



## Welcome to AWANA!

We are glad that you have decided that Karmel Covenant Church is a place where your child can grow in the Lord. We are sure that our AWANA club will be a place of learning and excitement that will have a positive influence on your child. The AWANA program is divided into several age groups that range from children age 3 through grade 5.

AWANA offers several opportunities for your child to grow spiritually through Scripture memorization and a basic understanding of biblical principles and doctrines. AWANA also provides an opportunity for children to learn to compete as a team and not just as individuals. They will learn to win and lose with a proper attitude of fair play and sportsmanship.

We ask for your support in encouraging your child to complete their handbook materials prior to each club meeting. This way we will have the time to show them how to apply what they learn to their everyday lives.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to work with and minister to your child- it is a trust and responsibility that we do not take lightly.

**Please “Like” our Karmel Covenant Church Facebook page as well as our Karmel Awana page. We will be posting reminders about special nights for AWANA, as well as updates or cancellations as needed.**

Love in Christ,  
Karmel Covenant Church

## **The History of AWANA**

Since 1950, AWANA has grown from a one-church program into a ministry that includes more than 6,500 churches in the United States and another 1,300 in more than 80 countries world-wide. Local churches reach hundreds of thousands of young people every week by using the AWANA program. The goal of AWANA is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. Karmel Covenant Church has been a part of the AWANA program since 1986.

The word AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, and comes from 2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

AWANA is a fun and exciting way for children to learn Scripture and it works!

## **Pledges**

### **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.

### **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 Verse**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

## **What We Expect From Our Leaders**

### Requirements:

- A leader must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- A leader must have a desire to work with and compassion for children.
- A leader must have a background check and be trained in our Safe Child Policy
- Leaders must attend Karmel for 3 months prior to volunteering in our youth programs (per our safe child policy)

### Expectations:

- We expect our leaders to be on time.
- We expect our leaders to follow the rules.
- We expect our leaders to display a proper attitude before the clubbers and other leaders.
- We expect our leaders to pray for our Club on a regular basis.
- We expect our leaders to realize AWANA is not just another program, but it is a ministry of the church, and a place of service to God.

## **Verse Expectations: T&T and Sparks**

Leaders will expect Awana children to say each section without looking at (reading from) their book with a maximum of TWO helps.

Children will be allowed to look at their books and/or practice their sections with their leaders prior to saying the section without help.

If a child is unable to say their verse(s) with these supports, the leader will not sign off on that section. The child will be given the opportunity to say their section again the following week (again with a max of two helps) to have it signed off by their leader.

It is essential for leaders to be encouraging of the children in their groups, acknowledging and recognizing their individual differences in learning styles, abilities, and support at home. Leaders will give positive support and encouragement to all children in their groups and support them, within these guidelines, to learn their verses. Leaders will seek support of their group director and commanders for support in helping their children or receiving extra support in their groups.

Leaders will be consistent with these expectations in order for each child to receive the same support by their leaders, whichever group they are in.

## **What We Expect From Parents**

- Always encourage your child. Children have much more fun when mom and dad show interest in their accomplishments.
- Help children to attend AWANA every week and to arrive on time, as consistency builds friendships, achievement and self-discipline.
- During the week, help your child prepare at least two sections (Cubbies, one verse). This will ensure they will complete their handbook and will receive their special awards, plus they will qualify for other AWANA activities.
- Bring your child on time to Awana! For T & T kids earning shares for being on time, the cut-off is when the doors to the multi-purpose room close. So, be sure to be in here and in the multi-purpose room ready for the flag ceremony to begin.
- Attend all major events. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to attend special events as a way of showing your support and approval for your child's accomplishments.
- Please review the discipline guidelines in this handbook with your child. AWANA has very few rules of behavior, but in order to ensure that all clubbers have an opportunity to learn and have fun, some rules of behavior will be enforced.
- If your child needs to be excused from participating in Game Time, please send a note to that effect to their leader; otherwise, they will be expected to participate with all other clubbers in all activities.

### **Costs/Fees**

- Dues are 50 cents per child, not to exceed \$1.00 per family (per week).
- You will receive a note telling you the cost of your books and vests.
- Book/vest fees can be given to the leaders at check-in.

If payment is a concern for you, please talk to one of the leaders.

## **AWANA Expectations & Guidelines**

1. **Come directly into the church and remain inside.** No running or playing outside unless the Game Directors instruct you to. This is because there are many cars coming in and out of the parking lot and we do not want anyone to get hurt.
2. **Check-in at registration immediately when you get to Awana.** Please do not come to Awana before 6:25, unless you are with your parents who are leaders or you have come for the weekly family meal.
3. Sparks and T&T go directly to the multi-purpose room after checking in. Cubbies should go to the Cubbie room. There should be no running or playing in the hallways during club time.
4. A 3 warning system will be used each night to quiet an individual child. If a child receives 3 warnings, they will miss game time that night. Please see Discipline Policy. Large groups may also receive warnings and have consequences for not obeying.
5. Children are expected to engage in appropriate behavior while at club. We expect that you treat others with kindness and respect. We expect that you will not swear or use inappropriate language. We expect that you will not hurt other clubbers physically and keep your hands to yourself.
6. See Karmel Wellness Policy regarding whether you should attend Awana based on illness. Besides related to COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that you follow the "school rule" regarding attending Awana when it comes to communicable diseases, vomiting/diarrhea, fever, etc.
7. Flag Ceremony. Please check to see if it is your turn so you can be ready as soon as the opening whistle blows. Please be respectful; do not let the flags touch the floor. Use both hands to hold the flag.
8. Please stay with your leader & group, walking through the halls, as you move between areas during club.
9. Be responsible. Keep track of your books, backpack and shares.

10. T & T CLUB: You will receive 1 share for being on time and 1 share for bringing your Bible and handbook. You must have both your Bible and handbook to receive that share. T & T store will be held twice each Awana year!
11. **Dismissal:** Club is over at 8:00 p.m. Parents, please be on time to pick up your children and come into the building to pick them up. Cubbies will be dismissed from the Cubbie room. Sparks and T&T will be dismissed from the multipurpose room.
12. Have a fun, safe, and happy year!

### **Cell Phone/Electronics Policy**

We request that you do not send cell phones or other electronic devices with your children. If it is problematic to you to not send a cell phone with your child, please communicate with the club director. If your child will need a cell phone with them, it is our expectation the phone will be put away while at Awana. If your child takes out their phone and does not obey when asked to put it away, we reserve the right to retain the phone for the remainder of the night. The cell phone or device will be given back to parents at pick-up time.

## **Discipline Policy**

Discipline will be handled on a nightly and monthly basis. Leaders will be clear to children what constitutes a warning.

Week 1- If you receive 3 warnings, the child will miss out on game time.

Week 2- If you receive 3 warnings, the child will miss out on game time and will have a note sent home to parents.

Week 3- If you receive 3 warnings, the child will miss out on game time, your parent will be called, and either:

A: A parent will take the child home

B: A parent will stay with the child for the remainder of the club time

The weekly warning system starts new each month. For example, if week one of October you get your warnings and miss game time, do well for the next three weeks, and the first week in November you receive your warnings again, you will not get a note sent home.

We want each child to feel successful in Awana. We want them to experience each aspect of our night and participate to the fullest. We also do not want the behavior of one child to interfere with the learning of other children. If behavior becomes a problem, it is our leaders' biblical duty to discipline a child according to our policy.

If your child has a special concern or disability related to learning, attention, emotional regulation, or behavior, please let your leader know. We will work with you and your child in every way possible for your child to be successful at Awana.

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment.

Proverbs 22:9 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

## **AWANA CANCELLATION POLICY**

In the event of questionable weather, our cancellation policy is as follows:

If EITHER Cambridge (Dist. 911) OR Princeton (Dist. 17) Schools are closed, have early dismissal, or cancel evening activities due to weather conditions, there will be NO AWANA.

The decision to have club or cancel club will be made by leadership at Karmel by 5:00 p.m. at the latest. Because it is difficult to make sure everyone is contacted by phone, the following measures will be taken to try to alert you of the cancellation:

- An email will be sent out through the Karmel Covenant prayer chain
- **We will post the notification on our Karmel Covenant Facebook Page and Karmel Awana Page (Please Like!)**
- Commanders and AWANA Directors will post the status update on Facebook

### **Any Questions:**

T & T Director: Danyon Sommers 763-245-3265

Sparks Director: Jill Bratvold 763-300-2336

Cubbies Directors: Betsy Standlee (209-817-5884) Shirley Tonn(763-286-8259)

Awana Administrator: Ehlan Thompson 612-868-4652

Karmel Christian Education Chair: Dave Standlee 715-205-5864

Karmel Pastor of Youth & Children: Kohl Hanson 507-250-7163