

Aug 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new AWANA year! In-anticipation of better preparing you and your clubber for the coming year, this letter will talk to the “timing” aspects of Club, how to equip your child for Club, the need for standards and conformity on Club night, and finally your “biggest responsibility” to your child and our Leaders!

First off, clubbers being prompt are essential to the seemingly short 2 hours we have for AWANA here at WBF. At 5:45pm, the door of the Townhouse will be opened for clubbers arrival (this is the Winchester Street side of the church). ALL clubbers should enter by this entrance except Varsity, who may enter through the downstairs entrance off Diagonal Street **after 5:45** (before...they must walk around, to include Leaders).

For the first couple weeks, we will have signs to mark the Club entrance for registration and fee payment. **PARENTS**: this is your time to ensure you sign your children in (not drop and go), help them pay their dues, ensure they have their “essentials” (see next para) for the night, and find out/know where to pick them up at club’s end. Use this “sign-in” time to make note of ***who will pick up*** your child (Mom, Dad, Grandma/Pa, older sibling, etc.). From the Townhouse, please ensure your clubber then proceeds to the Sanctuary for opening ceremonies...again, follow the signs. **NOTE**: If you are later than 6:20pm, please ensure flag ceremony/prayer is NOT going-on; if so, **PLEASE, DO NOT** enter Sanctuary until after this event has concluded! Each pew in the Sanctuary will be designated as Cubbies, Sparks (Leader’s names on marked sign) and Truth & Training (T&T). We ask that you at least see your child into the Sanctuary...not necessarily lead them to their seat. On-hand leadership will ensure they are seated in appropriate area. **(NOTE: JV clubbers will go straight up the stairs in the Townhouse to their appropriate classroom and check-in/ register/pay dues there, with their Leaders).**

Please, please, please...ensure your clubbers have the following “essentials” for the night’s activities: Bible, handbook, dues, and the ***BIGGIE***...**SNEAKERS** for Game Time! NO clubber is allowed to play in bare feet, socks or hard shoes. Wearing something other than sneakers hinders performance of the clubber and may ultimately hurt themselves and/or their team. **PLEASE**, again, ensure your children come equipped with all these items **BEFORE** you leave home for the church. It will make their night and ours, eventful...in the right way!

At the very core of any AWANA program is discipline. Without it, clubbers will be distracted and unable to learn, and can be robbed of the opportunity to benefit fully from the handbook work, games, Council Time, and all other aspects of AWANA. Our Leaders are parents, too...many of them with clubbers here on this night...Commanders included. We all discipline our children at home...and much like those “loving moments”, the goal is to encourage proper behavior and develop our children. It’s no different here in our club. However, we have what we call our “3-strike” rule...which ultimately is to help “disciple” our clubbers and make them aware there are rules and standards, that if broken, come with consequences. For example, a clubber who is disobedient or disruptive during the night *might* receive his/her first “strike” from a Leader, say during the course of Game Time. Later, that same clubber is again disruptive during Council Time and *may* receive his/her second strike...at which time a Leader will escort the clubber to their appropriate Director; the clubber will “conference” with the Director (never alone, but with another Leader or Director)...and prayerfully (and hopefully) the matter is resolved. However, IF the clubber’s continued behavior incurs a third strike, it will precipitate the Commander being called, who in-turn will call the Parent and ask the clubber be taken home for the night. At that time or before the next meeting, a Commander will talk with you and discuss the return of your clubber to AWANA. Understand,

again, we are all Parents *FIRST* and we want what's best for our children; ALL our clubbers ARE OUR CHILDREN and we will treat and love them as our own!

Finally parents, your role in our program is essential...to its well-being and continued growth. We first, need your help at home, working with your clubbers on their verses so they are prepared when they come to Handbook Time. Club night is NOT the time for clubbers to be learning their verses for the first time! Secondly, we can always use your help in our program; please see our Recordkeeper or assistants (at Registration table), anyone of our leadership Staff at a meeting, or call/email Commander's Gross (540-514-9237/michael.d1.gross@thesiorg.com) or Butler (540-349-4679/donlersgirl@comcast.net). Whether a Leader or helper, we always need help in areas like registration and Opening ceremonies, Council Time, music and sound, special events (Pizza Night, Pine Derby Day, AWANA/Olympic games, and AWANA Store night). If however, the Lord has not laid this upon your heart to help this way...the next, best and greatest need as mentioned earlier...help your clubbers with their verses and Bible knowledge at home! Ensure they come to club prepared and with their "essentials".

Club **ends** at 8pm; please, ***be on time*** to get your clubber! **As a reminder, please note at "sign-in" where your kids will be located at this time (Closing); diagrams of their location will be available at this time!**

Thank you. Let's have a great year, pray for the continued safety of our clubbers, God Bless our Leaders and help, and most of all...praise God for our children...who so much want to be part of the AWANA club. Again we ask...don't be shy to volunteer. We will always be available to answer your questions...so please feel free to talk to any of us in Leadership!

Sincerely, Your Commanders,

Mike Gross and Carla Butler

NOTE: Monday, September 26th, is Parent Night...a time where we welcome YOU, our parents, to join your kids for the night and better acquaint yourself with "*what goes on at that club*" once you walk out the door. PLEASE...feel welcome to stay for the night, or as long as you like! AND, as always...every Monday night is "parent night"...where we encourage you to stick around for the 2 hours of club. You'll have a blast...and be blessed, too!