AWANA Parent/Guardian Handbook
September 2026 – May 2027

For Boys & Girls
Ages 3 years(potty trained)-old
thru HS grade

Welcome to AWANA!

Welcome to AWANA Clubs! We are excited to partner with you in helping your child grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. AWANA stands for **"Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed"** based on **2 Timothy 2:15**, and our mission is to help children know, love, and serve Christ.

Our Purpose

AWANA exists to:

- Reach children and families with the Gospel
- Train children to serve Christ in their daily lives
- Build strong biblical foundations through Scripture memorization
- Provide a fun, safe, and encouraging environment

Sign in & out procedures:

Your child(ren) are required to be signed in each club night. A sign in sheet will be located in the gym. Our doors open at 4:30 pm and AWANA activities end at 7:00 pm. Please sign your child(ren) out before picking them up from their classroom.

Children should wait in the classroom until their parents or designated adult picks them up.

Opening Ceremony

Beginning at 5:00 pm we will line-up and proceed to the sanctuary for the Opening Ceremony.

We will recite our Pledges; American, Christian and AWANA

American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Christian: "I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe

AWANA: 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.

Program Structure

AWANA club nights are typically divided into three main segments:

1. Handbook Time

Children work with leaders to:

- Recite Bible verses
- Complete lessons
- Grow in biblical knowledge

Bible verses must be recited to an AWANA leader listener or helper. A Clubber may receive no more than two (2) helps per section. A "help" is defined as giving the missed words (up to 3 words), producing the sound of the first letter of the word, or giving a second chance to correct the scripture reference. Once 2 helps have been offered, the child should restudy the verse and attempt it again.

2. Council Time

Large-group gathering including:

- Bible teaching
- Worship songs
- Announcements and awards

AWANA Council Time / Large group time is a 20 to 30-minute assembly of the specific clubs where children gather to hear a practical, age-appropriate Bible lesson. Typically led by club directors or guest speakers, this segment aims to reinforce biblical truths and character development through interactive stories or videos

3. Game Time

High-energy games that:

- Build teamwork
- Encourage participation
- Provide fun physical activity

AWANA game time is an energetic, structured recreation segment during weekly church club meetings. It centers around the unique AWANA Game Square—a large circle outlined by four distinct colors (red, blue, green, and yellow). We also incorporate some fun traditional games and co-operative games and fun The goal is to build teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendships while teaching the values of community and discipleship

---

Special Nights

This year we will have some special nights:

- Movie Night
- AWANA Grand Prix (non club night)
- Biblical character night (end of October)
- Happy Birthday Jesus
- Sports Jersey Night
- AWANA Store Nights (3)
- Awards assembly

Club Levels

Our church's AWANA program, includes the following clubs:

Cubbies (Ages 3 – 5 Years)

Sparks (K – 2nd Grade)

Truth & Training (3rd – 5th Grade)

Trek **Trek (6th – 8th Grade)**

JOURNEY **Journey (High School)**

Meeting Information

Club Night: Sundays
Time: 5:00–7:00 PM
Location: First Baptist Church Rockville

Please arrive on time and pick up your child promptly.

Registration & Fees

- Registration forms must be completed before participation
- Fees may include:
  - Uniform costs
  - Handbook costs
  - Registration
  - Bags (optional)

If you have more than three children, please see the AWANA Director

Uniforms

Uniforms are an important part of AWANA. They help:

- Promote unity
- Encourage achievement recognition
- Build club identity

Requirements:

- Uniforms should be worn each club night
- Awards and patches are earned and displayed on uniforms

Attendance & Participation

Regular attendance is highly encouraged to:

- Stay on track with handbook progress
- Build friendships

- Fully engage in club activities

If your child will be absent, please notify a leader if possible.

Behavior Expectations

We aim to create a respectful, safe, and fun environment.

Children are expected to:

- Follow leader instructions
- Treat others with kindness and respect
- Participate positively (keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself)
- Clubber should wear appropriate shoes for game time
- Clubbers are to wait for escorts when moving to game time
- Clubbers need to ask for permission when leaving the room

Discipline Policy

If issues arise, we will:

5-Count Discipline

Awana's approach to crowd-control is known as the five count. When a leader needs the clubbers' attention, he or she will hold up five fingers and audibly count from one to five. By the count of five, we expect all clubbers to be quiet with their hands to themselves and to be paying full attention to the adult in charge. If a clubber does not respond to the five count, his/her leader will proceed to what is known as the three count.

3-Count Discipline

1. One Count: This Is a warning given by the leader to the clubber
2. Two Count: If the clubber does not respond to the warning, he/she will be taken to the Director who will issue the two count. When a clubber receives the two count, he/she will sit out the rest of the club night.
3. Three Count: Take further action if behavior continues and Inform parents if needed

---

Safety & Security

Your child's safety is a top priority.

- All leaders are trained and screened

- A secure check-in/check-out system may be used
- Children will only be released to authorized adults

Emergency Procedures

- First aid kits are available
- Parents will be contacted immediately in case of emergency

Health & Medical Needs

Please inform us of:

- Allergies
- Medical conditions
- Special needs

Provide clear instructions and necessary medications if required. If your clubber uses an epi pen, please give it to the club director.

Awards & Recognition

Children are rewarded for:

- Scripture memorization
- Handbook completion
- Participation and attendance

Awards may include:

- Patches
- Pins
- Trophies (end-of-year recognition)

Parent/Guardian Involvement

We encourage parents to:

- Help children memorize verses at home
- Review handbook sections together
- Stay informed about upcoming events

- Pray for the program

Volunteers and Volunteer Opportunities:

Our volunteers are FBCR members and parents who are passionate about investing in the lives of children. They play an important role by helping with Bible memorization, listening as children recite their verses, and encouraging their spiritual growth. Volunteers build meaningful relationships with the kids, helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus, praying with them, and supporting their individual abilities.

In addition, volunteers assist with club management to ensure everything runs smoothly and effectively.

To ensure the safety of everyone involved, we use *Ministry Mobilizer* to complete background checks for all volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Rudy Hewitt, Ministry Director**.

Communication

Stay connected through:

- Email updates
- Church announcements
- Social media or apps (if applicable)

Rudy Hewitt
AWANA Ministry Director
rudyawana@firstbaptistrockville.org
240-482-7128

Pastor Donald Boyd
Associate Pastor
240-893-5001
dboyd@firstbaptistrockville.org

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” (Deuteronomy 31:8)