



## PARENT HANDBOOK

(Revised 9/10/2023)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

512 S Whittemore, St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3110

Web: [www.stjohnsfbc.com](http://www.stjohnsfbc.com)

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- Page 1 – Table of Contents/Important Contacts
- Page 2 – Welcome to AWANA/Programs & Registration
- Page 3 – Drop Off & Pick Up Process
- Page 4 – Costs
- Page 5 – Cancellations / Inclement Weather
- Page 5 – Nightly Schedule/Dress Code
- Page 6 – What to Bring/Rules/Handbook Verses
- Page 7 – Your Involvement is Needed
- Page 8 – AWANA Store & Credits/Awards Ceremony
- Page 9 – Key Dates

## **Contacts:**

### **AWANA Commander:**

Andrew Davis                      517-974-7589 or andrewjd86@gmail.com

### **AWANA Secretaries:**

Dawn Gudbrandson      989-620-5268 or dougandawn1@frontier.com

Nita Carpenter              517-930-0938 or carpenternita5@gmail.com

### **Club Directors:**

Bernadette Richardson, Cubbies      517-712-6133 (text only)

Rich & Joy Kettles, Sparks              517-930-1601

Jim Rosbury, T & T                      989-493-5812 or jrosbury@outlook.com

First Baptist Church, Office              989-224-3110

## Welcome to AWANA:

The purpose of the AWANA ministry is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. The AWANA ministry at First Baptist Church works in unison with the other ministries at FBC to help your child learn about Jesus and grow in Him.

This handbook is intended to provide you with some important information regarding our AWANA club year. This year, AWANA begins in October and runs through the first week in May. AWANA is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 8:00 pm. Please see the AWANA calendar at the end of this handbook for key dates.

We look forward to serving your children in AWANA. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

In His Service,  
Andrew Davis, Commander

## Programs:

**Cubbies:** The two years prior to Kindergarten (3 & 4 year olds); Children must be 3 by September 1st of the current year.

**Sparks:** Kindergarten through Second Grade

**Truth & Training (T&T):** Third Grade through Sixth Grade

**Nursery:** Parents attending any ministry of FBC on Wednesday nights (AWANA, bible study, prayer meeting, etc.) may bring their infant through two year olds to the nursery.

## Registration:

**Registration forms must be completed for clubbers AND visitors. Emergency contact information is a must!** Registration forms are available from an AWANA Secretary or online at:

<https://v3.shinerecordkeeping.org/register/lMyg9JylfGQ5eDb>

## **Drop Off Process:**

For your child's protection, you must come to the **Auditorium Entrance located on the south side of the building** to check-in your child(ren). During check-in you will be given a "Pick-Up" slip that must be presented at check-out. **No child may be dropped off at AWANA without being checked in by an authorized person.**

**PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF CLUBBERS BEFORE 6:15 PM** as our leaders need time to prepare for the evening and are unavailable to supervise children before this time.

**Children SHOULD NOT attend AWANA if they have any of the following symptoms:**

- **Fever (100 deg. or higher), vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 24 hours**
- **Runny nose if accompanied by other symptoms and/or colored discharge**
- **Bad Cough – Coughing increases the chance of infection being spread to others**
- **Any rash that is suspected to be contagious**
- **If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, they must have been on the antibiotic for a minimum of 48 hours prior to attending AWANA.**

## **Pick Up Process:**

Check-out is at 8:00 PM. (Please be prompt). Plan to pick up Cubbies first (downstairs) if you have any, then proceed to the auditorium to pick up Sparks/T & T club members. Upon presentation of the pick-up slip received at check-in, children will be released from their classroom or the auditorium to their authorized person.

**Authorized persons must be in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or older.**

Please know that we require these safeguards only to ensure your child's safety. Thank you!

## Cost:

Each year we ask for dues to be paid to help purchase awards, teaching materials, special event materials, and store supplies for the children. Clubbers will also need to purchase a book and uniform by the time they complete their entrance booklets. If paying by check, please make the check payable to **First Baptist Church**.

Please let the Commander or a Secretary know if paying is a financial hardship for you. (Installment payments are also accepted.) We want everyone to be able to participate in this important ministry.

Prices are as follows:

<b>Required Items:</b>	<b>Cubbies (3-4 yrs old)</b>	<b>Sparks (K – 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>T &amp; T (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
Dues (per child)	\$20.00*	\$20.00*	\$20.00*
Uniform	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Handbook - ESV	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00

\* Dues will have a family cap of \$60.

<b>Optional Items:</b>	<b>Cubbies (3-4 yrs old)</b>	<b>Sparks (K – 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>T &amp; T (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
USED Uniforms (If Available)	No charge	No charge	No charge
Frequent Flyer Workbook	--	\$5.00	--
AWANA Book Bag	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00 Sling Bag

If you have a uniform that your child is no longer using, please consider bringing it in and we will pass it on to benefit a child that doesn't have one.

## Cancellations / Inclement Weather:

If St. Johns Public Schools are canceled or dismissed early due to bad weather, AWANA will be canceled. If the forecast is calling for a severe snow/ice storm during AWANA, we will err on the side of caution and cancel AWANA.

If you are unsure if we are holding AWANA, please visit our website at [www.stjohnsfbcc.com](http://www.stjohnsfbcc.com) or call the church office at 989-224-3110 and press "6" to listen to the message.

## Nightly Schedule:

<b>CUBBIES:</b>	6:15 - 6:30	Check-In and Attendance
	6:30 - 8:00	Handbook Time, Council Time, Games
	8:00	Parents Pick-up Clubbers
<b>SPARKS:</b>	6:15 - 6:30	Check-In and Attendance
	6:30 - 6:35	Opening Ceremony
	6:35 - 7:00	Handbook Time
	7:00 - 7:25	Game Time / Bathroom Break
	7:25 - 8:00	Council Time/ Closing
	8:00	Parents Pick-up Clubbers
<b>T&amp;T:</b>	6:15 - 6:30	Check-In and Attendance
	6:30 - 6:35	Opening Ceremony
	6:35 - 7:00	Game Time / Bathroom Break
	7:00 - 7:25	Council Time
	7:25 - 8:00	Handbook Time/ Closing
	8:00	Parents Pick-up Clubbers

## Dress Code:

Uniforms are required for all registered clubbers and should be worn each week. Clubbers will earn store credits when they wear their uniform.

Children attending AWANA should wear comfortable clothing and **athletic shoes with non-marking soles** to participate in the activities held on a typical evening. They may not be able to participate in some activities if they are wearing skirts, heels, flip-flops, sandals, dress shoes, etc.

## What to Bring:

- AWANA Uniform
- Bible
- AWANA Club Handbook or Entrance Booklet
- Athletic Shoes with non-marking soles

Your child should not bring electronic devices with them. If your child brings something which does not pertain to AWANA, they will be asked to put it away and keep it out of sight.

## Rules:

- Follow leader instructions and speak to your leaders with respect
- Stay in your room unless a leader gives you permission to leave
- Move quietly between rooms. Walk, do not run, in the church
- Respect each other and do not touch others' things
- Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself at all times

## Handbook Verses:

- Verses should be memorized word for word with one help per verse, according to the AWANA guidelines.
- Leaders will be sensitive to each child's ability. Children that have an easy time memorizing verses will be encouraged to learn them without any help. Those that struggle to memorize, may be allowed more than one help without penalty.
- **It is important to complete Handbook sections, in order**, for all handbooks (other than the Green Jewel section in the Sparks handbooks.). If a section is skipped because the clubber is still working on that section, they should return to complete it as soon as possible. Clubbers should not jump around to complete the "easier" sections first. Handbooks are created in a specific order to facilitate learning the materials.
- Clubbers that finish their handbooks will be encouraged to complete extra credit items.

## **Your Involvement is Needed:**

Moms, dads, grandparents, and anyone else special in a clubber's life—you are essential in helping your clubber get the most enjoyment and fulfillment out of the AWANA program.

- Encourage your clubber to attend AWANA every week. This consistency will help your child to excel. Be sure that your clubber arrives on time. Promptness helps our ministry stay on track.
- Clubbers are required to wear their uniform and to bring their Bible and handbook. Clubbers will be awarded AWANA store credits for each of these things. If they do not have a uniform, casual clothes and tennis shoes should be worn.
- Help your child prepare for club each week by spending time at home with them reading and reviewing their Handbook material. If they do not have a Bible, please contact the club director. Bibles are needed to complete the Handbook. If your child does not have one, we will provide one. We use the ESV (English Standard Version) Bible.
- Encourage your child by familiarizing yourself with their Handbook, especially the activities. Often those sections require more time and involve home-related tasks and activities.
- Remind them to spend 5 – 10 minutes each day on verses. Memorizing is hard work but your involvement will validate the child's efforts and motivate them to complete the handbook within the club year. AWANA clubbers may be limited to how many sections their leader can sign for on a given night, depending on the group they participate in.
- Always encourage your AWANA Clubber. Children have much more fun when someone shows an interest in their accomplishments.



## AWANA Store & Credits:

Sparks and T&T clubbers earn credits to spend in our AWANA Store as follows:

Credits	Per Item Completed
<b>2</b>	Attendance (must arrive by 6:45 pm to get credits)
<b>5 each</b>	Bible (bring to club) Entrance Booklet Section Handbook (bring to club) Handbook, Gold & Silver, or Truth Script Section Mailbox Club Lesson Truth Scripts - Extra Credit (per verse) Wear Uniform and/or Dress up as Theme Night
<b>10 each</b>	Bookmark per quarter (Sparks: 2 Jewels, T&T: See calendar) Return Parent Handbook Signature Page Truth Scripts (all verses said at one time)
<b>50</b>	Bring a visitor (first time only) who does not attend FBC or AWANA elsewhere.

**The AWANA store will be open for clubbers to spend their accumulated credits on the following dates: November 29th, February 14th and April 24th.**

## Awards Ceremony:

To celebrate the accomplishments of our clubbers, we will have an AWANA Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, May 1st, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.. Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend. **ALL clubbers WILL receive an award or certificate.**

## Key Dates:

- Oct 4**      **AWANA Begins--Special Registration will begin at 6:00 pm tonight only. Clubbers may check-in at 6:15 pm. Pick-up time is 8:00 pm.**
- Nov 22**      **NO AWANA - Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov 29**      **AWANA store open**
- Dec 27**      **NO AWANA – Christmas Break**
- Jan 3**      **NO AWANA – Christmas Break**
- Jan 17**      **NO AWANA – Annual Church Business Meeting**
- Mar 6**      **GRAND PRIX**
- Mar 27**      **NO AWANA–Spring Break**
- Apr 17**      **Last night to say sections (No Exceptions!!)**
- Apr 24**      **Last night AWANA Store is Open. (6<sup>th</sup> graders will want to use up their credits.)**
- May 1**      **Awards Ceremony & Ice Cream Social**(Family & friends are encouraged to attend)

# Parent Signature Page

I have read the attached AWANA Parent Handbook.



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Email: [office@stjohnsfbc.com](mailto:office@stjohnsfbc.com)

Print Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Clubbers will earn 10 store credits for returning this signature page to an AWANA secretary. Please list all children's names below:)

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