



Fall 2023

Dear Parent:

Welcome to Awana 2023-2024!

This letter will give you an overview of Awana at Winnetka Bible Church so that you know what to expect and your children get the most out of their time with us.

Awana is an international, nonprofit parachurch ministry. For over 70 years Awana has been a leader in children's ministry, helping churches and parents worldwide raise children and youth to **know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ**. The mission of Awana is "to equip leaders to reach kids with the gospel and engage them in lifelong discipleship." Winnetka Bible Church offers Awana clubs for children ages 2 years old through High School, in Puggles, Cubbies, Sparks, T&T, Trek, and Journey clubs.

Club time begins at 6:45 pm and ends at 8:15 pm. The Puggles and Cubbies finish a bit earlier so parents can more easily pick-up if they have multiple children.



Awana is fun & exciting. Game time is always a highlight of the night when everyone gets to shout, run, and cheer for their team around the Awana Game Circle. Be sure your children wear or bring gym shoes every week! Even winter is fun with the Awana Grand Prix.

**You are invited** to join us as we begin the evening with a brief opening time promptly at 6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall (lower level) for all age groups. At 7:00 pm all groups will be dismissed to their activities.



The evening is structured as follows:

- 6:45 pm - Arrival/Welcome/ Opening Flag Ceremony – 5 minutes
- Music – 10 minutes
- Club meeting time: Handbook/Small-Group time, Lesson/Games
- 8:15pm – Ending (Puggles and Cubbies at 8:00 pm).

Please enter (and exit) through only the main doors on Birch St. main entrance and **check-in with the greeters in the lobby and get your child's name tag**. Please have your children use the bathroom before club to minimize the need for bathroom trips during club time. **At end of night, we ask each parent to pick-up their children where he or she finishes their evening (more on this below).**

Many consider Handbook/Small-Group time and Large Group time the core of Awana. These segments are where your children read, hear, and actively learn about God's Word from the Bible. Age appropriate Awana handbooks are designed so that each child can complete it during the club year and progress to the next book the following year. Parents are encouraged to work with their children at home and for some grades, sign completed handbook sections.

There are designated rooms for each club. Please check the "Club Night Schedule" in the Awana section of the WBC.org/Ministries website.

Please have your student bring:

- **Uniform (vest or shirt)**
- **Handbook**
- **Bible** (ESV Bibles are available at club)
- Awana bag**
- Water bottle (if desired)**

We strive to start and end Awana according to the schedule. Please be prompt in picking up your child at 8:00 pm for Puggles and Cubbies and 8:15 pm for the older clubs.

Should it be necessary to cancel a club night for any reason, such as due to weather, official notice will be sent from WBC to the primary email you provided when you registered for Awana.

Parents are always welcome to stay, observe, or be part of the activities. Additionally, **we ask you to consider becoming an Awana volunteer, listener, or leader. We will hold the annual All Leader Meeting** including **Training, Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.** Please let me know if you wish to volunteer!

Mission and service opportunities will be announced during the year and include.



1. Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child (Christmas boxes)
2. Food Drive – New Trier Township Food Pantry
3. Another to be determined



You may contact me with any questions, concerns, or if you wish to help in any way.

For the Gospel,

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