



Parents,

We are so glad that you are bringing your child to AWANA! When you make scripture memorization and application a priority for your child, you reinforce to them what YOU value. Children need their parents to be their primary teachers in spiritual matters, which is why we like the AWANA program so much. It is **critical** that parents work with their child at home during the week. Not only will the child be able to memorize their verses, but they will also learn to value God's Word and have a better understanding of how it applies to their lives.

We look forward to a great year! We have clubs for children age 3 through 12th grade as of Sept. 1, 2018. With this letter, you will find some important information and forms to fill out and bring along on Sept. 5th. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact us. We want your children to get the most out of AWANA!

In order to be a club member, a Clubber must attend three weeks in a row and complete the entrance booklet. After completing membership requirements, a Clubber will be **charged \$5 for a handbook** and be eligible to **purchase a uniform**. (However, if the first handbook is lost, \$10 will be charged for a replacement).

We look forward to working with you as your child discovers eternal treasures in God's Word!

Important Dates and Times

Sept. 5 - Kickoff Night
 Sept. 19 - Parents Night/ Popcorn Night/ Bring a Friend Night

Oct. 17 - Favorite Sports Night/ Bring a Friend Night

Nov. 7 - Bring Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse and Canned Goods
 Nov. 14 - Favorite Hat Night/ Bring a Friend/ Shoeboxes, Canned Goods
 Nov. 21 - NO CLUB - Happy Thanksgiving!

Dec. 19 - Jesus' Birthday Party/ Bring a Friend Night
 Dec. 26 - NO CLUB - Merry Christmas!

Jan. 2 - NO CLUB - Happy New Year!
 Jan. 16 - Crazy Hair Night/ Bring a Friend Night

Feb. 6 - Purchase Grand Prix Cars
 Feb. 13 - Purchase Grand Prix Cars
 Feb. 16 - *Build* Your Grand Prix Car (Saturday)
 Feb. 20 - Pajama Pants Night/ Bring a Friend Night
 Feb. 23 - T&T Bible Quizzing at Grace Fellowship
 in York (Saturday) - all are welcome to watch

Mar. 9 - Grand Prix Race (Saturday)
 Mar. 20 - Stuffed Animal Night/ Bring a Friend Night/ Missions Night

Apr. 17 - Dress as Twins Night/ Last Night to Finish Your Book
 Apr. 24 - Awards Night for Families and Clubbers

Did You Know?

- AWANA stands for **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed** which is from 2 Timothy 2:15.
- AWANA club combines learning with fun to create an exciting environment for all kids! Club meetings are divided into 4 segments:
 1. Large group worship
 2. Bible teaching and life application
 3. Small group teaching/ handbook completion
 4. Age appropriate fun games

REGISTRATION

Register online at <http://www.fbcgettysburg.net> and click on AWANA Registration. If you don't have internet access, forms will be available on the first night. Be early! **Please be sure to include your current e-mail** so we can reach you with our monthly newsletter and any announcements we send out.

FEES

Weekly Dues:	\$ 0.50 per child
Full Year's Dues:	\$15.00 per child
Semester Dues:	\$ 7.50 per child in September and in January

Cubbie Vest:	\$10.00
Sparks Vest:	\$10.00
T&T Ultimate Adventure Shirt:	\$15.00
T&T Ultimate Challenge Shirt:	\$15.00

DON'T BE LATE

Please be prompt in dropping off and picking up your child. The doors to Lewis Hall open at 5:45pm to assemble for the Club Opening, and club begins promptly at 6:00pm. We encourage you to join us for the closing ceremony from 7:45-8:00pm in the sanctuary. **Please pick up your child who is age K through 6th grade at 8:00pm in the sanctuary or if in Cubbies pick them up in their room. All children need to be picked up by an adult; written permission is required in order for junior high or senior high students to pick-up younger children.** We ask that you keep your child with you once you have picked them up. They are not allowed to be in the parking lot unattended. It is dark much of the AWANA year at the end of club, and children are in danger when they enter the parking lot unattended due to cars backing up and leaving.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

If Gettysburg School District is closed or gets dismissed early for a weather related reason, there will be NO AWANA. If you are in doubt, tune in to WGTY (107.7) for cancellations or go to WGAL.com for a list of cancellations. Cancellations will also be posted on First Baptist Church's website, www.fbcgettysburg.org.

SICKNESS AND HEALTH

1. If your child stayed home from School for a health related reason, then please make the choice **not** to send them to club.
2. If your child has had a fever in the past 24 hours, please do **not** send your child to club.
3. If your child has/had head lice, please treat and send your child **only** when free of nits and allowed back in school.
4. If for any reason your child gets hurt or sick at club, we will attempt to call you at the phone numbers listed on the registration form.

ADULT VISITORS/ HELPERS

All AWANA leaders and helpers have been cleared to work with your child. For safety reasons, only those with clearances are allowed to be in contact with your child. If it is absolutely necessary to stay with your child during the evening, please obtain a Visitor badge at the check-in table.

AWARDS

Clubbers will not receive awards until their shirts or vests are purchased. Awards are important to your child, so please make arrangements to purchase the vests/shirts. They can be paid for at the check-in table when you bring your child. Uniforms should be worn every week to club and kept on the entire evening. We have had problems in the past with lost or mixed up uniforms.

SNACKS

We ask that each student age 3 through 2nd grade bring some sort of snack to help stock our snack closet. Snacks may include things like crackers, cookies, pretzels, etc. Please drop off snacks at the check-in table when you bring your child.

SUCCESS

We want your child to succeed! **It is critical that parents work with their children at home in order to memorize the verses in the handbooks.** Many young children cannot read yet, and even those who can need adult help to learn the verses in their book. **Please check your child's handbook since some sections require a parent's signature.**

FRIENDS

We encourage your child to bring friends to AWANA. In fact, this is a requirement to pass one of the sections in their handbook! If your child does bring a friend with them, the friend must stop at the check-in table and get a Visitor badge.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

By having a Discipline Policy written down, we can eliminate many questions when discipline needs to be given. We strive to teach good behavior and ask for help from parents and all volunteers involved with AWANA. Each child will start with a clean slate in their respective class/group. If a child needs correction at any point of the evening, they can receive up to three warnings in their class/group before further discipline will be taken. After a child has received three warnings in class and the behavior has not resolved, or in the event that a single behavior involves bodily harm to another child or an adult, the child will then be removed from class to talk to the AWANA Commander, Mr. Neil. After he talks with the child and the child is warned of what will happen next time, he/she MAY be sent back to class. At the end of the evening, Mr. Neil will talk with the child's parent and inform them of the behavior and the fact that their child now has "**Strike #1.**"

"**Strike #2**" occurs when the child's behavior happens again in the same night or repeats on a different night. The child will be removed from class to sit at the check-in table with Mr. Neil or Miss Ann, Secretary, for the remainder of the evening. At the same time, the child's parents will be phoned and informed of the repeated behavior and the consequences.

"**Strike #3**" occurs if the behavior continues after "Strike #2." At that point, a parent will be asked to come to club every week and stay with the child until the behavior has resolved.

SAFETY POLICY

We at First Baptist Church vow to keep your child safe every night at AWANA. We cannot do this alone. We need your help in doing so on AWANA nights. We also understand the need to pick up multiple children from different areas of the church, and we want to be as much help to you as we can. So please let us know if you need our help.

1. All children need to be picked up by an adult - starting with nursery through 6th graders. **NO Junior/Senior High students are allowed to pick up younger siblings of any age unless a permission slip is completed.**
2. Nursery (babies through 3 years old whose parent is a leader or is involved in a FBC Bible Study or MOPS group) will be in the nursery for the entire evening. An AWANA nursery release needs to be completed specifying who is/isn't allowed to pick up your child.
3. Cubbies (age 3 as of Sept. 1, 2018 through 5 years old) will meet in the Sunshine Nursery School classroom located across from the kitchen. Cubbies will need to be picked up there.
4. Sparks/T&T (Kindergarten through 6th grade) will start the evening in Lewis Hall (the game room). The doors in Lewis Hall will be closed promptly at 6:00pm to start the flag ceremony. All children coming after the doors are closed will remain in the hallway with a leader until allowed to enter. This is to instill promptness to club and NO interruptions during the flag ceremony.
5. **ALL PARENTS/CAREGIVERS MUST ENTER THE SANCTUARY TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD AGED KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 6TH GRADE AT THE END OF THE EVENING!** When the music is finished and clubbers are dismissed for the evening, they will be staying in their seats until a parent/caregiver picks them up from that seat. There will be leaders at the main doors in the back of the sanctuary to make sure all children are accounted for and do not leave without a parent/adult. **NO Junior/Senior High students are allowed to pick up younger siblings of any age unless a permission slip is completed.**
6. Junior and Senior High (Trek and Journey - 7th through 12th grades): We are trusting that good behavior and wise choices will be made by all Junior and Senior high students. A little before 8:00pm, they will be dismissed from their classes to the main lobby of the church and are to responsibly find their parent/caregiver.
7. The back doors near Lewis Hall will be locked at all times during AWANA. Any entering/exiting by students, leaders, and parents must be made through the front main church doors.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk with Neil Tate, Commander, or Ann Stockman, Secretary. You can usually find them at the front check-in table or floating around the church building on any club night. Or you may contact Mr. Neil via email at nmtate@embarqmail.com.

GRAND PRIX RACE

We plan to hold our annual Grand Prix Race on Saturday March 9 with the weighing of cars starting at 8am and the race starting at 9am. The Grand Prix car kits will be on sale at the check-in table for at least 3 weeks before the Grand Prix. This is a fun day for the clubbers to compete with their own handmade race car.