

Turner's Chapel



AWANA Parent  
Handbook  
2025-2026

## **From the Commander:**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2025-26 AWANA Year, beginning on August 17, 2025. This marks the twenty-ninth year that the Lord has equipped us to have an AWANA club.

We are so excited your children are coming to the club and the partnership with you. If this is your first year or you have been with us for many years, we are so thankful for the opportunity to work with your children.

Our goal of reaching and discipling remains the same and always will. What adds to that is parental involvement. It is so vastly important. Please join us any night you choose and participate in our many activities and theme nights throughout the year.

One of those activities is the annual Ice Cream Social on our second night, August 24 at the picnic shelter, starting at 3:45. We will have multiple flavors of ice cream, toppings and refreshments. It is completely free and is a great time of fellowship before club.

Beginning in September, you will receive monthly newsletters to highlight the upcoming month and other pertinent information. We seek to keep you informed as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time if you want to talk or meet.

We have the very best leaders we could ask for. Please get to know them and feel free to address any concerns and questions to the club director. You will also receive quarterly updates from them for more club specific information.

We are looking forward to another amazing journey with many memories to be made and lives impacted. We are so grateful to our awesome God who made this possible and chooses to use people who are willing to be used and then watch Him work.

Sincerely,

Commander Loren

Cell – 919-897-0046; email – [lorengatten@gmail.com](mailto:lorengatten@gmail.com)

## **Our Clubs:**

Puggles: 2-year-olds

Cubbies: 3–4-year-olds

Sparks: K-2nd grade

T&T: 3rd-5th grade

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 we will always strive to start promptly at 5:00 and end promptly at 7:00!

Each “segment” is game time, small group (handbook time) or large group (council time).

5:00 – 5:05 – opening ceremonies held in the Fellowship Hall

5:10 – 5:40 – first segment

5:45 – 6:15 – second segment

6:20 – 6:50 – third segment

6:55 – 7:00 – closing ceremonies held in the Sanctuary

## **2025 – 2026 Workers List**

Loren Gatten – Commander

Heather Neal – Club Secretary

Jeff Smith - Game Director

Connie Flood – Game Director

Quincy Cubero – Game Leader

Tom Bottoms - Trek Director

Susan Hamann – Trek Leader

Aaron Bishop – Trek Leader

Chad Deese – Trek Leader

Wendy Bottoms – T&T Director

Patrick Neal - T&T Leader

Herb Armstrong – T&T Leader

Johnny Lopez – T&T Leader

Thomas Hamilton – T&T Leader

Chris Runyan – T&T Leader

Emily Saunders – T&T Leader

Becky Bishop – T&T Leader

Kyle Edwards - Sparks Director

Mistry Edwards- Sparks Director

Wendy Haines – Sparks Leader

Jenny Cubero – Sparks Leader

Swannie Lawrence – Sparks Leader

Emily Jones – Sparks Leader

Jackie Moore - Cubbies Director

Donna Baker - Cubbies Leader

Bettie Carpenter – Cubbies Leader

Nickie Runyan – Cubbies Leader

Bethany Smith – Cubbies Leader

Elizabeth McElreath – Puggles Director

Taylor Smith – Puggles Leader

Kay Patterson – Leader \*

Kellie Smith – Leader \*

Jim Inscoe – Leader \*

Robin Neal – Leader \*

Charles Neal – Leader \*

Rebekah Keifer – Leader \*

Rick Keifer – Leader \*

Jacob Jones – Leader \*

\* - working where needed

## **Calendar - (August – December):**

August 17– Kick Off Night

August 24 – Ice Cream Social Night (starts at 3:45 pm – parents and family please join us)

August 31 - No AWANA - Labor Day

September 7 – Extreme, Outrageous, and Epic Dodgeball Night

September 14 – Tug of War Night

September 21 – Nature Scavenger Hunt Night

September 28 – Missionary David Night

October 5 – Incredibly Wacky Hair Night

October 12 – Camp Fire with Perfect S'mores Night

October 19 – Leader and Parent Guess Night

October 26 – Trunk or Treat Night (4:00 – 4:45)

November 2 – Throw Back Night

November 9 – Dear Soldier Night

November 16 – Indoor Race Night

November 23 – Blackout Night

November 30 – AWANA Store #1 Night

December 7 - Christmas Party Night

December 14, 21, 28 - No AWANA - Christmas/New Year's break

## **Calendar – (January – April)**

January 4 – Welcome Back Night

January 11 – BOLM Food Drive Kick Off Night

January 18 – Target Night

January 25 – Leaders and Parents Completely Dominate Clubbers in Games Night

February 1 – Everything Football Night

February 8 – Super Duper Giant Enormous Colossal Massive Mammoth  
Immense Humongous Tremendous Sizeable Gargantuan Substantial  
Monumental Cookie Night

February 15 – Guess Who Night

February 22 – Indoor Snowball Battle Night

March 1 – Attempt to Fly a Kite Night

March 8 – Amazing Race Night

March 15 – BOLM Food Drive Wrap Up Night

March 22 – Cut Out Cars Night (begins at 3 pm)

March 29 – Eighth Grade Party Night

April 5 – No AWANA - Easter

April 12 – Spring Festival Night (begins at 3 pm)

April 19 – Grand Prix Derby Race Night

April 26 – Final Night, AWANA Store #2, Awards Ceremony

**2025 – 2026 Price List**

Club	Book	Uniform	Bag/Backpack
Puggles	\$18	\$14	\$15
Cubbies	\$14	\$16	\$11
Sparks	\$14	\$16	\$11
T&T	\$14	\$21	\$19
Trek	\$15	\$20	\$19

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.

**Policies and general information**

**Cost:**

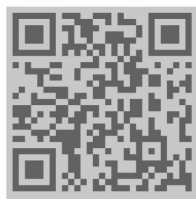
There is no cost to attend AWANA other than the books and uniforms. All activities are free and open to all families.

**Registration:**

Registration is required each year for each child can easily be done online. Simply use either of the links below or the QR code to register your child.

<https://www.turnerschapel.com/awana/>

<https://form.jotform.com/231275513547052>





## **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. At closing your child will need to be signed out with the club director.

## **Events:**

We have many special nights throughout the year that we provide at no cost and as always, parents are more than welcome. Check the calendar section for specific dates and times.

In addition to these, we have specific theme nights each week,

- Ice Cream Social
- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas Party
- BOLM Food Drive
- Lock-in (not on calendar, date TBD)
- Spring Festival
- Grand Prix

## **Outings:**

Any time clubbers are taken off 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.

## **Food:**

We do on occasion provide food and take allergies very seriously, so please make sure that they are noted on the registration form (food or otherwise).

## **Dress code:**

We believe in maintaining a high standard of 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 shirt 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 around 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 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, after the store, we have our AWANA Awards Ceremony where clubbers will be given their yearly awards and the recognition for their hard work.

## **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 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 or Connect Church
- Regular attendees in the church.
- Six-month waiting period before serving.
- 18 years of age or older (unless they are a student leader)
- Provided references if asked.

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

## **AWANA Key Verse and acronym**

**2 Timothy 2:15** – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,<sup>[a]</sup> a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (**A**pproved **W**orkman **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed)

## **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.

## **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 cooperation with the national AWANA ministry.

## **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.