

Welcome to Mountain View E-Free Church AWANA Clubs

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you to AWANA. It's a privilege to have your child in our AWANA program. We trust he or she will have a terrific time, and will become a regular part of our club.

AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). It is an international organization dedicated to seeing children learn of God's love for them. The AWANA program here at Mountain View E-Free Church seeks to provide an atmosphere in which your child can enjoy growing spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Separate club programs within AWANA have been tailored to preschoolers (Cubbies), early elementary age children (Sparks, for K – 2nd grade) and upper elementary kids (T&T Clubs, 3rd – 6th grades, with separate activities and groups for boys and girls).

Each week these different clubs participate in the following general components (in different order for each group, to maximize facility use):

GAME TIME stressing healthy competition with emphasis on having fun and good sportsmanship – win or lose.

LARGE GROUP TIME with singing and teaching from God's Word in a way that is fun and relevant to the children's lives.

HANDBOOK TIME consists of time spent where clubbers recite Bible verses from their handbooks (memorized at home during the week).

Our AWANA program meets Wednesday night from 6:30 pm – 8:15 pm. at Mountain View E-Free Church. Many evenings have special themes for the different clubs; quarterly newsletters and our club web site, www.mountainviewawana.org, will keep you informed about upcoming events. In addition, for the older clubbers (Sparks and T&T Clubs), there are several special events during the course of the year, from Bible Quizzing, AWANA Games and AWANA Grand Prix competition.

Appropriate dress for our AWANA clubs includes the club uniform (once earned). We encourage kids to wear long pants for game time, but this isn't a requirement as long as their knees are covered. For safety, we do require that Sparks and T&T clubbers wear non-marking gym shoes for game time – and please, no heelys at club (wheels will have to be removed while at church). Clubbers who don't have appropriate dress will have to sit out for many of the games we play.

While Mountain View E-Free Church substantially underwrites the cost of AWANA, a club registration fee is collected to help defray the operating costs. The registration fee can be paid for the year (\$27.00 for single child families, or \$22.00 for multi-child families). In addition, after completing an entrance booklet, clubbers become official members, and are eligible to receive their uniform and handbook (which are sold at our cost – see attached price sheet). You may pre-pay for these items so that your child will receive them immediately when they are earned, or you may wait to pay until the entrance booklet is completed. If you are facing a financial situation that would hinder your child's participation in AWANA, scholarship funds are available (contact the AWANA commander, Rob Robinson).

Within AWANA, a system of rewards encourages children in their handbook achievements and good behavior. Our emphasis is on positive discipline, where children see godly role models in their teachers and leaders. We delight in "catching kids being good!" However, if a child struggles with disruptive, disrespectful or dangerous behavior, the following protocol will be used. The child's leader, after determining that the issue cannot be resolved by simple methods (changing seating arrangement, etc.) gives the misbehaving clubber a "one" count – a warning that the next offense will bring greater consequences. If a second offense occurs that evening, the clubber is given a "two" and taken to the club director or commander for counseling. (You as a parent will be notified that night if your child were ever to get to this point.) If the clubber demonstrates continued willful defiance in attitude or action, they are given a "three" and you as parents will be called to take the child home early (at which time the problems will be explained in detail, of course). If this does occur, a parent/guardian must accompany the clubber during the following club meeting.

We trust this gives you an overview of the AWANA program. Thank you again for partnering with us to teach your child about God and His love for us. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or visit our AWANA clubs with your child at any time.

Serving in Christ,

Rob Robinson

AWANA Commander

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