



Welcome Packet for Parents



Dear Parents,

It is a privilege for us to have your child in our AWANA program. We trust he or she will have a terrific time, and become a regular part of our club.

AWANA stands for **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed** (2 Timothy 2:15). It is an international organization dedicated to seeing children learn of God's love for them. The AWANA program here at RBBC seeks to provide an atmosphere in which your child can enjoy growing spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Our AWANA Purpose:

Evangelism and discipleship of children through the following areas:

- Bible memorization
- Relationship building with Godly role models
- Relevant Bible instruction leading to life change

Separate club programs within AWANA have been tailored to preschoolers (**Cubbies**), early elementary schoolers (**Sparks**, for K 2nd grade) and upper elementary schoolers (**T&T Clubs**, 3rd 6th grades, with separate activities and groups for boys and girls).

Each week these different clubs participate in the following general components (in different order for each group, to maximize facility use):

GAME TIME stressing healthy competition with emphasis on having fun and

LARGE GROUP TIME with singing and teaching from God's Word in a way

HANDBOOK TIME consists of time spent where clubbers recite Bible verses

Our Club Night

Our AWANA program meets Wednesday night from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at RBBC. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early to allow time to put your belongings in your room and get lined up for the Opening Ceremonies. During Opening Ceremonies we will be saying the Pledge of Allegiance, the AWANA pledge and opening the evening with prayer. We have a monthly e-newsletter that will keep you informed about upcoming events. There are several special events during the course of the year to participate in including the AWANA Grand Prix competition, AWANA games and special theme nights. If you wish to receive the monthly e-newsletter please sign the mailing list.

The first step in the AWANA process is for your child to complete the entrance booklet, otherwise known as the gate test. Please help your child learn each section, it should take up to three weeks to complete. Once your child has completed the entrance booklet, your child may become an official member of AWANA Club and purchase a uniform to display his achievement awards and patches, and a book. As your child continues through his book, he will be earning awards in various forms depending on the club he is in. Remember, all sections must be completed in the order presented, with the exception of the Sparky book; the red sections are to be done in order, the green section can be done in any order at any time as the child progresses through the book. Handbooks are designed to be worked through at your pace, however the program is designed for one book per year. **Parents:** Please encourage your children to come prepared to say two sections per night to ensure they will complete their books by years end. There are CD's available for purchase with the required verses set to music. This a great learning tool. Also note that we have awards for Sunday school and AWANA club attendance throughout the year.

What to Wear

Appropriate dress for our AWANA clubs includes the club uniform (once earned).

Please note that your child **must** be wearing their uniform to be given any jewels, pins or badges. We require kids to wear long pants for game time as the game time takes place in a marked off place in the parking lot. We also require closed toed shoes to protect clubbers feet during game time. Clubbers who don't have appropriate shoes will have to sit out for many of the games we play.

Discipline

In its most general sense, **discipline** refers to systematic instruction given to a disciple. Within AWANA, a system of rewards encourages children in their handbook achievements and good behavior. Our emphasis is on positive discipline, where children see godly role models in their teachers and leaders. We delight in "watching kids being good!" However, if a child struggles with disruptive, disrespectful or dangerous behavior, the following protocol will be used. The child's leader, after determining that the issue cannot be resolved by simple methods (changing seating arrangement, etc.) gives the misbehaving clubber a "one" count a warning that the next offense will bring greater consequences. If a second offense occurs that evening, the clubber is given a "two" and taken to the club director or commander for counseling. (You as a parent will be notified that night if your child were ever to get to this point.) If the clubber demonstrates continued willful defiance in attitude or action, they are given a "three" and you as parents will be called to take the child home early (at which time the problems will be explained in detail, of course). If this does occur, a parent/guardian must accompany the clubber during the following club meeting.

How You Can Help

● AWANA cannot function without parent volunteers. Ideally there would be one volunteer per household helping. Please be praying about how you can help this year. All volunteers must fill out a background check form. Here is a brief outline of the responsibilities of a director, leader and secretary:

● Directors

- Ministry Goal: To create an environment that is attentive, engaging and encouraging to each child. To encourage children to develop relationships that will strengthen their walk with Christ. To develop relationships with AWANA leaders.
- Ministry Description: Each director is responsible for overseeing their age group club, training, shepherding and encouraging leaders, along with being an interface with parents

for that age group club.

- Gifts, Talents and/or Specific Skills Needed in this Ministry: An AWANA director should love to build teams, teach, encourage and interact with leaders, children and parents, while also being able to create a fun and loving, yet also organized and disciplined, environment.
- Responsible to: AWANA Commander

●Leaders

- Ministry Goal: To create an environment that is attentive, engaging and encouraging to each child. To encourage children to develop relationships that will strengthen their walk with Christ.
- Ministry Description: AWANA leaders are given 4 to 6 children to love, pray for, mentor, encourage and enjoy for the duration of the club year.
- Gifts, Talents and/or Specific Skills Needed in this Ministry: An AWANA leader needs to enjoy the excitement and energy of kids growing in Christ. He or she must be willing to join in the fun as well as be a loving and patient shepherd during small group time. A leader's primary responsibility is to develop relationships with each child that reflect Christ's unconditional love for him or her.
- Responsible to: AWANA Director

●Secretaries

- Ministry Goal: To have all necessary paperwork and record-keeping prepared weekly as needed. To assist with check-in and registration of visitors on a weekly basis.
- Ministry Description: AWANA secretaries are responsible for the inventory and ordering of all supplies as necessary to support their assigned club, along with registration and follow-up record-keeping for visitors.
- Gifts, Talents and/or Specific Skills Needed in this Ministry: Strong organizational skills along with being warm and friendly as the AWANA secretary is often the first point of contact for anyone joining AWANA. Commitment to detail and diligent follow-through will make AWANA flow smoothly. This is a great position for someone who wants to be involved in Next Generations Ministries, but not wanting to interact directly with children.
- Responsible to: AWANA Director and Commander

In addition to these roles we are also looking for a few parents to run the Grand Prix, our pine box derby. This is always such a fun event but needs many hands to be successful. Our club will also be participating in AWANA games. We will compete against other churches with games played during game time on club nights. We need someone to organize teams and practices.

Benefits of Scripture Memorization

•Scripture teaches us that we are to hide God's Word in our heart so that we might not sin against Him. (Ps. 119:11) We are teaching children that God wants them to be really sinking scriptures down deep in their hearts where they can later pull from and use in their life. Of course we want them to finish their books, but more importantly we want them to have learned their verses for life. Here are a few reasons for scripture memorization:

•1. Conformity to Christ

Paul wrote that we all, . . . beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another(2 Corinthians 3:18). If we would be changed into Christ likeness we must steadily see him. This happens in the word. The Lord *revealed himself* to Samuel at Shiloh *by the word* of the Lord(1 Samuel 3:21). Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.

•2. Daily Triumph over Sin

•“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. . . . I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you(Ps. 119:9-11). Paul said that we must obey the Spirit . . . put to death the [sinful] deeds of the body(Romans 8:13). The one piece of armor used to kill is the ?word of the Spirit which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.

•3. Daily Triumph over Satan

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight (Matt. 4:1-11).

•4. Comfort and Counsel for People You Love

The times when people need you to give them comfort and counsel do not always coincide with the times you have your Bible handy. Not only that, the very word of God spoken spontaneously from your heart has unusual power. Proverbs 25:11 says, A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. That is a beautiful way of saying, *When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.*

•5. Communicating the Gospel to Unbelievers

Opportunities to share the gospel come when we do not have the Bible in hand. Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that they are precious enough to learn. We should all be able to sum up the gospel under four main headings (1) God's holiness/law/glorious; 2) man's sin/rebellion/disobedience; 3) Christ's death for sinners; 4) the free gift of life by faith. Learn a verse or two relating to each of these, and be ready in season and out of season to share them.

•6. Communion with God in the Enjoyment of His Person and Ways

The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes. Therefore, storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to him as he really is.