



Frequently Asked Questions

Does my family have to attend Stone Hill Church in order to come to AWANA?

No, your family does not have to attend Stone Hill Church in order to come to AWANA; in fact, you're welcome if you go to another church or don't go to church at all right now too. We welcome anyone who wants to learn more about Jesus and have fun.

Why does my child have to wear a uniform?

Uniforms are a great way for children to take pride in being part of the club. When your child earns an award, your child can directly put it directly on their uniform that night.

Uniforms also help the children remember that they should behave well while we are together at the club.

Why does AWANA collect dues and what are they used for?

AWANA collect dues of \$30 per child. These dues help us to offset the cost of awards, store and other special events we have during the year

My child's book requires her to bring a visitor, but she is having trouble doing that. How can we finish this part of the handbook?

Several of the AWANA handbooks require that children bring a visitor. We want to tell others about Jesus and your child is a wonderful ambassador for that invitation. We understand that it's sometimes hard to bring a friend. Our club meets on Wednesday evenings, and sometimes that night just won't work.

If your child can't bring a friend to club, here are a few options:

- Invite a friend to come to an AWANA event like our Pinewood Derby
- Give an invitation to AWANA to three of your friends. You can get these invitations from your club director.
- Pray for five days for a friend or family member who doesn't yet know Jesus.

We always hope to welcome new children, but even if none of your friends decides to visit our club, your visitor requirement can still be completed.

What is the Pinewood Derby/Grand Prix?

The Pinewood Derby is a very exciting event for kids and families, and is similar to the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby. Children purchase kits at the club for \$5 a few weeks before the Derby and design cars from small blocks of pine. To help, we host two Build Nights a few weeks before the Derby, when children can bring in their kits and get their cars cut out by our woodworking volunteers.

There are so many different possible shapes, anything from a standard looking race car to a banana to Noah's Ark! We've seen some gems! You can find a huge number of

ideas on the web. After the car is shaped, children can paint and decorate it, attach the wheels, and then it's ready to go!

Our Derby is tentatively scheduled for March 3 this year, with an optional check-in and tune-up night on March 2nd. Awards are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in speed, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in design. The Pinewood Derby is a great event for children, a unique experience for whole families and the perfect event to invite a friend.

What is the Winter Contest/Can Do Contest?

Beginning in January, AWANA hosts a contest for Sparks and T&T to encourage children to continue to working hard on their books during a historically slow time. The contest typically runs between 6 and 8 weeks. During the Winter Contest, members of the Sparks club receive small prizes for each section of their book they complete each week. We also track the amount of sections completed by the entire club during this time, usually represented on our bulletin board by jewels, stars, or another item. For the Can Do contest, members of the TnT club earn a can of soda for completing missed sections in their books or memorizing additional Scripture.

What are shares? Where can my child spend them?

Shares are paper money which children can earn throughout the year while they participate in the club. Shares are earned for coming to club prepared (e.g. wearing your uniform, bringing your handbook and/or Bible, bringing dues) but they can also be earned by bringing a visitor, attending an outing, or being on the winning team during Game Time. Often a "secret" share will be awarded to one boy and one girl during the club for good behavior.

Children accumulate their shares throughout the year, and are given a chance to "spend" them at our twice-yearly AWANA store. We assemble a collection of

new, gently used and donated items which the children can buy with their shares. Store nights are always quite exciting and they are often the source of Christmas presents for the family .

What about closings for bad weather?

If we need to cancel the club for bad weather, we will do so by 3pm the day of the club. Please check Stone Hill's website – www.stonehillprinceton.org. After 5pm, there will be a recording available on the church office phone line (609-924-3816). In case of poor weather during (e.g., thunderstorm or flooding) and you are delayed in picking up your child, you can be assured that a leader will always remain at the church until the last child is picked up.

Can I contact my child during club? The church office is closed after 5pm. In an emergency during an AWANA evening, you can reach Mary McCormack at (609) 468-5087.

Can you tell me about game time?

Each week, children have a 30 minute game time. Games are a great way to teach teamwork and cooperation, and they are fun! Children are typically divided into 4 teams, each with its own adult team leader. At the end of game time, the team with the most points earns 1 share to spend at a future AWANA store. Because most of our games involve quick walking or running, tennis shoes or tight fitting sandals must be worn for games.

Does the club have snack time?

Only our youngest club, Cubbies (ages 3 – 4), has snack time. However, we do have a few celebrations throughout the year at which we serve snacks. We have an AWANA birthday party each October, a Christmas party, and an end-of-the-year party. If your child has a food allergy, please let us know so that we can be sure to keep them safe. Many children with allergies bring their own special snack on these nights.

Who leads the club?

The AWANA club is overseen by Mary McCormack, the Director of Women's and Children's Ministry at Stone Hill. AWANA is comprised of 4 different age groups – Cubbies, Sparks, T&T and TREK, and each group has its own director. In addition to group directors, there are several adult and teen leaders in each group. Each adult has been screened before working with the children in our club.

How can I communicate with the leaders of the club?

You are always welcome to come and talk to us in person. You will also receive emails throughout the year, containing updates and reminders about events, and can talk with any of the leaders via email. Occasionally, letters are also sent home. You can also call the church office at (609) 924-3816, who can help put you in touch with your child's leader.

What are Parent's Night and Awards Night?

There's lots to learn about AWANA and we want you to get off to a great start. Join us on September 20th, and we'll explain how AWANA works and how to help your child.

At our last meeting of the year, we invite parents and family members to join us as we celebrate all the children have accomplished during the year. If your child has finished their handbook, they will receive the award for that book. Children who are not able to complete their books still will receive an award recognizing their hard work. We end the night sharing some ice cream together. This is always a fun and joy filled event, so please be sure to come!