



August 2019

Dear Parents,

We are very pleased to have your child as part of AWANA this year. Our team members are looking forward to partnering with you to teach God's Word to your child. AWANA is committed to introducing children to Jesus Christ, starting them on a lifelong relationship with Him, and equipping them to know, love, and serve Jesus through fun, Scripture-rich experiences and relationships with others.

Awana begins for 2019-2020 on August 28, 2019. This year, we will begin with a Fair in our front parking lot (weather permitting). We hope you will come with your child to complete registration, meet your child's room leaders, meet other parents, and have a fun kick off evening together.

This year we are **adjusting the time of Awana**. For 2019-2020, Awana will **begin at 6:30pm** and **end at 8pm**. Team members will be ready to receive your child starting at 6:15pm. Please pick your child up no later than 8:15pm. We hope this slight adjustment will be helpful on school nights.

As we begin a new year together, here are a few things you need to know (and do).

Registration

Each child must be registered to be part of AWANA at First Alliance Church. There are two ways you can register your child(ren). Visit FACToccoa.com/awana and click the **Register** button. Complete the online form, and your child will be ready to go. You can register all the children in your family with one form. Or complete the registration form when you bring your child the first night, but we would strongly encourage you to use the online option from your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Registration provides us with information about your child, your contact information, and some other essential information so we can ensure the safety and well-being of your child. We do not share this information with any outside parties.

Calendar

Throughout the year, we have special theme nights and events. Theme nights usually have the opportunity for your child to earn extra shares (rewards). You can access the calendar at

any time online at FACToccoa.com/awana. Copies of the calendar will be available on the first night, and reminders will be given throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION & UPDATES

We want to continue to do better at communicating important news and various reminders to you. One way is to be sure we have an email address that you check regularly as part of your child's registration. The other way will be through our **Awana Parent Text Line**. Text the word *Awana* to 706-391-4587 to be added to this. If you don't get a response, please check the keyword and try again. If you signed up for the text line last year, you will need to do it again for this year as all names were removed at the end of last year's Awana clubs.

PARENT PARTNERS

Parent Partners is an invitation for you to spend one or two evenings each semester with your child as part of their group and the Awana experience (large group, small groups, and games) that evening. We want to partner with you in the spiritual development of your child and help you understand what they are doing each Wednesday at Awana. You can come and observe or be involved. Our room leaders will seek to involve you as much as you are comfortable, but we would, at the very least, encourage you to be involved with your child during small group/book time. On the registration form is a place for you to indicate your willingness and availability. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. This is open to all parents/guardians of all kids.

Dues

Part of being an AWANA clubber is participation through dues. These dues are to help defray the costs of the extras, such as parties, candy, awards, and other special events. Dues are \$2.00/month or \$15.00 for the entire year paid at the beginning. In addition, your child will receive shares for dues. We recognize that some families cannot fit this extra into their budget, therefore we have not made this mandatory at First Alliance Church so that no one is prevented from being part of AWANA. But, if you can, we certainly appreciate it.

Books

Each child needs a handbook to fully participate in AWANA. As part of our investment in children, First Alliance Church does not require families to pay for the \$11.00 handbook, however any contribution toward your child's book is greatly appreciated. If your child loses his/her book, then we do ask that families cover the entire cost to replace it.

Uniforms

Uniforms are an important part of the AWANA experience. Whether a vest or a jersey, it gives the clubbers a feeling of belonging and identity, as well as a way for your child to display the

awards they earn throughout the year. Each Club within AWANA has a different uniform, and we suggest that you purchase a size that will last your child throughout their time in that particular Club.

Uniforms may be purchased as follows:

- T&T Jersey (Youth size 10, 12, 14, Adult size S, M, L) \$20.00
- Sparks Vest (Youth M-8, L-10, XL-12, XXL-14) \$15.00
- Cubbies Vest (Youth S, M, L, XL, XXL) \$15.00
- Puggles Shirt (2T - 6T) \$10.00

If your child needs a uniform, you can order it on the first night. However, if your child is new, then they will not receive their uniform item until they have completed the Start Zone orientation. This usually takes a few weeks.

Payment

In addition to cash or check made out to First Alliance Church and marked *Awana* with your child's name, you can also pay any dues or fees electronically using our online giving portal. Go to FACToccoa.com/awana and click on the **PAY ONLINE** button. Enter the amount you need to pay. You can use either a credit card or your bank account. In the **Note/Memo** field at the bottom, enter your child's name and what you are paying for. For example: *Sally Jones - Monthly Dues and Vest* or *Johnny Doe - Yearly Dues*. You do not have to set up an account to do this, and your financial information is secure. Please note that this is not tax deductible.

INVITING FRIENDS

AWANA is a great opportunity for your child to invite their friends from school to come and be with their friends while learning about Jesus. This year, we want to help kids express their faith in Jesus and invite their friends. One aspect of this is that we will be providing "invite cards" for kids to give to their friends. Will you encourage your child to do that, and pray with them about friends they could invite, especially friends who don't have a church they are part of? Would you also please work with them to pick up their friend and bring them. You could even add your phone number on the invite card so the friend's parent/guardian could give you a call. Or if there are kids in your neighborhood who do not attend church anywhere, would you invite them and help them get to AWANA? Thanks! But, remember, we need those friend's parents to also complete a registration form.

SAFETY, DROP-OFF, & PICK-UP

We are thrilled to have your child as part of AWANA. Because you hand over responsibility of your child to us, we take steps to ensure that your child is cared for throughout the night and is safely returned to you at the end of the evening. With this in mind, First Alliance Church has the following release policy:

Workers are not to release a child to a teenager or adult without complete certainty that the parents or parents' representative is receiving the child. All children are to be held in their room until picked up.

This policy applies to all children involved with AWANA. When you drop your child off on Wednesday nights, they will need to check in. There will be someone(s) at the upper doors to the Family Life Center with a check-in list for Sparks and T&T each night. Cubbies and Puggles will continue to be dropped off at their room in the Worship Center building. Awana begins at 6:30pm. **We cannot receive your child any earlier than 6:15pm on Wednesdays.**

At the end of the night, you will need to come and pick your child up in person. Spark and T&T clubbers can be picked up in person at FLC 212. Puggles and Cubbies can be picked up at their respective room. If someone other than a parent/guardian will be picking up your child, you can let us know who that will be when you register your child. **Once you have picked up your child, you are responsible to monitor them for their safety. Our team members cannot turn your child over to an older brother/sister or any other representative without first receiving your permission, nor will children be released to go find their parents or to play.** We ask for your cooperation in not allowing your child to go to the Fellowship Hall where youth group is taking place, and that your child not run around the parking lot where cars are. Thank you for your cooperation as we attempt to keep your child, and all the children, safe and accounted for.

As a reminder, AWANA ends at 8pm each evening. **Please pick up your child no later than 8:15pm** so our team members can finish cleaning up and head home.

Questions

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to us or your clubber's leader. We are looking forward to a great AWANA year and trust you will keep this ministry in your prayers. Again, you can visit FACToccoa.com/awana for news, information, and forms.

Sincerely in Christ,

Jack McLaughlin
AWANA Commander



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connect. grow. engage. together.