

# CAPITAL BAPTIST CHURCH



## Policies and Guidelines

September 2022

## What to expect From us

Caring and attentive volunteers who've successfully passed a background check and have received training in the conduct of the AWANA program

Timely notification of any changes through REMIND text and Club Email if you are registered. Please sign up or accept our invitation when it is sent. Such information can end up being blocked or sent to the Junk Mail folder, without action on your part.

We follow Virginia Health Dept policies. At this time, masks are not required for participation in AWANA, but *family requests that their children remain masked will be followed*. We will issue a wrist band each week to alert our leadership.

We will do our best to provide remote options for children and teens at your request.

We will abide by your request (completed with registration) regarding use of child or family photos/video.

Capital AWANA Leadership available to answer your questions and address any needs between 5:30 and 8 pm. They Gym will close by 8pm to ensure all our leaders and families can get home. Queries may be sent to [AWANA@CapitalBaptist.Org](mailto:AWANA@CapitalBaptist.Org) at any time.

Clubs generally consist of 3 segments: Large group time, Small group time and Games or other positive play/fellowship

Sparks and T&T will begin and end in the Gym. Each evening will begin with prayer and flag ceremony; each evening will end with an awards ceremony. We encourage all parents to join us at 7:30 to celebrate your children's accomplishments with us. If you have smaller children, please pick them up first, and keep them under your care in the gym, so they do not interrupt the awards.

We will provide reminders to your children to help them complete their book requirements, but all book requirements must be met as described in the books themselves and this policy.

If you have a child who has special needs that we need to know about to help them succeed at AWANA, *please* let us know. If you feel he/she needs a different curriculum or extra help, please talk with the Commander or child's Director about available options.

## What we expect from families

**For the safety of all of us, please keep your child home if they have a fever (100.4F) or are feeling unwell. Follow the CDC guidelines for quarantine, isolation and masking. If a family member who was at AWANA experiences COVID-19 symptoms within 5 days of attendance, please let us know** as soon as possible so that we can advise others. Many in our group need to protect family members who are older or have conditions that require extra caution. We can keep the person's name protected (e.g., send a general report to a classroom or a club to look for signs because someone tested positive who was in club last week).

**Please ensure we are aware of any medical condition or allergy that may impact your child during AWANA.** If intervention may be needed, please provide what may be required (e.g., EpiPen), ensure the leadership knows where it is and how to use it if needed. We require a **medical form** be provided to Capital AWANA for each child, in case of emergency.

**Please check your child in each week using KidCheck©.** This requires free enrollment via computer (go.kidcheck.com) or phone (download the KidCheck© Mobile App). To ensure speed check in, we recommend you use the KidCheck© app as you park, so that name tags for you and your children will be printed by the time you walk by our kiosk. Other check-in options using KidCheck are to scan a barcode tag or enter your phone number at the kiosk as you enter the Education Building. The last option is the most time consuming. We require your children to wear their name tag and you will need yours to pick them up. If you send someone else to pick up your child, they must have a photo of your tag for that night.

**Please ensure your children have appropriate clothing and footwear** each AWANA night. Sneakers and modest play clothes should be worn during AWANA to ensure safety during gym time and throughout the evening.

**Partner with your child in making the most of AWANA:** To incentivize good habits, children receive points for bringing their Bible and AWANA book, wearing their uniform (once it's earned) and having their lessons prepared. **We hope you will help your children develop good habits of working on their lessons at home and coming in prepared each week**, with Bible, Book and uniform. Studying with your children is an awesome way to communicate the importance of God's Word. To complete a book within the year, Sparks will need to average 3 sections an evening; Cubbies and T&T have one section assigned per week. This is not feasible to do in a meaningful way unless the clubber has prepared at home. For those who want a greater challenge, there are extra credit books and other opportunities, which will each earn shares and end of the year awards. Regardless of your child's abilities and time constraints, **please help your child set goals that are attainable and let us know** what they are. We will work with your child to help them hide God's Word in their heart each week.

### **Ensure your child is familiar with the Memory Verse Recitation Rules:**

- Clubbers may recite verses and complete sections for credit only during Handbook time of club night, unless special permission has been granted by the Commander.
- If a parent, guardian, or other significant adult signs the Parent Pages for Sparks or Optional section for T&T, the clubber earns an extra Awana Share for your involvement.
- A section must be completed all in one sitting, regardless of the number of verses, unless the handbook or Director states otherwise. All verses, questions, answers and facts required for recitation

within a section, must be said all together. A group of verses within a section can not be portioned out and completed individually for credit.

- Clubbers must recite sections to a Leader of Director who is not a relative.
- When a clubber attempts to complete a section before an Awana leader, the leader is only allowed to give two “helps” *per section, which includes references and question responses*. A “help” consists of two small words, or one significant word or concept.
- Clubbers should be able to explain each verse in their own words.
- Sections must be signed off by the leader in the order presented in the book unless the section specifically states otherwise.
  - For Sparks, clubbers may practice on other verses out of order within their book, but they can’t receive credit for the section (i.e., have it signed off) until they complete all other sections before it.
  - For T&T, clubbers get extra credit for coming to class with the week’s lesson work complete, but can’t work ahead.
- After the clubber has completed the recitation according to the rules above, the Awana volunteer will sign and date the section in the clubber’s handbook and give the child an Awana share (dollar) for the child to put in his/her bank slot for use on Awana store nights.
- Just for T&T:
  - Reciting a complete section *word perfect* earns an additional 50 points.
  - For Review and Extra Credit, no “helps” may be given

**Ensure your children know our expectations for behavior and our approach to discipline. Please reinforce the rules with your children and please let us know of any difficulties your child may have. We will let you know if we identify any concerns.** We expect all our clubbers to behave well.

- Children are expected to be polite and kind. There will be no rough play or bad or hurtful language
- Clubbers must be with a leader when moving from one location to another
- Children are expected to ask permission for restroom or water fountain breaks
- Clubbers may not go outside unless accompanied by a parent or a leader

*While we focus on encouraging and rewarding good behavior, we must maintain discipline.* Please ensure your child is familiar with **AWANA’s Approach to Discipline**:

The 5 Count: When you hear an adult or student leader begin to count “one”, “two” ... all in the room must become still and quiet before they get to “five” and listen for instructions.

The 3-count: We do our very best, to provide positive encouragement that keeps each child on track without the need for individual discipline, but occasionally, that is not sufficient. If a child misbehaves we first (re)explain the rule and let them know they will receive a “1” if they do not correct their behavior on their own. We may move their seat or otherwise change the situation to help the child do the right thing. If the same issue occurs again in the same club evening, the child will given a “1”, and reminded of the correct behavior. Additional changes to the child’s environment may then occur to make obedience easier (e.g., sitting next to a leader, taking a walk with a leader to help them calm down, etc). If the behavior continues and a “2” is given on the same evening, the Director will talk with the child and follow up with the parent that evening. In the very rare occurrence where a child must be given a “3”, it is the prayerful judgement of the leaders involved that the child has chosen to be willfully disobedient – there has been no improvement in the situation and the child has been removed from the activities of the club. In such a circumstance, the Commander and the child’s parents/caregivers will discuss the rules, the situation and the appropriate disciplinary action (Hebrews 12:11)

**Help your child to Bringing Visitors.** In response to the Great Commission, Awana includes a strong focus on evangelism. To help clubbers learn how to invite others to “Come and see...<Jesus>” (John 1:46), this is a requirement for completion of each Sparks and T&T book. If your child brings a visitor, the requirement is met for one book (e.g, if they plan to complete 2 books this year, 2 visitors are required). We strongly recommend you begin this activity early in the year. We know your child may not find anyone able to attend, here are the ways we’ve established to meet the intent of this requirement:

- a. The child must make at least three separate attempts at asking at least two different kids to attend Awana with them (including special events like the Grand Prix Derby), or a teen or adult to attend the evening programs at CBC. They may also invite people to attend Christmas Eve, Easter or another church service (again a total of 6 invites). You may coach them, but the *child must do the asking* him/herself.
- b. If there is no one in the local area to invite, the child may contact those he/she does know (e.g., friends and/or relatives out of town) to tell them about AWANA and invite them to look for a club in their local area (at least 3 separate attempts to ask 2 people).
- c. As an alternative, a child may sign up to go on visitation with church staff or a Sunday School teacher and their parent, by special arrangement.

**Timely payment:** Registration fees recover some of the cost of awards and activities for clubbers. Book and uniform are sold at cost. Timely payment is expected, after the initial payment, installment plans are acceptable. If finances are a concern, payment options and a scholarship form are available.