



Lawson Baptist Church

AWANA Club Handbook

Club Year 2023-24

“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

Welcome to AWANA

Thank you for your interest in our AWANA club. This is our seventh year of AWANA at Lawson Baptist 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 Christ as families," will only be possible with a strong partnership between the church and the student's parents/guardians. This handbook is intended to keep parents and guardians informed by communicating the most important aspects and details of this ministry.

AWANA Principles

AWANA has been around since 1950 and has grown from a ministry in one church to a ministry that now takes place in over 30,000 churches in 100 countries worldwide reaching over 3 million students each week. 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.

An AWANA ministry:

- is centered on the gospel.
- has high scriptural content
- is fun and engaging for young people
- is built on leadership
- trains children and youth to serve
- strengthens the church/parent partnership

These principles of AWANA are rooted in the idea that children can have fun while learning God's Word. The word AWANA stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed," and comes from 2 Timothy 2:15.

"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

Club Details

Our AWANA club will meet each Wednesday night beginning on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 through Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at Lawson Baptist Church from 6:30-8:00PM. Our club is for children age three (two years before Kindergarten) through students in 6th grade.

Club Structure

The following clubs are offered:

Preschoolers (Age 3-5*)

*Age as of August 1, 2023



Kindergarten-2nd Grade



3rd Grade-6th Grade



Leader Expectations

- AWANA leaders at Lawson Baptist 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 Lawson Baptist Church and uphold all guidelines set forth by the Lawson Baptist Church Child Protection Policy.
- Leaders should be in uniform each night.
- Leaders should wear their name tag to identify themselves as an approved worker.

Parent Expectations

- Parents should bring their child(ren) in each week to the check-in desk between 6:20 and 6:30PM. No children should be dropped off earlier than 6:20PM. Please help your child establish the routine of being on time to club. Once the child is checked in, please take your child to their first rotation location.
- Parents should be at the church to sign-out their children at 8:00PM each week.
- Parents 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 a parent 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!
- Parents should notify director or leaders of special needs, allergies, or physical restrictions.
- Parents 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 with their parents at the check-in desk. 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!
- Clubbers are expected to wear a clean, tidy uniform each week.
- Clubbers are expected to bring their handbook and a pen or pencil each week.
- Clubbers are expected to keep their earned AWANA bucks in a safe place. Lost AWANA bucks will not be replaced.

Discipline

Five-count: Group discipline will be handled with the AWANA Five-count system in which the adult leader counts to five slowly and loudly, while holding one hand in the air and counting with their fingers. Leaders and children must respond by being quiet and still by the count of five.

Three-count: Discipline for an individual child will be handled by the three-count system who continues to misbehave. Generally a verbal warning from the teacher will get a child back on track, but if that does not help remedy the disrespectful or disruptive behavior the following method will be used.

- A “1” count will be given for the first offense. The Leader will identify the behavior that needs to be corrected.
- A “2” count will be given for the second offense and the child will be brought to the club director outside the club room and will be counseled by the leader and club director on the problematic behavior, and then returned to the club when the student is ready.
- A “3” count will be given if the behavior continues and the student will be removed from the activity. The leader and club director will then speak to parents with the student present to discuss behavior, club expectations, and to determine a course of action if the behavior continues.

Cost

As a member of the AWANA club, each student will receive a handbook and uniform 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 club director or secretary and scholarships will be made available. We would never want a student to not be able to attend due to financial reasons. If initial handbooks or uniforms are lost, the clubber’s parents will be responsible for buying replacements. No replacements will be purchased by Lawson Baptist Church.

Uniform Guidelines

Club Uniforms are as follows:

- Cubbies: Blue Cubbies Vest
- Sparks: Red Sparks Vest
- T&T: Club T-Shirt

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 closed toe shoes each week to ensure safety at game time. No flip flops or sandals. Girls are encouraged to not wear skirts or dresses unless wearing shorts or leggings underneath.

Club Schedule/Theme Nights

The 2023-24 AWANA calendar is attached to the end of this handbook. All special events and theme nights are listed on that calendar. We will stay on schedule even if club has to be cancelled some night. Theme nights will not be made up. Theme night participation is optional, but recommended as students can earn AWANA bucks and have FUN!

Nightly Schedule

AWANA Wednesday Night Schedule

	Cubbies Pre-K	Sparks K-2nd	T&T 3&4	5&6
6:20-6:30	ALL CHECK IN AT KIOSK AND REPORT TO FIRST ROTATION			
6:30-7:00	Puppet Show/Snack	Game Time/Snack	Small Group	Large Group
7:00-7:30	Classroom	Large Group	Game Time/Snack	Small Group
7:30-8:00	↓	Small Group	Large Group	Snack/Game Time
8:00	ALL CHECK OUT IN LAST ROTATION LOCATION			

Note: Snack is for 10 minutes at either the beginning or end of game time as indicated above

Check-in/Check-out Procedures

Clubbers must be escorted to the check-in desk each night before club by their parent or guardian. If someone different (other than a parent) will be picking them up, please let the person at check-in know. Check-in is from 6:20-6:30PM. No clubbers can be checked-in any earlier than 6:20. Check-out will occur in their classrooms at 8:00PM as shown on the attached check-out location map. The 5th and 6th grade classes end their night in the sanctuary for games, so they will be checked out there.

Club Scripture

“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 (ESV)

2023-24 Club Year Theme Scripture

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45 (ESV)

AWANA Awards

Cubbies and Sparks will earn badges and jewels 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. In order to complete sections, students will need to bring their book 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 English Standard Version (ESV). This is the version used in the student handbooks.
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.
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.

AWANA Bucks

In addition to the awards that clubbers can earn for their uniforms, Sparks and T&T students will be able to earn AWANA bucks to spend at the AWANA store. AWANA Store nights for the 2023-24 calendar year will be December 13th and May 1st. AWANA bucks can be carried forward after the December store, but all unused bucks at the end of the year will be forfeited. Cubbies will not participate in store nights but will receive a prize on store nights. Clubbers will receive physical, paper bucks for memory verses and at the teacher's discretion for positive behavior and at game time by the game director. All other bucks will be tracked electronically by their small group leaders and given to them on the night of store. All paper bucks that the student earns should be kept in a safe place and are their responsibility. We will not replace any lost AWANA bucks.

Clubbers can earn bucks as follows:

1 Buck	Weekly Attendance
1 Buck	Wear Uniform
1 Buck	Bring Handbook
1 Buck	Bring Bible
1 Buck	Bring Friend
1 Buck	Participate in Theme Night
1 Buck	Recite Memory Verse and Reference
1 Buck	Attend Sunday School or Church
10 Bucks	Clubber of the Month
Varies	Game Time
Varies	Positive Behavior

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 LBC_Children’s Ministries Facebook page, email, church text alert (if subscribed), and on local television channels. NOTE: 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 email and on Facebook. We love Jesus, church, and fellowship, and we DISLIKE cancelling, so if we think we can have church we will. Many of us live in town and we understand that those who don’t often face much different road conditions. As ALWAYS, you should make the decision about whether or not you can safely come.

Other Lawson Baptist Church Programs/Services

If you do not have a home church, we would love for you to join us for our other services and activities.

Sunday Mornings

- 8:45AM Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00AM Worship Service
 - Children's Church offered for children ages 4 through 2nd grade
 - Nursery/Toddler Room Available

Sunday Evenings

- 5:00PM Bible Quizzing Practice (11-19 year olds)
- 6:00PM Discipleship Training/Small Groups
 - Nursery Available
 - Youth Bible Study
 - Team JAM (Jesus and Me) Children's Ministry

Wednesday Evenings

- 6:15PM Youth Group (7th-12th graders)
- 6:30PM Adult Bible Study
 - Nursery Available

Thank you for reviewing this handbook. If you have any questions anytime during the year, please contact Heather Johnson, AWANA Club Director, at by cell at 816-590-3240 or email at wearethejohnsons300@gmail.com.

2023-2024 LAWSON BAPTIST CHURCH AWANA CALENDAR AND THEME NIGHTS

9/6	AWANA Kick-off Night-Celebrate a new year with hot dogs, ice cream bars, and a game of kick-ball!
9/13	Bring a Friend Night-Earn One AWANA Buck for each new friend you bring
9/20	I want to be a....nurse, teacher, doctor, pastor, or maybe even an AWANA leader! Dress up as what you want to be one day!
9/27	Sports Night-dress in your favorite sport attire or wear gear supporting your favorite team!
10/4	Pastor Appreciation Night-Bring Pastor Jesse, Pastor Jacob, and Pastor Bill gifts or notes of encouragement
10/11	Operation Christmas Child Night #1-Bring a personal hygiene item
10/18	Operation Christmas Child Night #2-Bring a new, small toy
10/25	Operation Christmas Child Night #3-Bring school supplies
11/1	Operation Christmas Child Night #4-Bring your piggy bank change to help mail the shoe boxes
11/8	Patriotic Night-Dress in Red, White, and Blue in honor of Veteran's Day
11/15	Crazy Sock Night- Wear your craziest socks to club.
11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK-NO AWANA CLUB
11/29	Dodgeball Night-Play dodgeball during game time
12/6	PJ Night-Wear your comfiest pajamas
12/13	AWANA Store Night #1-Spend your earned AWANA bucks
12/20	Happy Birthday Jesus!-Dress in festive Christmas attire and we will celebrate our Savior's birth
12/27	CHRISTMAS BREAK-NO AWANA CLUB
1/3	CHRISTMAS BREAK-NO AWANA CLUB
1/10	Happy New Year 2023! Welcome back to the second half of club!
1/17	HALFWAY THERE- Celebrating week 16 in our handbooks! Halfway to completion!
1/24	Measles Night-Leaders get a dot sticker for every verse a student in their group says
1/31	Chocolate Night-Earn chocolate for the verses you say from memory
2/7	I must-ache you if you know Jesus! Wear a mustache tonight!
2/14	PJ Night-Wear your comfiest pajamas
2/21	Tie Dye Night-Wear tie dye apparel
2/28	This place is a ZOO-Bring your favorite stuffed animal tonight
3/6	Do-nut forget that Jesus Loves You! Enjoy a donut at snack time.
3/13	Hat Night-Wear your favorite hat
3/20	Wear your Club Colors! Cubbies wear blue. Sparks wear red. T&T wears green and/or purple.
3/27	Dodgeball Night 2.0-Play dodgeball during game time
4/3	Bubble Gum Night-Earn Bubble Gum for verses said
4/10	Crazy Hair-How crazy can you style your hair?
4/17	Tropical Night-Grass skirts, tropical shirt, colorful leis-Wear your tropical attire as we look forward to summer!
4/24	Teacher Appreciation Night-Show your teachers how much you appreciate them!
5/1	AWANA Store Night #2-Spend your earned AWANA bucks
5/8	Family Night Celebration/AWANA End of Year Awards