



Parents Handbook

For Boys and Girls Ages 2 through 6th Grade

*A ministry of First Baptist Church-Oxford
and the AWANA Clubs International*

1st Baptist Church
800 Van Buren
Oxford MS 38655
662-234-3515
www.gotofirst.org

The kids that make the most consistent progress through the AWANA ministry are those who have support and help at home.

Four Important Things to Remember:

1. Work each week with your child on a consistent basis so he or she is ready to recite verses in Handbook Time.
2. Make sure your child is on time and in uniform with Bible, Handbook and dues.
3. Pray for your child as he or she progresses through the year.
4. It is the parents who have the greatest spiritual influence on a child.

Dear Parents, Welcome to AWANA Clubs

Thank you for allowing your child to spend some time with us weekly in AWANA on Wednesday nights. We, along with the staff of First Baptist Church, understand the importance of scripture memorization, praising God, and having fun. Most of us have children of our own and we realize the importance that you place on your child's spiritual development. Our goal is that AWANA at First Baptist Church provide an encouraging, exciting and challenging place for your child to grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

While we each count it an enormous privilege to participate in this ministry, we are convinced of this: **the most important and effective spiritual influence in your child's life is you.** That's why we encourage you to spend time with your child memorizing these portions of the Bible and making sure your child begins to understand the spiritual concepts behind these verses.

We know that kids who are raised to see the world through the lens of the Bible, and see that modeled in the lives of their parents are:

- 31 times less likely to accept cohabitation
- 18 times less likely to endorse drunkenness
- 15 times less likely to condone homosexuality
- 12 times less likely to accept profanity
- 11 times less likely to describe adultery as morally acceptable.

Our goal is to provide a secure environment for your child to grow in the knowledge of God and the desire to serve and obey Him so that they can have a transforming and redemptive effect on the world around them, for all of their lives. AWANA is a proven and effective tool for you to use in encouraging a Biblical worldview in your child. I hope and pray that you see this ministry in this fashion and do all that you can at home to fulfill your role as the spiritual leader for your child.

If you have any questions or concerns about our goals and the statements made anywhere in this guide, please call the Commander, Brad Golmon or the Homebase Director, Glenn Wilson. Their phone numbers and email addresses are at the end of this Parent's Guide.

General Information

AWANA stands for **Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed** which comes from 2 Timothy 2:15 which says "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Our prayer is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. To accomplish this we have age-graded clubs. Puggles is for 2 year olds, Cubbies is for 3 and 4 year olds, Sparks are for kids in K through 2nd grade, and Truth and Training (T&Ts) is for kids in 3rd through 6th grade with the girls and boys having separate clubs. Each club night has three 30 minute segments: **Council time, Handbook time, and Game Time.** Council is a time for praise singing and a gospel message usually with an emphasis on missions activities. Handbooks teach clubbers spiritual

truths through memorizing Bible verses, understanding scriptures, and doing crafts, and activities. As clubbers complete their Handbooks they earn various awards, such as patches for their uniforms. Game Time is a fun and exhilarating time of playing AWANA games, such as relay races, 4 way tug-of-wars, three-legged races, and the madness of the Sparky crawl. Clubbers need to dress appropriately by **wearing tennis shoes and no skirts!** Directors need to know about any health issues and need to have immediate contact information for you in the event of an emergency.

Our AWANA clubs are held every Wednesday night from 5:45-7:30 starting August 19, 2009. We hold Opening Ceremonies in the Old Fellowship Hall for Sparks (K-2nd grade) and T&Ts (3rd-6th). Puggles (2 yr olds) will be run as a supplement to the Nursery ministry so Puggles will check in and out in the Nursery. Cubbies (3 & 4 yr olds) will begin downstairs beneath the Atrium at the end of the hallway. Parents of Puggles and Cubbies can pick their children up at 7:15 in the Nursery rooms. Sparks should be picked up at 7:20 and T&Ts should be picked up at 7:30 with Sparks at the Old Fellowship Hall, T&T Girls on the 3rd floor above the church office and T&T Boys at the CLC. We may scramble the schedule for the Sparks and T&T clubbers from time to time but we will always post a notice at these locations if we have you child somewhere else at the end of the club night.

Clubbers begin with a short entrance handbook. Once the child completes the entrance book they qualify to join the AWANA clubs at which point they can purchase uniforms and Handbooks. As clubbers progress through Handbook activities that will earn awards for their uniforms. Additionally, Sparks and T&T clubbers earn points for their team for Council Time preparation, Handbook section, Game competition, and special event participation. The winning team each night earn rewards. Plus, we will have special event nights where clubbers can earn extra points for their team by participating.

Please be sure that we have good contact information from you so that we can reach you quickly in the event of an emergency. We do not require parents to be on the church premises but would like you to designate someone who will be on-site in the event that we cannot reach you.

We will release your child at the end of the evening in a controlled fashion and only to you, or another adult that you designate in writing to us. We take the security of our clubbers very seriously.

Costs

1st Baptist Church-Oxford members will only have to cover the cost of handbooks for each child and the uniform for their oldest child enrolled. Uniforms for additional children of FBC members enrolled will be covered by donations. FBC members and non-members need to let the Church or AWANA leaders know if additional assistance is needed. We do not want cost to prohibit anyone from participating.

Dues are collected as a form of teaching the clubbers to tithe. Cubbie dues are 25[¢] while Sparks and T&T dues are 50[¢]. Dues are used to cover the cost of awards and AWANA store purchases.

	Cubbies	Sparks	T&Ts
Handbooks	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Uniforms	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$18.00
Total	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$26.00

Discipline

To accomplish all this with the number of children we will have requires that we maintain discipline with the clubbers. The two basic methods of discipline in AWANA are the 5 count and the 3 count. It is important for parents to understand these methods because at some point we may have to involve you the parent. The 5-Count is used for group discipline. The leader will count out loud from 1 to 5 in a steady rhythm using only whole numbers, speaking loudly at first then softly, and holding up one hand with fingers. By the count of 5 the entire club will be quiet. The 3-count is used for individual discipline. After gentle reminders to behave, the clubber misbehaving is given a 1 count at which point the leader notifies the Director of that club who talks with clubber. Continued misbehavior results in the clubber being given a 2 count at which point the Director notifies the Commander and the Commander then talks to the child. Following that night's club, the Director or Commander will call the parents to discuss it. If misbehavior continues, the clubber is given a 3 count which results in suspension from the club. The clubber is not allowed to return to AWANA until the Director and/or Commander meet with the parent to discuss the behavior.

Awards and Recognition

Awards are used to motivate the clubbers and recognize their accomplishments. Children earn awards for completing sections in their handbooks. These awards go on their uniform and parents need to sew patches on Cubby and Sparks uniforms. Additionally, clubbers receive points each night for coming prepared and in uniform as well as for participation. The team with the most points each night earns a special treat and at the end of each quarter, clubbers will be award special AWANA money for the points they individually earned. AWANA money is used to purchase items at the AWANA store.

Council Time: 20 points each for attendance, uniform, bringing dues, bring their handbook, bringing a Bible, and 50 points for bringing a friend.

Handbook Time: 100 points for each section completed that night.

Game Time: 300 points for the winning team each event, 200 points for 2nd place, 100 points for 1st team to line up.

Special Events: There will be special nights, like crazy hat night, in which any clubber participating (wearing a crazy hat) will earn 20 points.

Tips on How Parents Can Help

1. Help your child learn weekly handbook sections.

2. Establish a regular time to work with your child in their handbook...morning or evening.
3. Read the next section or sections with your child, looking at the special notes in that define phrases and terminology using words young children understand. Go over them with your child, making sure they understand what they are learning.
4. Listen to your child practice and recite the verse. Be encouraging!
5. Have your child recite the first portion of the verse out loud, then recite this portion and add a next portion, then recite both portion and add the next until the whole verse is recited.
6. Have your child always say the first few words in the same breath as the reference. This will help cement the reference to the scripture.

Logistics: On time and In uniform

1. Check in starts at 5:30 and AWANA clubs promptly start at 5:45.
2. Cubbies and Puggles are done at 7:15, Sparks at 7:20 and T&T clubbers at 7:30.
3. Find a special place at home to keep your child's book and uniform, so it can always be found on club night.
4. Be sure your child wears the uniform to club. The uniform is where their awards are displayed plus helps with motivating them to learn and work in their books.
5. Bring your child to club on time, so we can begin and end promptly. Be sure to pick you child up promptly at closing.
6. Clubbers are not to bring or use cell phones during club nights.

AWANA Leader's Job Description

1. A saved person-one who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Eph.2:8-9
2. True to the standards in God's Word. Christ-like and living above reproach.
3. Consistent in your walk with the Lord. Eph. 5:1-2
4. Burdened to reach boys, girls, and their families for Christ and to establish them in the Christian faith.
5. Excited about your personal leadership ministry. Regard your service as a personal ministry for the Lord! Be enthusiastic!
6. Patient and gentle, yet firm in your standards. 2 Tim. 2:24
7. Sensitive to the needs of others. Listen to them. Pray for them.
8. Serious about improving yourself in your ministry. Have a teachable, approachable spirit.
9. Memorize scripture and spend time daily in Bible study. Avail yourself of training opportunities.

Annual AWANA Leadership Selection and Approval

1. The Pastor is the Head of the AWANA program.
2. The Pastor selects the AWANA Commander.
3. Following counseling with the Pastor, the AWANA Commander selects the Director for each club and following their agreeing to serve, gains approval from the Pastor for their appointment.
4. Following counseling with the AWANA Commander, each club Director selects the leaders for their club. Following their agreeing to serve, the Director submits these names to the Commander who gets approval from the Pastor for their appointment.

Brad Golmon, Commander, 513-4419, 832-4045, bgolmon@bellsouth.net
Katie Buckley, Cubbie Director, 801-8047, ktoxford@hotmail.com
Christie Roger, Sparks Director, 236-6491, cc_rogers@yahoo.com
Jessie Wilson, T&T Director, 832-9206, jlwilson6@hotmail.com