

AWANA Clubs
Courtenay Fellowship Baptist Church
Parents Information Handbook

Courtenay Fellowship Baptist Church
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We believe that children are precious in God's eyes and that we must do all we can to bring joy and direction to their lives. We are living in a time when our children are faced with many difficult choices. It is our desire to help children build a solid foundation to life through loving support and spiritual guidance.

AWANA is a Bible based program designed specifically for children age 3 to Grade 6. Children meet weekly and participate in games, Bible instruction and activities. There is also opportunity to pursue achievement awards through the completion of instructional handbooks. In addition, children are able to participate in special events such as our annual fun fair and AWANA Bible Quizzing.

Our goal is to produce a fun and loving atmosphere where children can learn and grow.

AWANA gets its name from the Bible verse 2 Timothy 2:15 which teaches that through understanding and applying God's word we are equipped to serve God faithfully.

Approved
Workmen
Are
Not
Ashamed

This booklet has been produced to help you gain a better understanding of our AWANA club. It is filled with the information you and your child will need for this year.

What Happens at a Typical Thursday Meeting

The club meets Thursday Evenings from 6:25 to 8:15 p.m. The typical meeting is divided into several components.

Registration: Children arrive between 6:15 and 6:25 and check in with their specific clubs depending on their age.

There are 2 different groups in AWANA

Sparks:	Boys and Girls grades K, 1 & 2
Truth & Training	Boys and Girls grades 3 to 6 (Boys & Girls meet separately)

The truth and training group will be divided into boys and girls and may be divided according to grade.

Opening Ceremony: The children gather in their clubs to open in prayer and to sing the national anthem.

Handbook Time: Children work to complete assignments in order to earn awards. This involves Bible memory work.

Games: Children gather to play various physical activities, such as relays, obstacle courses and games that are unique to AWANA

Council Time: Clubs gather for discussions, stories and practical Bible messages.

Closing Ceremony: All the clubs gather for announcements, prayer and singing and then are dismissed for the evening.

We also spice up the usual meetings with fun nights throughout the club year.

Notes For Parents

Learning Disabilities

We recognize that children often can have difficulties reading and may have learning disabilities. It is not our desire to make these children suffer and feel as if they are being left behind by other children.

If your child requires extra support and may benefit from extra helps or a different approach to learning, please discuss this with one of the leaders or with the club commander. Specific arrangement can be made so that your child can fully enjoy the AWANA program.

Bible Quizzing

Bible Quizzing are a lot of fun, but they also require extra preparation. If your child desires to attend, there will be extra practices scheduled.

Children must also qualify for these events by completing at least ten sections in their handbooks. If your child desires to attend, please help them to do the work necessary to qualify.

Because these are out of town event, you may be asked to provide a ride for your child or contribute to gas expenses.

Open Access.

We encourage parents to take an active interest in AWANA and our church. Please feel free to drop in anytime to see what goes on and consider attending our open house.

We would also encourage you to attend our Sunday services. We have a contemporary service at 9:15 am with a Nursery for children 2 years and under and Junior Church for children ages 3 to grade 5 and a traditional service at 11:00 am with Sunday School for grades 6-12.

If you have any questions please contact
the church at 250-334 3432.

Entrance Booklets and Handbooks

An important aspect of the AWANA program are the club handbooks. These handbooks help children learn about God and about positive moral standards. Children are encouraged to invest time in completing their handbooks and receive achievement awards for doing so. Before starting on the handbooks, children complete a short entrance booklet, which orients them to the club.

The Award System

A significant part of the AWANA program is the award system. Several different positive rewards are used. These include special patches and pins for completing handbook sections and Larger ribbons and plaques for completing whole books.

In addition, AWANA shares are given out for good behavior, handbook achievement and as rewards for team events. These shares can be exchanged at our AWANA store for toys and treats or spent at our year end fun fair.

Special Events

Aside from regular club meetings there are several different special events in which the children may participate:

Bible Quizzing: Children compete with other clubs in Bible memory challenges. (February)

Fun Fair At the end of the year we have a Fun Fair with carnival games or a Grand Prix with the chance to race home built toy cars on our special AWANA race track.

Further Information

Now that you have an idea of what goes on at AWANA, you will need to know some of the more specific information on registration, schedules and expectations.

Registration

You may register your child at any Thursday Club Meeting.

Registration fees are paid each club year.

Registration is \$14.00 for first 3 children and
\$10.00 for each child thereafter.

The child's first handbook is included in the registration fee.

Uniforms

Children are expected to wear the uniform appropriate for their specific club. Before purchasing a uniform the Entrance booklet must be completed and registration paid. Uniforms are needed to display awards.

Sparks:	(K to Grade 2)	Uniform Vest	\$13.00
Truth and Training (Grades 3 & 4)		Uniform T-Shirt	\$16.00
Truth and Training (Grades 5 & 6)		Uniform T-Shirt	\$16.00

Club Dues

We ask that each child bring 50 cents per week to help cover the costs of awards and store items

Notes For Parents

Your child's enjoyment of AWANA will be greatly enhanced by your support and interest. We encourage you to help your child be successful in the AWANA program by encouraging them to set aside time to work on their handbooks and to assist them in memorizing their verses.

Handbooks

You can help your children in the following ways:

1. Help your child to remember to bring their handbooks to the meetings, because they must have their handbooks at club to receive credit for sections passed.
2. When memorizing verses children are to receive no more than 2 helps per section.
3. Help your child to be disciplined by suggesting that they take 10-15 minutes a day to work on their handbook.
4. Do your best to explain the meaning of each verse. You will find that they memorize more quickly if they understand what they are memorizing. If you want to confirm the meaning with your child's leader, please feel free to give them a call or talk to them at a club meeting. They want to help!
5. Cubbies Parents should initial the sections they feel children are ready to recite to their leaders.
6. If a child finds it easier to remember a verse from another translation, pencil the translation into their handbook and have your child bring that Bible to club.

Guidelines for Parents and Children

4. Individual Discipline.

Leaders will also use an individual 3 count. This is a 3 strike warning system which is only used if a child's behavior is really unacceptable.

A leader will Count 1 to a individual child as a warning. If the child persists or misbehaves again the same night a leader will Count 2 and remove a privilege (such as playing games). If the child persists or misbehaves a third time, a leader will Count 3 and send the child to the Commander for further discipline.

Children who show extreme disrespect to a leader or another child, or are involved in fighting may be sent to the Commander directly.

How do you like to be treated????

We wouldn't like to be hit, bit, kicked, teased or made fun of, so we won't do any of these things to anybody else.

We like our Leaders to listen to us when we talk to them, so we will listen and sit or stand still while our Leaders are talking to us.

**Let's remember these few things and
All of us will have a lot of
fun in AWANA this year!**

Adopt-A-Club

Our club is helping to support an AWANA Club in Jamaica. Those children wishing to help are asked to bring an additional 25 cents each week. Adopt-a-Club is optional, but children who have contributed at least 12 times receive an award in April.

Additional Handbooks

The cost of the first book is included in the registration fee. A second book in a year (ie: lost handbooks or extra credit workbooks) will be charged. Cost: \$8.00

Awards

No charge is made for awards. Children's dues help cover cost. However, if a clubber loses an award, he will have to pay for a replacement. Awards are received by passing sections in their handbooks, Club attendance, and Sunday School attendance. The back page of the Entrance booklet shows the awards available for the club your child is attending.

Club Attendance Award

The club year is divided into quarters for Club Attendance. (Sparks & T&T only) Each child can earn one Club attendance award each quarter if they have no more than 1 unexcused absence during that quarter.

Excused absences are illness, family emergency or vacation. Please notify the club secretary the following week when this occurs.

Church Attendance Award

AWANA believes that Church attendance is important for the development of your child. Children can receive a Church Attendance Awards. For this award, the club year is divided into 2 periods; September thru December & January thru April. They are allowed no more than 2 unexcused Sunday School absences each period to receive this award.

If your child attends Sunday School or another church, please have them bring a note.

Achievement Awards

Children are encouraged to complete their handbooks and will receive special awards for doing so. The following awards and ribbons are available.

SPARKS

1st BOOK AWARD RIBBON - completion of the HangGlider Handbook.

2nd BOOK AWARD RIBBON - completion of the WingRunner Handbook.

SPARKY PLAQUE - completion of the SkyStormer Handbook.

TRUTH AND TRAINING

1st BOOK ALPHA AWARD - completion of one 3rd -6th grade handbook.

EXCELLENCE AWARD -completion of any two 3rd -8th grade handbooks.

3rd BOOK AWARD - completion of any three 3rd -8th grade handbooks.

TIMOTHY AWARD - completion of any four 3rd -8th grade handbooks.

Guidelines for Parents and Children

AWANA has a few guidelines and rules that will help everyone enjoy their time at club meetings and help children complete their handbooks.

1. Come to meetings prepared.

- Wear comfortable clothes & running shoes
- Bring your handbook & Bible
- Come ready to pass sections & work on new ones
- Wear your full uniform
- Bring 50 cents for dues.

2. Come to meetings on time.

Children should be at club at least 5 minutes early to register. Children should not arrive more than 10 minutes early.

For the safety of your children, **Please come in** with your child and pick them up promptly at the end of club.

Children arriving late for the opening ceremony should wait in the hall until the ceremony is dismissed.

3. Listen to your leaders

The leaders are there to help you and to teach you. Please show them respect and listen to their directions.

At times leaders will use a **5 count** in order to get the attention of the children. A leader will put his hand in the air and count to five. Children are expected to be quiet and standing still before the leader reaches five.