

Awana Club Handbook 2025-2026



“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

~2 Timothy 2:15



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Welcome to AWANA

Thank you for your interest in our AWANA Club. We've been an Awana club site for over 16 years at Trinity Church and we are excited for the upcoming year. At AWANA, clubbers will learn God's Word and grow in their knowledge of Him, all while having a blast and developing meaningful relationships with their leaders and peers. Our prayer is that each of these kids will come to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior and have a meaningful relationship with Him. Our mission, "To know, love, and serve Jesus for a lifetime", will only be possible with a strong partnership between the church and the student's parents/guardians. This handbook is intended to keep adults informed by communicating the most important aspects and details of this ministry.

AWANA Principles

AWANA has been around since 1950 (so 2025 is their 75th Anniversary) and has grown from a ministry in one church to a ministry that now takes place in over 96,000 churches in 140 countries worldwide reaching over 9 million students each week, and new doors are opening every day. In fact, the AWANA materials have been translated into over 40 languages with 30 more in process. AWANA exists to reach children everywhere with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to engage them in lifelong discipleship. The AWANA prayer is that children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

Awana principles center on a biblically-based, Christ-centered approach to child and youth discipleship, emphasizing the Gospel, Scripture memory, and engaging activities. The core philosophy revolves around the "3Bs": Belong, Believe, and Become, fostering a sense of belonging, belief in the Gospel, and a desire to become disciple-makers.

Here's a more detailed look at Awana's core principles:

1. Gospel-Centered:

- Awana's primary focus is on presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a clear and consistent manner.
- It aims to lead children and youth to a saving knowledge of Jesus.
- The program encourages a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Scripture Memory:

- Memorizing Scripture is a key component, with a strong emphasis on learning and internalizing God's Word.
- This helps children understand the Gospel and its implications for their lives.

3. Engaging and Fun:

- Awana strives to create an engaging and exciting environment for children and youth.
- Activities, games, and awards are incorporated to make learning enjoyable.

4. Leadership and Partnership:

- Awana recognizes the importance of strong leadership within the church and the role of adults in discipleship.
- It emphasizes equipping adults for ministry to children and training young people to serve and lead.
- The program is built on a partnership between the church and adults/parents/guardians in the children's lives.

5. Discipleship Focus (The 3Bs):

- **Belong:** Creating a sense of belonging to Jesus and the church community through loving, caring relationships.
- **Believe:** Encouraging belief in the truth of the Bible and the Gospel message.
- **Become:** Equipping children to become disciple-makers, sharing their faith and serving others.

In essence, Awana principles aim to create a biblically-grounded, engaging, and supportive environment where children and youth can come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ, developing a lifelong faith and actively sharing their faith with others.

Club Details

Our AWANA club will meet each Wednesday night beginning Wednesday, September 17, 2025, through April 29, 2026, from 5:55—7:30pm. Our club is for children age four (one year before Kindergarten) through students in 12th grade. Cubbies need to be potty trained. Considerations may be made for special situations.

Club Structure

The following programs are offered:

Preschool (age 4 by September 1, 2025) and Kindergarten



1st Grade—3rd Grade



4th Grade—6th Grade



7th Grade—8th Grade (Independent Study)



9th Grade—12th Grade (Independent Study)



Leader Expectations

- AWANA Leaders at Trinity Church should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and be actively seeking to grow and deepen that spiritual relationship.
- Leaders should have the desire to help children and encourage their spiritual growth.
- Leaders MUST complete a background screening through Trinity Church and uphold all guidelines set forth by the Trinity Church Expectations for All Staff Working with Youth
- Leaders should arrive NO later than 5:45 and be ready to disciple children

Adult/Parent/Guardian Expectations

- Adults should bring their child(ren) in each week to the security check-in desk between 5:45 and 5:55pm. No Children should be dropped off earlier than 5:45pm. Please help your child establish the routine of being on time to club. Sparks and T&T then need to check-in with their program secretary. Once the child is checked in, please take your child to opening in the community center (gym).
- Adults should be at the church to pick up their children at 7:30pm each week. Pick-up will be at the child's last station of the evening. Adults need to show their security slip to pick up child.
- Adults should know what is required for their child to complete each week and encourage their children to complete their sections and study their scripture on a weekly basis. The more involved an adult is, the more likely a child is to succeed and enjoy handbook time. Challenge yourself to memorize the scripture too! We are never too old to learn and nothing would be more encouraging to your child than to see you working towards the same goal!
- Adults should notify club commander, program director or leaders of special needs, allergies or physical restrictions.
- Adults should attend all special events to celebrate your child's hard work and accomplishments!

Student (Clubber) Expectations

- Clubbers should be respectful of all leaders, peers and the church building.
- Clubbers are expected to be on time and make sure they check-in at the Security Desk and then Sparks/T&T need to check-in with Program Secretary before going to the community center (gym). Failing to do so could result in them losing perfect attendance.
- Clubbers are expected to stay in their appropriate class and are not allowed to join a different class with a sibling or friend.
- Clubbers are expected to be quiet in the hallways during transition and walk—not run! Other classes, meetings and events could be going on at the church and we don't want to disturb them.
- Cubbies and Sparks are expected to wear their uniforms (vests) each week.
- **Clubbers are expected to bring their handbooks, Bibles and a pen/pencil each week.**
- Clubbers are encouraged to participate in weekly themes and can earn reward points for their team for doing so.
- Clubbers are also encouraged to support our sponsored child from Kenya, Reagan Achieng.

Reagan lives in Chamagha Village in Kisumu, Kenya. He is 20 years old and is attending a 2 year college. Our support is \$100/month which pays for tuition, food and boarding. This is a wonderful way to teach our kids how to give and also a great opportunity to learn about another culture. We challenge each child to bring a quarter (\$.25) each week or \$1.00/month.

Discipline

Our mission is to help kids encounter Jesus in a safe, dynamic, and fun area. Part of that is keeping the environment safe, dynamic and fun. Our leaders show patience and love with all children and understand that they are not perfect, none of us are. If however, a child is consistently disrupting one of those areas and making the environment less safe, dynamic and fun for other students and leaders, then we need to lovingly disciple the child. We do this by setting boundaries and sticking with them; making corrections about learning rather than getting in trouble; speaking firmly, but kindly; telling them what they should do instead of what they shouldn't; setting a good example; acknowledging the child's feelings; and offering praise for a job well done.

1st time—conversation with leader

2nd time—conversation with leader and Commander will talk to parent/guardian

3rd time—child's parent/guardian will get called to come buddy with child for the rest of Awana

4th time— Commander will set up meeting with adult/parent/guardian to discuss

Trip requirements for Covenant Harbor camp or other outside events:

1. If a child has reached their 4th conversation about behavior, they will not be eligible to attend a trip for that school year unless there has been a change in behavior.
2. In order to go on an overnight trip, a child must be actively attending Awana (for our purposes here— regular basis would be every 2-3 weeks).

Cost

As a member of the AWANA club, students will receive a handbook, Bible (if needed), vest (Cubbies and Sparks) and a bag to carry their club supplies upon completion of their two week introduction booklet. Students also receive awards for their accomplishments through the year. All of these items have a cost associated with them and that cost is to be offset by a \$35 per student club contribution. This is an annual cost and should be paid at the time the student receives their uniform and handbook. By paying for these items, students are more likely to take ownership in their items and this will ensure that they return in good condition each week. If a family has a financial hardship and cannot pay for their child to attend, they should discuss this with the commander to apply for a scholarship. We never want a student to not be able to attend due to financial reasons. If initial handbooks or uniforms are lost, clubber's adult/parent/guardian will be responsible for buying replacements. No replacements will be purchased by Trinity Church.

*Fee is \$35/student or a cap of \$100 per family.

Uniform Guidelines

Club uniforms are as follows:

*Cubbies: Blue Cubbies Vest

*Sparks: Red Sparks Vest

Clubbers are expected to wear their uniforms to each club meeting, as well as special AWANA events. Uniforms should be clean, buttoned and all awards should be properly displayed. ***Students should wear gym shoes each week to ensure safety at game time.*** No flip flops, sandals, CROCS or boots. Girls are encouraged to wear shorts or leggings under skirts or dresses.

Club Schedule/Theme Nights

The 2025-2026 AWANA calendar is distributed on a separate sheet of paper. All special events and theme nights are listed on the calendar. We will stay on schedule even if club has to be cancelled some night. Theme nights will not be made up. If you miss one of the Service Theme Nights of bringing in an item for the food pantry, you are welcome to bring that the next week—we will be glad to take it to the food pantry at any time. Theme participate is optional, but recommended as students can earn AWANA team points and it is FUN!!!

*Sparks students that are in 3rd grade and finish at least one handbook are eligible to attend Sparks Camp in the summer (date is TBD but is usually a Saturday in June).

AWANA Typical Wednesday Night Schedule

5:00—5:45	AWANA Community Meal—suggested donation of \$1 per meal; dinner is for the whole family
5:45—5:55	ALL Check-in at Security Station and then Sparks/T&T check-in with Secretary
5:55—6:15	Opening in Community Center (Gym) for ALL—Opening consists of Announcements, Worship, Offering, Theme overview and Prayer
6:15-7:30	Cubbies go to their assigned room
6:15-6:40	Sparks Large Group in Sunday School Room T&T Large Group at tables in back of Sanctuary
6:40—7:05	Sparks Handbook Time in Team Rooms T&T Games in Community Center (Gym)
7:05-7:30	Sparks Games in Community Center (Gym) T&T Handbook Time in Team Rooms

*** All Clubbers will be picked up in their last rotation location.

Security Check-in/Check-out Procedures

Clubbers must be escorted to the Security Check-in Desk each night before club by their adult/parent/guardian. If someone different (other than adult/parent/guardian) will be picking them up, please let the person at security check-in know. Check-in is from 5:45—5:55pm. After getting security tag for pick-up, Sparks/T&T need to check in with their program secretary. After getting checked in, all clubbers must go to the community center (gym) for Opening. Check-out will occur at the clubbers last rotation location. **Adult/Parents/guardians need to show their security tag to AWANA leader in order to pick up their child.**

*****Please enter and exit through the main entrance church doors. All other doors are locked and have an alarm installed on them to prevent kids from going out into the parking lot unaccompanied. Family safety is our main concern.**

AWANA Awards

Cubbies and Sparks will earn badges and jewels (Sparks) for completing sections in their handbook as the year progresses. Badges and Jewels should be properly displayed on the clubber's vest and worn proudly as these represent hard work and spiritual growth. T&T will also earn badges that will be put on their bags. In order to complete sections, **students will need to bring their handbook every week and leaders will have to sign off on their work.** Each student who completes their handbook will receive a special end of year award.

Awana Section Standards

Our ultimate goal at AWANA is to have clubbers memorize God's Word, allow it to shape their minds and hearts, and cause them to live their lives differently as a result. To ensure kids are really learning the scriptures, fairness for clubbers, and consistency among leaders, we will follow the following standards when signing off on handbook sections.

1. Scripture should be memorized using the New International Version (NIV). This is the Bible version used in the student handbooks. TREK and Journey students can choose their desired version.
2. All parts of the section should be completed in one sitting including all verses, questions, and activities in those sections. Meaning students cannot say one verse and then look at their handbook again before saying the next verse in the same section.
3. No more than two helps will be given per section. Helps could be verbal hand motions or facial gestures.
4. Clubbers must recite the Bible reference before saying the verse and then again after the verse (Example: Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23). It is so important to know the reference so they can find it in the future in their Bibles.
5. Sections should be completed in order, unless otherwise noted. There are a few sections, such as Bring a Friend that can be done anytime during the club year.
6. T&T students are encouraged to complete prior sections from weeks that they might not have completed or weeks they have missed. Bring in the completed work to review with your leader. They are also encouraged to complete the Extra Credit and Bonus Sections of their handbook for additional awards.

AWANA Rewards (Individual and Team)

In addition to the badges and jewels that clubbers earn for their vests and bags, Sparks and T&T students will be able to earn Individual Rewards and Team Points that will result in Team Reward Nights. Individual Rewards could be candy, stickers or stamps for sections passed in handbooks. Team points are earned by attending club, wearing uniform, bringing handbook and bible, bringing in offering, participating in the theme, bringing a friend and attending Sunday School or Church. Team points can also be earned for participation, good behavior, good listening, being respectful during games and large group. Any leader can also reward points to students who do something that reflects Jesus to someone else! Team Reward Nights will be December 17 and April 22. Cubbies will record their achievements of attendance, handbook memory work and bringing their club materials in their classroom and will be rewarded with a Cubbies Store Night on December 17 and April 22. We will have an end of year Awards Night on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, to celebrate all the clubbers and their accomplishments throughout the year (including perfect attendance).

Club Cancellation

In the event of inclement weather or forecasted inclement weather, club cancellation would be announced in as many ways as possible, including but not limited to, our Trinity Facebook Page, Trinity Children's and Youth Ministry Announcement—Trinity Church Group Facebook Page, Instagram, email and church text alert (if subscribed). We generally follow cancellations based on Lake Geneva Schools (Badger, LGMS, Star Center, etc.). There may be an instance as we have seen in the past that school is out because of poor conditions in the morning or due to cold temperatures that would not necessarily affect our ability to have club in the evening. If this is the case and we plan to have Wednesday night activities, we will communicate that via Facebook, Instagram, email or text. We love Jesus, church, and fellowship, and we DISLIKE cancelling, so if we think we can have club, we will. As ALWAYS, you should make the decision about whether or not you can safely attend.



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If you do not have a home church, we would love for you to join us on Sunday Mornings or for our other programs.

Sundays:

9am Service (Nursery available)

9am Trinity Kids (Sunday School) for kids age 4—4th Grade

9am Trinity Youth w/Confirmation for kids 5th grade and up

10:45 Service (Nursery available)

10:30 Trinity Kids (Sunday School) for kids age 4-4th Grade

Thursdays:

6:30—8:30 Trinity Youth Midweek 6th—12th grade

Adult Small Groups offered throughout the week

Thank you for reviewing this handbook. If you have any questions anytime during the year, please contact Michelle McClanahan, AWANA Club Commander, at 262-279-3052 or email at michelle@trinity.family.