January 26, 2018
- ❖ February 2 to June 8, 2018

Clubber of the Month

Each month, clubbers have the opportunity of being awarded the *Clubber of the Month Award*. The attributes that need to be displayed by the clubber to receive this award include excellence in attendance, attitude, sportsmanship, and work. A clubber may not receive the Clubber of the Month Award more than once during the year. The recipients will receive a certificate, a prize, and have their picture featured on the AWANA Wall.

Citation Award

This premiere award is the highest award in AWANA. It is awarded only to high school seniors who have completed all of the ten 3rd – 12th grade books or manuals.

Individuals receiving this award may be eligible to apply for scholarships to over 40 colleges and universities. AWANA offers special recognition to students receiving this award.

Citation Achievers are:

- ❖ Biblically grounded
- ❖ Their AWANA experience compares favorable to a year of Bible College
- ❖ They have committed to memory over 500 verses
- ❖ They have read the entire Bible
- ❖ They served in ministry for at least four years

Handbook Awards

Handbook Awards should be worn on the AWANA Uniform. The awards listed below are only the basic ones; others are given for completing one or more years of handbook work.

These awards should be displayed and proudly worn on the clubber's uniform. They represent well earned achievement and spiritual growth in the knowledge of God and His Word. All young people are encouraged to strive for their highest potential.

Each child works at his/her own pace and will be guided and helped by a caring leader. Please note that in Sparks and T&T, to complete a handbook in one year, children should have at least two to three sections ready to be completed when they arrive each week. Parents are encouraged to help their children prepare their sections.

For Completing:

Entrance Booklet

Rank Test

Bible Drill and Activities

Children Earn:

Award, Uniform Eligibility and 1st Handbook

Rank Patch

Sparks.....Jewel
T&T....Patch

AWANA Pledges and Theme Song

Pledge to the 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.

Pledge to the 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.

Pledge to the Bible

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

AWANA Theme Song

Firmly AWANA stands, led by the Lord's commands,

"Approved workmen are not ashamed,"

Boys and girls for His service claimed!

Hail! AWANA! On the march for youth;

Hail! AWANA! Holding forth the truth.

Building lives on the Word of God AWANA stands!

Our Savior following with steps unfaltering,

And love unfaltering, His praise we sing,

His banner over us, in service glorious,

We'll fight victorious for Christ our King!

YOUTH ON THE MARCH!

Pledge to the Christian Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe. Amen.



AWANA Theme Verse

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

AWANA Store



Each week clubbers may win or earn AWANA bucks which can be saved and traded for items out of our AWANA Store. These items are various popular and youthful things such as toys, school or stationary supplies, candy, t-shirts, club bags for handbooks, hats, etc. The store is meant as a motivator to help each child achieve in every area of club, especially in their handbook work. Please see Commander Dave if you have suggestions or items you would like to donate. The AWANA Store will be open the last Friday of each month beginning in October.

AWANA Bucks

AWANA bucks are paid to participants at each meeting, which they can use to pay for treats at the AWANA store. We give children envelopes in the back of their handbooks. Be sure and tell your children that our AWANA club does not replace lost or stolen bucks, so they need to take good care of them!

AWANA bucks are given as listed:

Attendance at AWANA = **1 buck**

Perfect Attendance = **10 bucks per time period**

Attendance at Sunday School = **1 buck**
(Given by Class Leader)

Perfect Sunday School Attendance = **10 bucks per time period** (Given by Class Leader)

Wear uniform = **2 bucks**

Bring Bible = **5 bucks**

Bringing a friend who has never been to AWANA before = **10 bucks**

Participating in Theme Nights = **5 bucks**

Bringing Handbook = **1 buck**

Completing a Handbook **Section** = **1 buck for Sparks, 1 buck for T&T**

Completing a Handbook = **10 bucks**

Team competition winning team = **1 buck per member**

Memorization Tips

One of our purposes at Cornerstone Fellowship Church is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. This training in AWANA involves a tremendous amount of Scripture memorization. Having God's Word hidden in the clubbers' hearts is a priceless reward. Sometimes, though, children do not always realize how important hiding God's Word in their heart is! And children are not alone, even adults lose track of the importance of Scripture memorization from time to time.

Therefore, 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. Clubbers earn 'AWANA Bucks' for each Entrance Booklet or Handbook section passed (as well as other various contest or challenges). The clubbers accumulate their bucks, and can then spend them in the AWANA Store. So, help and encourage your clubber to memorize their verses!

Tips!

- ❖ Have your child make flash cards, with verses on one side and Scripture references on the other. Using colorful markers and paper can make the task a breeze. Ask your child to draw a picture of what the verse means alongside the verse.
- ❖ Spend 5 or 10 minutes at bedtime helping your child remember his verses. Then repeat them at breakfast the next morning.
- ❖ "My 8-year old daughter sleeps in the top bunk. She tapes her verse to the ceiling. Every night before she falls asleep, she reads them through a couple of times."
- ❖ Print the first letter of each word in a verse on a chalkboard or index card. As your child uses the first letters as clues to the next word, he is actually memorizing the verse.
- ❖ When your child is having difficulty learning a section, reverse the roles. Ask your child to

'teach' the section to you. This helps both you and your child learn the verse.



Entrance Booklets and Handbook Guidelines

- ❖ Clubbers must pass the entire section during one session. They cannot quote one verse, look at the book, and then quote another verse in the same section. They must complete the section in its entirety once they hand the book to their leader.
- ❖ Clubbers are encouraged to pass sections flawlessly. If needed, leaders may give no more than two helps to the clubber for each section. A help is defined as three words or less, or any other hint.
- ❖ Sections must be passed in order.
- ❖ Silver and Gold level sections (T&T) may be completed throughout the club year or after the book has been completed.
- ❖ To finish a handbook in one year, a child should have two to three sections ready to be completed when they arrive each week. Each child works at his or her own pace and will be guided and helped by a caring leader.

AWANA Parents

Tips On How Parents Can Help!

- ❖ Always encourage your child. Children have much more fun when Mom and Dad show interest in their accomplishments.
- ❖ Ensure that your child attends AWANA every week and arrives on time. *Club starts promptly at 6:30 p.m., registration and Fast Track begins at 6:15 p.m.* Consistency builds friendships, achievement, and self-discipline.
- ❖ Make sure your child wears his/her uniform to club. If they do not have a uniform or have not earned one yet, casual clothes and tennis shoes should be worn.
- ❖ Make sure your child brings their Entrance Booklet or Handbook, Bible, and are prepared with the night's theme if applicable. Bucks are given for each of these things, and others. Please refer to the Calendar for specific themes.
- ❖ During the week, help your child prepare two or three sections. This may ensure they will complete their handbook by the end of the year and will receive their handbook completion award.
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with your child's Handbook, especially the non-verse sections. Often these sections require more time and home related tasks and activities.
- ❖ Attend all major events. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to attend every club meeting and event as a way of showing your support and approval for your child's accomplishments.
- ❖ Please review the discipline guidelines found in this guide 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, our rules of behavior will be enforced.
- ❖ If your child needs to be excused from participating in Game Time, please send a note informing their leader; otherwise, they will be expected to participate in all activities.

- ❖ Please plan to pick up your child/children promptly at 8:00 p.m. Clubbers will not be permitted to leave the building without an authorized adult coming to pick them up.

What to Bring to AWANA

- ❖ AWANA Uniform
- ❖ Tennis shoes for running and playing
- ❖ Bible
- ❖ AWANA Entrance Booklet or Handbook
- ❖ A Friend!

The AWANA Uniform

The AWANA Uniform is a vital part of the club program. It helps all clubbers feel they are part of the club and is the place where all awards are displayed. Uniforms will be given after the clubber has finished the Entrance Booklet. This usually takes 2-4 weeks of club. The privilege of wearing a uniform then becomes an award for completing this short beginning booklet. No awards will be given until the club member has a uniform on which to display them. Each club has a different uniform, but it is worn for the 3-4 years of the club. Each child must wear the complete uniform each club night to receive credit and AWANA bucks. A clean uniform helps to make each child feel sharp and proud. It is recommended that you put the clubbers last name on the tag of the uniform should it get lost.



AWANA Discipline Guidelines

The AWANA Team at Cornerstone Fellowship Church realizes that there are many family situations that may affect a child's behavior. We encourage you to let your child's AWANA leader know if there is any situation that may help us in ministering to your child. This helps the AWANA leader to minister to the child as opposed to just viewing a situation or action as a discipline problem.

In AWANA, we follow Jesus' command in Matthew 22:39 to "...love your neighbor as yourself." As such, there are few guidelines:

- ❖ Keep your hands to yourself
- ❖ Listen to and follow directions
- ❖ Speak to others with respect
- ❖ Be courteous to those around you
- ❖ No shouting

Should discipline action be required, AWANA uses two different count systems for maintaining discipline: one for the group and one for individual clubbers.

The "**5-Count**" will be used to bring the group to order. As the leader counts to "5", the other leaders in the area will immediately stop what they are doing and join in the 5-count and the children should become quiet and still.

The "**3-Count**" will be used for an individual clubber. Each time a clubber directly disobeys, that clubber is given a disciplinary count.

- ❖ **Count 1:** With the first count, a child simply receives a verbal warning from AWANA Staff.
- ❖ **Count 2:** On their second count, the clubber is to be taken to the Commander. The Commander will talk with the clubber and advise them that they have only one more chance to prove themselves that night. The clubber will not return to that session,

but will be required to study their sections on their own. The clubber is then returned to their group for the next session.

- ❖ **Count 3:** After a clubber is returned to their leader or if the clubber shows disrespect to the commander during discipline, then the clubber receives a third count and their parents are called to remove the clubber for the night. The clubber is encouraged to return the next week, but their right to attend for the current night is suspended.

If a 3-Count is issued, the Commander will fill out an incident report. When an incident report is filed, there will need to be contact between the parents and the Commander before the next meeting in order for the child to return to a club meeting.

If the clubber has to be asked to leave the club meeting a second time, they must miss the next two club meetings, and a parent must meet with the 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.

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.

Awana Club Discipline

Frequently Asked Questions

If my child finishes the handbook before the end of the year, can he/she go on to the next book?

If a child finishes the handbook before the year is over, there is still a lot left to do. First, your child will repeat the entire handbook by doing all the review sections. Kids who finish the review sections can complete a special review workbook. They earn AWANA bucks for all review work.

What if my child is having unusual trouble learning a section of the handbook?

Sometimes kids get stuck on a longer Bible section, and the more they're pushed, the more nervous they become. Talk to the handbook leader about giving your child some extra help to make it through rough spots. Our goal is to assist kids to learn and love God's Word, and to enjoy it.

My child came to AWANA ready to say four sections but only got to say two sections. Why?

Sometimes our leaders are pressured for time or we have missing leaders or helpers, so the leader may have had to listen to more children say verses. Make sure your child tells the leader early the sections they're prepared to recite. Fast Track starts at 6:15, but arrangements can be made to start earlier. For special cases, the leader can extend a child's recitation time during game time.

AWANA Fees

Annual Dues

As good stewards of the Lord, Cornerstone Fellowship Church does not charge annual dues. If the Lord leads, you may leave a



free will offering with AWANA Staff.

Uniform Fees

Children are expected to wear their AWANA uniforms to each AWANA meeting. Uniforms will be provided at no cost once the child has completed the entrance booklet.

Replacement Fees

Although Cornerstone Fellowship Church does not charge annual dues or uniform fees, a replacement cost will be charged if your child loses his/her handbook, awards, or uniform. We highly recommend keeping all AWANA materials in a designated bag or backpack!

AWANA Online

For more information, visit the AWANA website at www.awana.org. This is a valuable resource for parents! Their all-access store, where anyone can purchase AWANA items online, is popular with leaders and parents alike. Check out the Parenting Forums and join other AWANA parents in sharing, discussing, and glean parenting ideas, instruction and insight. There is also a Parent Blog in which AWANA curriculum experts keep parents up to date on trends while offering resources, ideas and advice for Biblical parenting.

AWANA also provides some great materials for parents to work on with their children at home. 'PowerUp BookWalks' are a set of motivational tools and memory skills to help encourage children to complete their handbooks. A section-by-section BookWalk schedule gives you memory tips and reminders of your child's progress so that you can provide some extra incentives or encouragement. A separate schedule for the child gives memory tips, and encouragement to keep going and even reminders on occasions when the next verse is a review. Monthly pacing calendars are also provided. We strongly encourage parents to visit www.awana.org and click on the 'Parents' tab.