

Cornerstone Baptist Church



Leading Children to **Know, Love** and **Serve** Jesus Christ



Parent Handbook 2024-2025

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CORNERSTONENC.ORG/AWANA



CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST

200 Clearview Road
Cleveland, NC 27013

704-278-0407

office@cornerstonenc.org

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WELCOME TO AWANA AT CBC!!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are very excited to welcome your children to our Awana Club at Cornerstone Baptist Church. God is using this ministry to reach children with the message of the gospel. We love being a part of what God is doing in the hearts and lives of children!

You and your child are extremely important to us, and we have a great desire to minister to your child through this program. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of your child's spiritual development. We strive to provide an environment where your child will feel loved and accepted as we challenge him/her in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This parent handbook is designed to give you all the information you will need to have a successful year. In order for your child to get the most out of Awana, he/she will need your help in completing sections and attending club regularly.

Our prayer is that your child(ren) will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to working together with you to achieve this goal.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about our Awana program. We look forward to ministering to your child and pray it will be a positive experience for him/her.

In His Service,

Kelly Fero
Children's Ministry Director
steppingstones@cornerstonenc.org

Awana Ministry Team
Church Office: 704-278-0407
office@cornerstonenc.org



WHAT IS AWANA?

For over 70 years, Awana has been a leader in children’s ministry, equipping churches and parents worldwide to raise children to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Awana is a program for children ages 2 through 6th grades that incorporates Bible teaching and scripture memorization with tons of fun.

Cornerstone Baptist Church has participated in the Awana Ministry since 1997.





The acronym Awana is derived from the first letters of “Approved workmen are not ashamed” as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15:

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The Awana program is based on the concept of children learning about God by learning God’s Word in a regular and systematic manner. Each club has age-appropriate handbooks for you and your clubber to work on together. Clubbers are rewarded for remembering God’s Word as they recite their verses with their club leaders on a weekly basis.

Think of Awana this way: it’s like a combination of scripture memory from Bible drills, along with the incentives of Scouts, with the fun and excitement of VBS! Awana truly is a unique program and nothing short of experiencing it can tell what it is really like!

We offer the following programs:

	Ages 2 (by Aug 31) - 3
	Ages 3 (by Aug 31) – 5 years old
	Kindergarten – 2 nd grade
	3 rd – 6 th grade

Our prayer is that all children throughout the world will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT HAPPENS AT AN AWANA MEETING?

We create a fun and exciting atmosphere to learn in by dividing our meetings into 4 main parts:

- **OPENING TIME:** We start each club meeting in several exciting ways– always including prayer. Some weeks we enjoy praise and worship led by the Youth Praise Team, we celebrate monthly birthdays, and some weeks we open with pledges to the American Flag and the Bible. We always celebrate our clubber’s accomplishments by announcing any awards that have been earned.
- **HANDBOOK TIME:** For clubbers to progress in their handbooks and earn awards by memorizing God’s Word and by completing activities.
- **LARGE GROUP TIME:** All clubs are presented with an age-appropriate Bible message.
- **GAME TIME:** A fast-paced, high-energy time of fun.

IS THERE A COST?

Optional, but greatly appreciated! If you would like to financially support our club, we gladly accept donations. Cash or check donations may be turned into Kelly Fero, Children's Ministry Director, or Carey Brown, Ministry Assistant, or online donations can be made at www.cornerstonenc.org/give. Click on Give Now. Then select “Donate” on the Awana Tile.

WHY UNIFORMS?

Wearing Awana uniforms help with unity and team spirit. They are designed to be the perfect place to display the awards that your child will earn. **Information about award placement can be found in the back of your child’s handbook.**



You may view these uniforms at www.awana.org/shop for sizing information.

REGISTRATION

Registration is on-going throughout the Awana year. Awana does follow the school year and runs from August through May, so we highly encourage registration at the beginning of the Awana year.

All children who participate in Awana Clubs at Cornerstone **MUST** complete **online registration** at www.cornerstonenc.org/awana. All visitors will be asked to register if they have attended 3 or more club meetings. All returning clubbers need to complete registration each club year.

WHAT ARE DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES?

Awana promptly begins at 6:30 pm and ends at 8:00 pm every Wednesday unless otherwise noted on the Awana Calendar.

DROPPING-OFF:

- AWANA BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 6:30! Please have your children arrive between 6:15 pm and 6:30 pm **and accompany them** to their class location as listed below.
 - Puggles & Cubbies: Report to their assigned classroom.
 - Sparks & T&T (K-6th graders): Report to the front of the Sanctuary for Pre-Awana activities.
- ***Please allow enough time (ie, BEFORE 6:30 pm!) to have children use the restroom and wash hands prior to the start of club.***

PICKING-UP: "CAR LINE"

- Please get into the "car line" when you arrive to pick-up your child(ren).
- Starting at 8:00 pm, our Awana Team will bring your children out to you in your car.
- If you are picking up a large family or carpooling a couple of families, you will be instructed to park in order to keep the line moving and give you time not to rush through buckling up all the kids.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING EACH WEEK?

- BIBLE for Sparks and T&T groups only
- CLUB HANDBOOK (or Entrance Brochure) (exception: T&T Remix Clubbers)
- UNIFORM (exception: T&T Remix clubbers)
- BAG: We ask that you provide your child with a bag to store their Bible, handbook, papers, and crafts. Please make sure their name is written clearly on the outside of the bag. ** Please be sure to check your child's bag each week for their activities and important notes.**
- TENNIS SHOES! It is very important for your child to wear tennis shoes due to the nature of Game Time.
- NON-LEAKING WATER BOTTLE with their name on it: ***Puggles and Cubbies only.***

AWARDS

The Awana curriculum is fun, but it is also a lot of work! As such, we like to award and reward our clubbers for their achievements:

Uniform Awards: After reaching specific milestones in their handbook, clubbers in Cubbies, Sparks, and Traditional T&T are presented with awards which attach to their uniform. Most patch awards are peel n'stick and do not require sewing. T&T Remix awards are "dog tags" to be added to their lanyard rings.

Book Awards: At our End-of-Year Awards Ceremony, book awards are presented to all clubbers who have completed a handbook or met their requirements this year.

END-OF-YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

In May, we recognize all clubbers. It is our goal that all clubbers complete one handbook during the Awana year. Clubbers earn various book awards from ribbons to plaques to trophies. Clubbers that are unable to complete a handbook by the end of the Awana year are still recognized for being an active member of the club.

CLUB RULES FOR CLUBBERS

- Please be prompt! Club starts at 6:30 pm!
- All Clubbers are expected to follow the **SHINE Rules** which are consistent within our Children's Ministry program.
 - ⚙ **S:** Sit, stand, and walk quietly and calmly
 - ⚙ **H:** Hands and body are kept to yourself
 - ⚙ **I:** Involved in the lesson or class activity
 - ⚙ **N:** No talking when it is someone else's turn, especially the teacher
 - ⚙ **E:** Everyone remembers the golden rule: Treat others the way you would like to be treated!
- "5-Count": Is used to get attention. When an Awana leader begins the 5-count everyone should stop what they are doing and pay attention to what is said or to the directions given.
- "3-Count": If a clubber is disrespectful or disruptive to the club, the following procedure will occur:
 - ☹ 1-count: Verbal warning
 - ☹ 2-count: Clubber will be taken aside by their leader to find out if the clubber has a problem that needs attention or prayer and to offer suggestions for better behavior.
 - ☹ 3-count: If a clubber is being consistently disruptive; is unable to be re-directed; or is being extremely disrespectful to their club-mates or leaders they will be taken to the Children's Ministry Director who will call parents to pick up their child for the rest of the club night.
- VALUE YOUR HANDBOOK and UNIFORM!

HANDBOOK REQUIREMENTS – General Info

Handbooks are an essential part of the Awana program. Every club has its own set of handbooks, and every clubber should be working to complete their handbook before the end of the year.

Any time a child enters a new club, the first thing they must do is complete an entrance booklet (except T&T). Once completed, usually in 1 to 3 weeks, the clubber will receive their uniform and handbook.

All handbooks (even the entrance booklets) are divided into sections. Clubbers should study their sections at home during the week, and at their next Awana meeting a leader will sit with them one-on-one and review their sections. When a clubber completes a section, the leader will sign off that section.



Most sections involve memorizing Bible verses. Clubbers should be memorizing these verses (including the verse reference) **AT HOME** and must recite these verses from memory when reviewing sections with a leader.

The leader is allowed to give the clubber two "helps" per section (not per verse).

A "help" would be 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 that verse and attempt it at a later date.

All verses in a section must be recited in a single sitting in order to complete that section.

We want your child to succeed! If your child has a learning differences or other challenges that keep them from being able to participate and make progress in Awana, please ask to speak to the children's ministry director who will be glad to work with you on modifications for your child. We help the children a lot and often give them the benefit of the doubt, providing they are willing to just try.

Please don't stress if your child gets behind, just keep working with them. While we do reward and encourage scripture memorization, any amount of scripture that is truly learned and hidden in their heart will benefit your child for their lifetime! We would much rather our clubbers really know the verses, know what the verses mean, and how to apply them to their life, than for them to ramble off words that have no meaning to them! Therefore, we recommend that parents assist and encourage their child in learning their weekly verse, but not to the point of stress. Family is a child's first and best place for Biblical instruction! Who else knows how this verse applies to the individual child better than a parent? Learning God's Word should be an enjoyable and positive childhood memory, not a drudgery or conflict.



PUGGLES "NEED TO KNOW"

Puggles recognizes the learning ability of 2-3 year-olds by introducing biblical truths at church and equipping parents to teach them at home. Puggles introduces young children to what they need to know most about God and His love and communicates the four Big Truths from the Bible that form a strong first impression of God, His love for us, and our response to His love. Children will learn the Big Truths and the Bible verses that go with them. The four Big Truths Puggles will learn are: God Made Everything, God is Great, God Loves Us and We Give Thanks.

In Puggles, children are welcomed each week with play time, simple crafts, and activities. Your Puggles Leaders present age-appropriate lessons using large, colorful teaching cards, music and more.





CUBBIES “NEED TO KNOW”

Cubbies is a two-year weekly club program for preschoolers in the two years prior to kindergarten. Our purpose is to help your child take their first little step on a lifelong spiritual journey.

At club, the Cubbie leader will teach a Bible verse for the upcoming week, along with a lesson, activity, and/or game to reinforce the verse.

Cubbies requires parental involvement. Your child’s handbook features parent-child activities for home. You will lead your child through handbook sections, called Bear Hugs, to review what they learned during their club gathering. You will also help your Cubbie memorize the weekly Bible verse (at the end of each Bear Hug section) so that they are prepared to recite it to their Cubbie leader at the next club gathering. Lastly, you will sign off the section once they have learned it so that their Cubbie Leader knows that they are ready to recite their memory verse. Working through the handbook with your child develops your spiritual leadership and helps you instill your child with a lifelong biblical worldview.

The Entrance Booklet for Cubbies is called the *Apple Acres* Entrance Booklet. It includes Bear Hug A and B sections, Cubbies key verse and motto, fun activity pages, basic Cubbies info and a gospel presentation. All new and returning Cubbies will complete this brochure first each year.

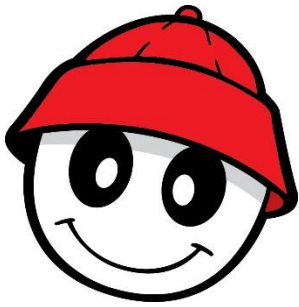
After brochure completion, all Cubbies will be working in a Cubbie Handbook. The Cubbie curriculum features two handbooks: *AppleSeed* and *HoneyComb*. Both are written in a fun, storybook style with read-aloud stories and lovable characters that appeal to preschoolers. The *AppleSeed* and *HoneyComb* handbooks combine basic Scripture memory with parent-child activities to help Cubbies grasp simple biblical truths. One handbook is completed in a club year. Each handbook contains 26 Bear Hug sections along with four special-day sections. This Awana year (2024-2025) is an *HoneyComb* year.

Each Bear Hug also contains a *Review* section and an *Under the Apple Tree* supplemental section. Both are optional, and not required for book completion.

All Cubbies work on the same Bear Hug at the same time. If your child has missed a week of club, be sure to check the Cubbie Handbook Calendar for the current week’s Bear Hug. After completing the current Bear Hug, work on making up any missed Bear Hugs. Do not do any future Bear Hugs.

Completing all the Bear Hugs listed on the Cubbie Handbook Calendar is a requirement for earning a Cubbie book award at the end of the year. A digital copy of the Cubbie Handbook Calendar will also be posted on our Awana website: www.cornerstonenc.org/awana for easy referral.

The same vest is used for both Cubbie years. Patches will be awarded for successful completion of handbook sections. Please refer to the back of the Cubbie Handbook for proper placement of patches on the Cubbie Uniform.



SPARKS “NEED TO KNOW”

Before working in a handbook, all newcomers to Sparks will complete an entrance booklet – *Flight 3:16* – which centers on the gospel message of John 3:16. *Flight 3:16* teaches basic Bible truths and the salvation message. After completing the entrance booklet, your child is an official member of the Sparks Club, and is eligible to wear their uniform, and moves onto the *HangGlider* handbook.

From there, clubbers work in order through three handbooks: *HangGlider*, *WingRunner*, and *SkyStormer*. Each handbook builds a foundation of biblical wisdom through memory verse drills, crafts, activities and review of key doctrine and Bible facts. These handbooks will take Sparkies on a chronological journey through Scripture — Genesis through Revelation — with regular layovers to meet important Bible characters along the way. Each book includes verse memory sections, Bible biographies, and activities.

Clubbers returning to Sparks continue in any unfinished Sparks handbook then proceeds on to the next appropriate handbook: *WingRunner* or *SkyStormer*.

A clubber cannot start the *WingRunner* book unless they are in 1st grade and cannot start the *SkyStormer* book unless they are in 2nd grade. Extra credit work is available for clubbers who finish their books early.

Clubbers progress at their own pace in Sparks, but in order to complete one book in a year their goal should be to complete 2 sections per week.

Sections in each Sparks handbooks are grouped into a Rank Path, four Red Jewels and four Green Jewels. All sections in the book must be completed in order, section by section, with the exception of the Bring-A-Friend section. Clubbers can continue working through their books even if the Bring-A-Friend section is not completed. This section is optional.

All children work at different paces, and some have the ability to commit things to memory very quickly. While your child may come prepared to pass off several sections, your child's leader will only allow them to pass off 2 sections at a time. This way of pacing clubbers ensures equal time is given to all clubbers who desire to pass off sections each night. Once everyone has been given the opportunity to pass off their sections, and if time remains, your child will be given another opportunity to pass off more sections. However, we will limit the number of sections passed per night to 6. For those clubbers who desire to move more quickly, arrangements can be made to meet with a leader at another time to pass off sections. Please remember, clubbers are not allowed to work beyond their age-graded handbooks.

See the Sparks Uniform Awards page at the end of any Sparks handbook to see a picture of award placement on the uniform. Note: Sparkies earn a Sparks emblem by completing the first portion in their handbooks: *HangGlider*, *WingRunner* and *SkyStormer*. Place these emblems on the upper left side of the Sparks uniform vest below the Sparks emblem. The emblems are designed to be worn together and to build upon one another. There's no need to remove the previous year's emblem before sewing on the current year's emblem.





TRUTH & TRAINING “NEED TO KNOW”

T&T stands for Truth & Training, Awana’s program for kids third through sixth grade. It focuses on deepening the kids’ understanding of biblical truth, as well as giving them stronger life application practices to live out their faith, so that they can grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Truth & Training curriculum features four handbooks that teaches kids the truth of God's Word, trains them to follow Him and practice His grace:

- Mission: Grace in Action
- Mission: Agents of Grace
- Mission: Evidence of Grace
- Mission: Discovery of Grace

For the 2024-2025 Awana Year, all T&T clubbers will be learning from the ***Mission: Grace in Action*** Handbook.

In T&T, clubbers will explore some of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. They will spend time learning about the character and nature of God, the structure and sequence of the Bible, the redemption narrative, and key discipleship practices!

TWO TRACKS IN TRUTH & TRAINING! CHOOSE ONE!

In an effort to help all of our T&T clubbers succeed in learning and loving God’s Word in a way that makes memorization obtainable for more of our clubbers, we offer TWO different ways to move through Truth & Training.

At Cornerstone we offer the Traditional Track for Awana T&T (by the book) and we have developed our own 2nd option for T&T kids called Remix (a trendy new way for kids to enjoy T&T without all the “extras”).

Parents should choose the track that benefits their child the most and allows for successful goals and growth in learning and loving God’s Word.

NOTE: It is recommended that all T&T kids registered after October 9, 2024 be placed in the Remix Track for the remainder of the 2024/2025 Awana Year.

HOW TO CHOOSE BETWEEN REMIX & TRADITIONAL TRACKS FOR YOUR T&T CLUBBER

REMIX:

- Perfect for family schedules that don’t allow your child to attend club weekly.
- The best fit for kids who would prefer the simplicity of memorizing 4 scriptures passages during a 7-week unit without the added bookwork that comes with following the Traditional Track.
- New kids who are starting our T&T Club and are not interested in completing a handbook are perfect for Remix! If your child has been in an Awana club before but doesn’t usually finish a handbook each club year, choose Remix!

- If your child doesn't have time at home for the additional bookwork and might have the tendency to just cram the section in on the way to Awana- choose Remix! It is better to really learn some Scripture rather than to get nothing that stays with them!
- REMIX is **NOT** a modification for learning differences! If your child needs modifications for learning differences, we are happy to help make accommodations. But you are probably going to want to choose Remix as a start.
- Remix clubbers will receive a new handout for each unit with the core Scriptures they are to learn during that unit (6-7 weeks).
- Remix students memorize the same verses of Scripture that the students in Traditional Track memorize. They just learn a few less and have no bookwork required. During T&T class, the 4 verses that are the Remix verses are taught in a way that immerses kids into those Scriptures. The verses are broken down and taught for understanding and lots of fun games and activities are used to help kids really learn those core unit verses. This benefits kids in either track!
- Remix clubbers receive a Unit Award Dog Tag (4 per year) if they have memorized and recited all their Unit verses to their leader (to be recited at the end of each unit). Remix Clubbers receive a special ring to keep their tags on! At our Year-End Awards Ceremony- those clubbers who have memorized the verses in all 4 units will receive a Remix Award.

TRADITIONAL:

- This track is for kids who want to receive a T&T handbook and plan to stay on track by completing a section each week. **All handbook work is completed AT HOME** and the 4 handbook sections (Start Here, Explore, Memorize, and Review) are required for that section to be passed off.
- Traditional Track is the right choice for children who have the motivation and time to work through the handbook. It suits those who are used to moving through Awana completing handbooks yearly.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE-** *different than our K-2nd grade Sparks Club, a new T&T handbook is required for each year of T&T- so you do not keep going in an incomplete handbook into the next T&T year.*
- Clubbers following the Traditional Track receive a handbook, uniform T-shirt, and a T&T calendar for staying on pace. Should your child miss a week or more please keep them on schedule and pass off missed sections as soon as possible.
- Traditional Track is the right choice for children whose goal is to earn a book award for completing a handbook at our Year-End Awards Ceremony. Kids following the Traditional track receive a patch for every four sections completed. These section awards are cumulative and are to be worn on their uniform shirt.

T&T clubbers in Traditional and Remix will be in class together. One track isn't more elite than the other! Both tracks require dedication, parent involvement/encouragement, and practice at home throughout the week. You should pick the track that best suits the goals you have for your child in Awana. We developed the Remix track to be a perfect blend of authentic scripture memorization with understanding and application, but in a way that is achievable for all kids. We found so many lost interest and weren't actually learning God's Word by trying to keep up the traditional track pace. For those who thrive on doing it by the book, we love watching them excel through the Traditional Track program! We don't want to turn off any children from developing a love of the Word, so we offer a variety of ways for them to stay involved, earn awards, and avoid Bible learning frustration!

The ABC's of Being an Awana Parent

After Awana, check your child's bag for announcements and awards.

Be creative and make learning God's Word fun.

Chat with your child about what they learned during Awana this week.

Don't wait until you're on the way to Awana to work with your child on their sections!

Encourage your children to learn God's Word by setting a good example of personal Bible study yourself.

Find time each day to help your children memorize their Scripture verses & complete handbook sections.

Guide your children in applying Biblical truths to everyday situations.

Help your children remember to bring their Bibles, handbooks, and uniforms to Awana.

If you have questions, please contact their Awana leaders for help.

Jump in and donate items or a monetary donation to our Awana Club.

Keept the Awana calendars visible to keep everyone on track and ready to participate in theme nights!

Look ahead on the calendar to be prepared for special events and theme nights.

Mark your calendar for the Awards Ceremony that is held in May - bring the whole family!

Notify Awana leadership about your child's learning styles or special needs.

Offer to memorize the same verse your child is doing.

Pray each day for your children.

Quiz your children to keep what they have learned fresh in their minds!

Remember to tell your child you love them!

Seek out times each week to pray for all the people who invest time into your child's life.

Tell your clubber they must wear Tennis shoes to club!

Use the Bible and have your clubber look up their verses!

Verify your child has their weekly sections complete and is prepared for Awana!

Work together as a family to minister to those in your community.

X-off time each week to attend your home church as a family! Need a church? Give Cornerstone a try!

Yes, as parents, you have the most influence on your child's spiritual development!

Zoom in on your children's accomplishments and look for ways to affirm them.

AWANA – Serving in Awana

Our Awana team is made up a faithfully committed group of teachers and leaders who meet the qualifications for serving in our Children’s Ministry at Cornerstone which includes church membership, a background check, and training.

We do on occasion need parent volunteers to assist with special theme nights, class parties, craft nights, etc. If you have a helpful heart and the interest in volunteering for such roles, just let the Children’s Ministry Director know and we will get you involved as needed!

INTERNET: A GREAT RESOURCE...

Cornerstone’s website: www.cornerstonenc.org

Cornerstone’s Awana page: www.cornerstonenc.org/awana

Cornerstone’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CornerstoneClevelandNC

Parents of Stepping Stones Children’s Ministry Facebook Private Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/parentsofsteppingstones

(We often post Awana announcements and pictures on this Group page!)

The Awana website is a great resource for your family: awana.org.

Additional local information can be found at the Awana Carolinas website at: awanacarolinas.org



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BAPTIST CHURCH

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