



Parents,

We are so glad that you are bringing your child(ren) to AWANA! Memorizing God's Word and learning to apply it to their life has eternal value. 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. AWANA understands that need! It is critical that parents work with their children at home during the week. Not only will they be able to memorize their verses, but they also learn to value God's Word and have a better understanding of how it applies to their lives.

We are looking forward to a great year! Even though we are starting the club year later, we are planning on covering all the book material and have fun nights. We have clubs for children who are in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade. A change for this year is there will be NO preschool aged club offered.

In this newsletter, you will find some important information. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact us. We want your child to get the most out of AWANA!

In order to be a club member, a clubber must attend two weeks in a row and complete the entrance booklet at their grade level. After completing membership requirements, clubbers will be charged \$10 for their handbook, and they will be eligible to purchase uniforms.

We look forward to working with you as your child discovers eternal treasures in God's Word! **The first night of club is Wednesday, October 21, 2020.**

# **CHANGES**

1. NO meals will be offered before club.
2. **Club times are 6:00-7:15 pm.**
3. Pick-up is outside at 7:20pm in upper parking lot.
4. Masks will be required for children, leaders and parents entering the church building.
5. Social distancing will be discussed and how that will look in a group setting for each specific group.
6. NO on-site preschool Cubbies class offered (**There is a virtual ONLY option this year**)
7. NO opening and closing ceremony. Each group will do their own in class.
8. Drop-off will be at 3 different designated areas
  - Sparks(K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) – front main doors
  - T&T (3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade) – side doors near the nursery
  - Trek (7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> ) Youth Room
  - Journey (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> ) side doors near nursery
9. Each group will conduct their own temperature checks when the children enter and that will be our attendance tracker and take place of checking in at the front desk.
10. There will be a table outside (weather permitting) or in the front lobby for parents to stop and pay for any supplies or ask questions.
11. Each group will stay in the same area for the remainder of the night.
12. There will be NO organized game time, but a break will be given between lesson time and handbook/small group time. If weather is permitting leaders will be allowed to take their children outside for about 10-15 minutes to a designated area. If weather is an issue and in the winter months leaders will be responsible for having an indoor activity for the students.
13. There will be No registration fee/dues required this year.
14. **Books will now cost \$10 for everyone.**

## Registration

We are please asking that you pre-register your child before October 21, 2020. We are trying to get a close to accurate amount of children participating in-person verses a virtual option. We are not limiting the amount of in-person students, just trying to get a count.

Complete your registration form online at [www.fbcgettysburg.net](http://www.fbcgettysburg.net)

Across the top of the home page there will be an option for “Awana Registration”, click that and it will take you to [KidEventPro](#). This is the online registration form for club. Please include an active email address or two that you would like to receive updates/club reminders. Emailing is our main way of communication for reminders/updates. When you receive an email regarding Awana the recipient it will be coming from will be titled “First Baptist Church” and the subject line will say something about “Awana 2020-2021”

**This is new this year, please choose if your child will be attending club**  
**1. In-person, 2. Vitual Club , 3. Virtual Cubbies ONLY.**

## Virtual Club Option

- [www.awanplus.com](http://www.awanplus.com) = This website has prerecorded lessons that Awana headquarters has put together for each specific age group of club. Not all books are offered online.
- You would work at your own pace and watch the lessons from home with your family.
- Purchase a book from FBC and pick it up at your convenience on a Wednesday night.
- Work on the book at home with your child/family at your own pace.
- If you would like to receive the jewels/patches/pins and end of the year awards you will need to check-in with your completed book work/signed off by a parent on January 27, 2021 and May 12, 2021 (last official day to show completed work for the club year)
- **This option is for ALL Cubbies and all other age groups wanting to do a ONLY virtual option.**

## Books/Awards

- All clubbers will be required to purchase a book for \$10. If cost is an issue or you need to discuss scholarships, options are available. Please see Ann Stockman at the front check-in table before club. She will not be available for purchases at the end of a club night.

- **A change from last year** – All Sparks students will work at the same spot in their handbooks as a group. This will make it easier for leaders to determine what section a child is working on.
- Clubbers will receive individual patches/jewels periodically throughout their handbooks for completing designated sections. Each book is a little different in how many sections need to be completed for an individual award.
- At this time we do not have an official “Awards Night” planned for the end of the year.
- The last official night of club will be April 14, 2021.
- We are offering 4 additional weeks at the end of the club year for students working on finishing their book to get credit for their end of the year award. On Wednesday, May 12, 2021 there will be leaders available for student’s to come to FBC from 6:00-7:30 and show their completed work to get credit.

## Cost of supplies

- Each child will need a new book at the beginning of the club year. All books will cost \$10.00 each. Even if your child did not finish their book last year, they will need a new book for this club year to assure they are following along with the rest of the class.
- Uniforms:
  - Cubbies vest - \$10.00
  - Sparks vest - \$10.00
  - T&T Shirt - \$15.00

## Drop-off and Pick-up

- **Drop-off** will be at 3 different designated areas with doors opening a few minutes before 6:00pm. We will not allow children to come in before then and hang-out. Children must be parent supervised till the doors open.
  - Sparks(K-2<sup>nd</sup>) – front main doors
  - T&T(3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) – side doors near the nursery
  - Trek (7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>) – Youth Room.
  - Journey (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>) – side doors near nursery
- **Pick-up** will be promptly at 7:20pm in the designated area of the upper parking lot. The upper parking lot will not be for parking and will be blocked off with safety cones as a drop-off/pick-up area ONLY!!!
- At 7:15pm your child’s group will conclude their last session and leaders will get children ready to leave with all of their belongings. They will be lined-up outside at the same door they came in and parents will then have to come up to the upper parking lot to pick-up their child at 7:20pm. The Trek group will be released from the Youth Room

area with a leader and meet in the upper parking lot to wait for parents to pick-up. The Journey group will be dismissed from the side doors by the nursery to wait for parents in the upper parking lot area. In the case of inclement weather we will have the children lined-up right inside the doors and parents will still need to come pick them up.

- If someone new or other than the person dropping student off is going to pick your student up, please notify the leader/helper at the designated door you are dropping your child at.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note that children will be under parent supervision after you have picked them up at 7:20pm. Leaders will be released to leave when all children from their group are picked-up by a parent. \*\*\*\*\***

## Weather Cancellations

Our club schedule follows Gettysburg Area School District. If the school is closed or dismisses early for weather related reasons there will be NO club that Wednesday evening. Even if the weather clears up by the evening we will not have club, as it is too much to try and contact everyone. If you are in doubt, go to [www.WGAL.com](http://www.WGAL.com) for a list of cancellations. Cancellations will also be posted on FBC webpage [www.fbcgettysburg.net](http://www.fbcgettysburg.net) and a club email will go out as well.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

By having a Discipline Policy written down, we can eliminate any 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 with Ann Stockman. After she talks with the child and the child is warned what will happen next time, he/she MAY be sent back to class. At the end of the evening, Mrs. Ann will talk with the child's parent and inform them of the behavior and 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 Mrs. 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 FBC vow to keep your children 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, and we want to be as much help to you as we can. So please let us know if you need help. As stated before **children will be under parent supervision after you have picked them up at 7:20pm. Leaders will be released to leave when all children from their group are picked-up by a parent.** We say this to let you know that if you would like to stay and talk or mingle with another family that your children are your responsibility once you pick them up from club. Please keep safety in mind with navigating the parking lot in the evening with cars coming and going. Children can get away from you quickly. We will do our best to keep the upper parking lot area blocked off for drop-off and pick-up only.

1. All children age Kindergarten- 6<sup>th</sup> grade need to be picked up by an adult at 7:20 in the designated upper parking lot area.
2. Trek(7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) will be released from the Youth Room area with an adult to go to the upper parking lot area to wait for a parent to pick them up. Journey(9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) will be dismissed from the side doors by the nursery to wait for parents in the upper parking lot area. We are trusting that good behavior and wise choices will be made by all junior and senior high students.
3. All students will start and stay the evening in the designated area near the doors they enter for the remainder of the evening.
4. The side doors near Lewis Hall/nursery and the front main doors will be locked at all times during AWANA. A church staffed safety leader will be securing these doors and will allow parents to enter if needing to pay/ask questions at the front desk.

## **COVID-19 Requirements**

1. All students, leaders and parents entering the building will be asked to wear a mask. If your child is medically unable to wear one, please inform us at the front desk.
2. Appropriate social distancing will be discussed with the students and leaders to ensure safe distances.
3. Your child's temperature will be taken before they enter the church buildings to ensure no fever is present. If your child does have a 100 degrees F or higher temperature after being checked, they will not be permitted to stay at club for the evening.
4. We are asking that parents/caregivers do a symptom check of their student before coming to club on a Wednesday night. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home.
5. If they were home from school for a medically related reason/sickness, please keep them home.
6. If your child becomes ill or not feeling well at club, you will be contacted to come pick your child/ren up from club.
7. If your child's school is impacted and closed due to COVID-19 and they attend school on campus in- person, we are asking that they NOT attend club during the duration of the

closure even if they are asymptomatic. This means your child may not participate at club in-person until the school calls all clear and resumes normal operations. This would also apply to leaders that have children attending an affected school, they would be asked to communicate with the Commander and not attend club either.

8. If Gettysburg Area School District closes the whole district and all schools in it we will be following their guidelines and not having club until they reopen. If and when this happens we will be communicating with families as to how we will be running club at a all virtual level.

## Adult leaders/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. There will be two or more cleared adults with your child for the duration of the evening.

## Questions

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk with Ann Stockman, Fill-in Commander/ Secretary. You can usually find her at the front check-in desk. If you need or would like to speak to Pastor Carl, please make arrangements by calling the church office at 717-334-2564.

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. Some of your children cannot read yet and need adult help to learn the verses in their book. Even if your child can read, please check your child's handbook for the weekly verse – some sections require a parent's signature and at home work.