

Turners Chapel



AWANA Parent Handbook 2023-2024

From the Commander:

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-24 AWANA Year, beginning on August 20, 2023. For twenty-six years, God has enabled us to work with amazing kids, parents and leaders to reach and disciple children. As we begin our twenty- seventh year, we are asking for Him to do more of the same and beyond.

I want to thank you for your trust and involvement in the ministry as this plays a vital role. You are always invited to come and spend the evening with your children and join us for the many special events we have planned.

One of those events is the Ice Cream Social on our second night, August 27. We will start at 4 pm at the picnic shelter and it is free to all kids, families and leaders.

Speaking of leaders, we have some of the best who continually give of their time and talents to work with the clubbers. Please get to know them and reach out to our club directors with questions specific to your children.

Keeping you informed is a top priority so please be looking for monthly newsletters, starting in September. They will arrive via email before the first club night of each month. You will get additional emails occasionally, but I will try to keep that limited. Of course, you can reach out to me at any time during the year with any questions or concerns.

Thank you joining us on a new opportunity as we seek to honor our great God and keeping our eyes on Him in everything we do. We want to build lasting relationship with the clubbers as we partner with each one of you. Our goal is and always has been to reach and disciple kids and that will never change.

Sincerely,

Commander Loren

Cell – 919-897-0046; email – lorengatten@gmail.com

Our Clubs:

Puggles: 2-year-olds

Cubbies: 3–4-year-olds

Sparks: K-2nd grades

T&T: 3rd-5th grades

Trek: 6th-8th grades

The AWANA Night:

Our night is divided into five parts running from 5:00PM – 7:00PM. The layout is below. It may change from time to time on special nights but will always start promptly at 5:00 and will end promptly at 7:00!

Each “segment” is either game time, small group and large group.

5:00 – 5:05 – opening ceremonies.

5:10 – 5:40 – first segment

5:45 – 6:15 – second segment

6:20 – 6:50 – third segment

6:55 – 7:00 – closing ceremonies.

2023 – 2024 Workers List

Loren Gatten – Commander

Jeff Smith - Game Director

Tom Bottoms - Trek Director

Wendy Bottoms – T&T Director

Herb Armstrong – T&T Leader

Johnny Lopez – T&T Leader

Wendy Haines – Sparks Leader

Misty Edwards – Sparks Leader

Steve Donahoe – Sparks Leader

Jackie Moore - Cubbies Director

Scott Holt – Cubbies Leader

Bettie Carpenter- Cubbies Leader

Taylor Smith – Puggles Leader

Kellie Smith – Leader *

Heather Neal – Club Secretary

Connie Flood – Game Director

Angie Donahoe – Trek Leader

Patrick Neal - T&T Leader

Bridget Armstrong – T&T Leader

Robin Neal - Sparks Director

Kyle Edwards -Sparks Leader

Michelle Holt – Sparks Leader

Craig Autry – Sparks leader

Donna Beal - Cubbies Leader

Mary Buchanan - Cubbies Leader

Elizabeth McElreath - Puggles Director

Kay Patterson – Leader *

- - working where needed

Calendar

August – December:

August 20 – Kick Off Night

August 27 – Ice Cream Social Night (starts at 4pm – parents and family please join us)

September 3 - No AWANA - Labor Day

September 10 – Balloon Battle Night

September 17 – Air Raid Night

September 24 – Absolutely Crazy Hat Night

October 1 – Missions Month Kick-Off Night

October 8 – Pastor Pat's Milkshakes Like Nobody's Business Night

October 15 – S'mores Night

October 22 – Leader and Parent Guess Night

October 29 – Trunk or Treat Night (runs from 4:15 - 5)

November 5 – Dear Soldier Night

November 12 – River/Bank Night

November 19 – Are you Smarter than a Clubber Night

November 26 – Crazy Neon Night

December 3 - Christmas Caroling Night (at rest home or at church)

December 10 - Christmas Party Night, AWANA Store #1

December 17, 24, 31 - No AWANA - Christmas\New Year's break

January - April:

January 7 – Mid-Way Night

January 14 – BOLM Food Drive Kick Off Night

January 21 – Guess the Leader Night

January 28 – Hero Night

February 4 – Everything Football Night

February 11 – Super Duper Giant Enormous Colossal Massive

Mammoth Immense Humongous Tremendous Sizeable Gargantuan

Cookie Night

February 18 – Bucket Night

February 25 – Radical Dodgeball Night

March 3 – Leaders and Parents vs Clubbers Night

March 10 – Attempt to Fly a Kite Night (with or without wind)

March 17 – BOLM Food Drive Wrap Up Night

March 24 – Cut Out Cars Night (begins at 3 pm)

March 31 – No AWANA – Easter Sunday

April 7 – Spring Festival Night (3:00 – 5:00 pm)

April 14 – Eighth Grade Party Night

April 21 – Grand Prix Night

April 28 – Final Night, AWANA Store #2, Awards Ceremony

2023 – 2024 Price List

Club	Book	Uniform	Bag/Backpack
Puggles	\$16	\$14	\$13
Cubbies	\$13	\$15	\$8
Sparks	\$13	\$15	\$8
T&T	\$13	\$20	\$16
Trek	\$14	\$19	\$16

In addition to the above items, there are many accessories you can purchase for your child. For items and prices, please see our club secretary. While these items could be purchased yourself, the church receives a 30% discount as a charter member, so we are more than happy to place these orders for you.

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Policies and general information

The AWANA Mission Statement

"To reach kids, equip leaders and change the world for God.". AWANA Website - <http://www.awana.org>

Cost:

There is no cost to attend AWANA other than the books and uniforms. We also collect 25 cents each week as a club due. It is not about the money, but by collecting the quarter each week, we are reinforcing the idea of a tithe, which would be done on a regular basis. All activities are free and open to all families.

Registration:

We offer two forms of registration. The most popular method is online registration. Simply use the link her, scroll down and click on "REGISTER HERE" and it will begin the registration page. It is very simple and quick, but you must use one form for each child.

[AWANA | Turner's Chapel \(turnerschapel.com\)](http://turnerschapel.com)

The other method is paper and those will be included upon request.

Arrival and departing:

For safety reasons, we ask that all parents stay with their child until AWANA begins or until they are with a leader. Please arrive a few minutes before closing to pick them up.

Outings:

Any time clubbers are taken off of the church property or meet outside of the regular club time, parental signatures will be required. We offer a few outings for the older groups, and these are at no or minimal cost. Parents are more than welcome to come on all outings.

Dress code:

We believe in maintaining a high standard with what the clubbers wear but being practical as well. Clubbers are encouraged and expected to wear their uniforms each night unless it is a special theme. Jeans and sweatpants are

fine. In warm weather, shorts are fine, but we only ask that they are not too short, using your discretion. No shirts can be tied up to expose the midriff. Clubbers should wear sneakers or tennis shoes (no flip flops for safety reasons).

Picture taking:

Throughout the year we take pictures, and several pictures of your child may be taken. The sole purpose of these pictures is for an end of the year slideshow that will be presented during the awards presentation. No pictures are shared outside of that.

Discipline:

The single most important theme in AWANA is the Gospel. It cannot be about anything else. The second is discipline. Without it, there is chaos, and the Gospel message gets lost in the chaos. Here, discipline means “to disciple”, and that is our approach.

The three-count is an individual discipline. Clubbers are given a warning (1), sent to the Commander (2), and then depending on how that goes, a call is made to the home (3).

The five count is group discipline and is simply a call to order. Every night begins with the five-count.

There are incentives for good sportsmanship, bringing handbooks and bibles, wearing uniforms, passing sections etc. These include weekly awards, AWANA dollars to be used in the store, recognition, and outings (previously mentioned).

Store:

The AWANA store is held 2 times a year, right before the Christmas and New Year’s break and on the final night of the year, and it allows clubbers to purchase items with their AWANA dollars that they have earned for passing sections. These items include toys, books, games, and other items. Items are new and priced for clubbers to buy. The more they earn, the more they can buy. They can use all of the dollars each time or save them for a future store. Trek is the only group that does not go to the store. They have outings in place of the store.

Awards:

Awards are extremely important, and all clubbers have the chance to earn awards throughout the year. We have weekly awards and then during the final night AWANA, we have our AWANA Awards Ceremony where clubbers will be given their yearly awards. This will be after the AWANA Store.

Home involvement:

Training begins at home with the parents. While we have them for a short period of time, we are simply an extension of that, training them for service for the Lord once they have a personal relationship with Him.

We strongly encourage parental involvement and participation. This includes spending a night or two with your child at AWANA, working with them in their handbooks during the week and joining us on outings. We would also love to have you volunteer helping a child with a verse or wrapping gifts for the Christmas AWANA Store.

Child Protection:

We take the responsibility of providing a safe environment very seriously. We have the very best leaders that anyone could ever ask for. They are driven by a love for all of the clubbers that enter the church. They freely offer their time, talent and energy in the building of relationships. All leaders:

- Have demonstrated a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Have a background check on a regular basis.
- Have a filed application.
- Current members of Turner's Chapel, Connect Church or Cornerstone.
- Regular attendees in the church.
- Six-month waiting period before serving.
- 18 years of age or older.
- Provided references if asked.

It is an awesome responsibility, and we strive to earn the trust you place with us. The complete copy of the child protection policy is available upon request to all parents.

The Ten Standards of Excellence:

1. We reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.
2. We recruit, train, and motivate leaders to serve in the local church.
3. We use positive discipline and maintain order throughout the entire club meeting.
4. We attract children with games and activities.
5. We encourage memorization, understanding, and application of Scripture.
6. We use elements of Large Group Time effectively.
7. We motivate children with incentives.
8. We manage God's resources with faithfulness and integrity.
9. We minister to parents and family members.
10. We magnify the impact of our church's ministry through cooperation with the national AWANA ministry.

The Five Principles of AWANA

1. AWANA is centered on the Gospel.
2. Scripture memory is key.
3. AWANA is exciting and fun.
4. Children and youth are trained to serve.
5. AWANA is built on volunteer leadership.

Pledge to the AWANA Flag

I pledge allegiance to the AWANA Flag which stands for the AWANA Clubs, whose goal is to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

AWANA Prayer

That all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.