

Welcome to



Parents' Information Handbook

Windom Evangelical Free Church
440 10th Street Windom, MN 56101
507-831-3713

Awana meets at
B.A.R.C.
1012 5th Avenue Windom, MN 56101

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be
ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

Approved **W**orkmen **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed

AWANA Ministry

Greetings to all!

Welcome to a whole new year! We're excited for this new year and we hope you and your children are too.

New to AWANA? Take some time to learn more about AWANA on page 4. This program is an exciting way to allow your children to have fun with friends, while learning scriptures through activities, group lessons, and personal study. Through the scriptures and consistent teaching, our clubbers learn about the reality of God and the truth of the Bible.

I hope everyone will take the time to review this packet. Please go through the schedule, review the upcoming events, and talk through the expectations. Along the way, look for a few new things!

It's going to be a fantastic year! Beyond AWANA, if you're not already a member of the Windom Evangelical Free Church family, I would encourage you to take another look at all that we have to offer. At AWANA and the Windom E-Free church, it is our desire to minister to your entire family, not just your child!

In His Service,

Aaron and Laura Klassen
Co-Commanders - AWANA

For more information or to answer your questions:

Windom Evangelical Free Church

507-831-3713

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www.windomfreechurch.org

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Co-Commanders

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Our Weekly Services

Each Sunday, we gather together in the Worship Center. This service is designated for you to worship God and magnify His Holy Name. If you do not already have a church home, we welcome you to come visit us.

Sunday School (all ages)	9 a.m.
Worship Service	10:15 a.m.

Nursery

Our church nursery is open and staffed during both Sunday School and the Worship Service so parents are free to attend services. Ages newborn to 3 are welcome in the nursery.

Children's Church

During the worship service, children ages 3-5 are permitted to attend children's church. The children participate in games, crafts, a Bible story, and sometimes have a snack while their parents are in the service.

Youth Group

Youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for youth group on Sunday nights. For more information, please see the church website.

Bible Studies

Various Bible studies are offered throughout the year at different times and days of the week. If you're interested, please see the church website or call the church secretary.

Our Pastors:

Roger Berg

Senior Pastor

roger.berg@windomfreechurch.org

Kent Houppert

Family and Youth Pastor

Kent.houppert@windomfreechurch.org

Welcome to AWANA

What is AWANA?

AWANA is a Wednesday evening Bible-centered ministry for children age 3 through 8th grade. This program is based on learning God's Word through memory, lessons, and fun.

AWANA consists of four clubs:

Cubbies ages 3 to 5 years

Sparks K-2nd grades

T&T 3rd-6th grades

Trek 7th-8th grades

Our clubs meet each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We will begin with our first night of club on the second Wednesday in September, which includes a time for registration and purchasing necessary handbooks, and we will end with our Awards night on the Sunday following the last Wednesday in April.

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For more detailed information, as well as all the information contained in this handbook, please see: www.windomfreechurch.org

Your Involvement is Needed

Moms and Dads, Grandparents, and anyone else special in an AWANA clubber's life: You are essential in helping your AWANA clubber(s) to get the most enjoyment and fulfillment out of the AWANA club.

- Encourage your AWANA Clubber(s) to attend AWANA every week. Not only will consistency help the child(ren) to excel, but he or she is also a member of a color team that depends on each child's participation. Be sure that your AWANA clubber(s) arrives on time! Promptness helps our ministry stay on track.
- AWANA clubbers are required to wear their uniforms, and bring their Bible and handbook. Clubbers will be awarded AWANA points for each of these things. If they do not have a uniform, casual clothes and tennis shoes should be worn. Any T-shirt with inappropriate material printed on them will be addressed with the parent prior to the next club night.
- Contact your child's leader with any questions or concerns. If, after talking with the leader, your questions are not adequately answered, contact the club director or commander.
- Help your child prepare for club each week by spending some time at home with them reading and reviewing their handbook material. If they do not have a Bible, please contact the club director. Bibles are needed to complete the handbook for T&T and Trek. If your child does not have one, we would love to provide one. We use the NKJV (New King James Version) Bible.
- Encourage your child by familiarizing yourself with their handbook, especially the activities. Often these sections require more time and involve home related tasks and activities.
- Remind them to spend 5-10 minutes each day on verses. Memorizing is hard work but your involvement will validate the child's efforts and motivate him or her to complete the handbook within the year. AWANA clubbers may be limited to a maximum number of sections each night, according to the group they participate in.
- Always encourage your AWANA clubber(s). Children have much more fun when someone shows an interest in their accomplishments.
- All parents are welcome to attend any club, any night with their child.
- We welcome those who would like to serve the Lord and impact the lives of youth by volunteering some of your time. If you are interested in this vital service, please let us know by visiting with the club director or commander.

All volunteers must submit to a background check prior to working with children or youth.

Special Activities & Events

Grand Prix

An excellent parent/child relationship builder designed to encourage achievement in something other than athletic pursuits. Clubbers compete for design and speed trophies. Everyone starts with a kit to build a car from a block of pine wood. Kits will be sold well in advance.



Awana Sunday

All clubbers and their families are welcome to join us for our annual Sunday dedicated to Awana and all that we do throughout the year. The clubbers participate in various parts of the service including special music, leading worship, a flag ceremony, and serving as ushers during the service.



Awana Games

Our club sends a Sparks team and a T&T team to Awana Games close to Sioux Falls every year to compete in Awana Games. This event is usually held in March. We will keep you up to date with information. If your child would like to compete, please return his/her permission slip in a timely manner. The number of clubbers on each team is limited.

Theme Nights

We use theme nights to keep things fun and exciting. We have added a few new theme nights this year. We are going to take a few of those nights and incorporate the theme into our club night. It's going to be a fun and exciting year!

Awards Night and Reception

Parents and all family members are encouraged to attend this wonderful evening for your clubbers. They will be presented special awards they have received throughout the year.



Parents are Welcome

Come and see your clubber in action. Meet your children's leaders, enjoy watching game time, and see what AWANA is all about!

AWANA Policies

Health & Safety

1. Emergency contact information for every clubber is a must! We take your child's health and safety very seriously. With the various activities and game time, occasionally there are bumps or bruises. It is imperative to have emergency contact information readily available for such situations.
 - Primary contact & contact information
 - Back up contact & contact information
 - Emergency contact information for friends that you bring
2. Children SHOULD NOT attend AWANA if they have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever (100 deg. or higher), vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
 - Runny nose if accompanied by other symptoms and/or colored discharge
 - Bad Cough – coughing increases the chance of infection being spread to others
 - Any rash that is suspected to be contagious
 - If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, they must have been on the antibiotic for a minimum of 48 hours prior to attending AWANA
3. Cubbies (ages 3 & 4) must be picked up at the Cubbies room and Sparks (grades K-2nd) must be picked up at the Sparks room.
4. All parents and clubbers should enter and leave through the main front doors.
5. Sparks and T&T Clubbers should wear appropriate footwear for running during game time.

Weather Delay or Cancellations

1. If Windom public schools are dismissed early or cancelled due to bad weather, there will be no AWANA.
2. In the event that club is cancelled due to bad weather or other unforeseen factors, this will be announced in the following ways:
 - Radio (KDOM 94.3 FM)
 - Facebook: "Windom Evangelical Free Church Awana Club"

Uniforms

1. If a clubber does not have a uniform, awards will be held to the next night the uniform is worn. Uniforms must be worn to receive the full nightly points.
2. Encourage good stewardship of the uniforms! We encourage uniform neatness throughout the entire club time. Shoes worn should be appropriate for game time and season.

Verses

1. Verses should be memorized word for word with two helps per verse, according to the AWANA guidelines. We use the New King James Version (NKJV) translation of the Bible.
2. Leaders will be sensitive to each child's ability. Children that have a very easy time memorizing verses will be encouraged to learn them without any help, those that may struggle may be allowed more than one help without penalty.
3. Children that finish their handbook will be encouraged to move on to extra credit activities, or be encouraged to be a helper to others depending on their abilities.

KEEPING THE GOALS IN SIGHT: When practicing verses, take the time to ask your child what they mean. If they are unsure, have them talk to their leaders and report back what they learned!

SUGGESTION: We suggest clubbers carry a bag of some kind to keep their books, Bibles and any papers we need to send home with them. There are some nice AWANA bags available in the AWANA catalog, however, an AWANA bag is not required. See the AWANA secretary if you would like to see them.

Behavior and Discipline Guidelines

AWANA leaders encourage a consistent standard of acceptable conduct in order to be more effective with time management and safety.

AWANA uses a five-count method to bring order and quiet. It is for the whole group. The Director or person in charge will slowly count 1-2-3-4-5 at which time there should be absolute silence.

AWANA uses a three-count method as a discipline device. This is used anytime during the club to discipline individual clubbers who are disruptive or misbehaving.

“1” - the clubber will be warned by the Director or person in charge.

“2” - If misbehavior continues they will be warned again with a count of “2” and may be taken to the Commander for counseling.

“3” - If the clubber still refuses to behave appropriately, they will receive a “3” and may be not allowed to participate in the remainder of the evening. Parents will be called to pick up the child or to discuss the situation at the end of the night. Every situation will be handled in a way to encourage conforming to appropriate behavior in order to return to club activities as soon as possible.

1. During Handbook Time, everyone is expected to respect others saying verses by being as quiet as possible.
2. **NO RUNNING** before, during or after club, except during Game Time.
3. **NO GUM** or **FOOD** allowed, except when club planned.
4. **NO BULLYING**. We do not tolerate any child bullying or deliberate harming another child, or making fun of one another. Issues will be dealt with in a private, loving and Godly manner. We will handle the matter promptly.
5. **NO PHYSICAL AGGRESSION** will be tolerated before, during, or after club. Acts of willful, deliberate physical aggression will result in an automatic two week suspension from club. A personal meeting with the parents and Commander will be required before the child will be allowed back into club. This may be done in the home, if it cannot be done at the church.
6. **NO FOUL LANGUAGE** or **GESTURES** will be used before, during, or after club.
7. **NO PLAYING IN PARKING LOT** before, during, or after club.
8. **NO PUSHING, SHOVING OR ROUGH HOUSING** at any time before, during or after club.
9. **DISPLAY CARE AND RESPECT** for all church property and others.

Game Time is a privilege, and we do not want anyone to miss it. In the case of misbehavior, however, the person in charge may revoke Game Time privileges for a night as an act of discipline.

If we have a problem with your child we will bring it to your attention. We may suggest that a child take a week or more off from AWANA, this is an effective tool that we have occasionally implemented. Please cooperate with us; our goal is to improve a behavior problem and not to embarrass the child. Once the problem is under control the child is welcomed back.

Club Expenses

Dues

Our AWANA club is subsidized by dues paid by each family. These dues are used to purchase awards, teaching materials, special events, and AWANA supplies. Yearly dues are **\$14** per clubber, or 50¢ per week per clubber. While these dues in no way cover our operating costs, they do help defer some of the expenses of running our club.

We want all clubbers to be able to attend club and have books and uniforms. If the cost of these items would impose a financial hardship for your family, please contact the AWANA Commanders, Aaron or Laura Klassen (507-831-1523). Financial assistance is available.

Handbooks

Current Handbook prices are posted on the church Awana page at www.windomfreechurch.org

Uniform

Uniforms are required for all clubbers once they have completed their club's Entrance Booklet. Your uniform should be purchased so you can put your earned awards on it. The prices for uniforms are posted on the church Awana page at www.windomfreechurch.org

If you have any old uniforms that would benefit a child, that cannot afford one, please bring it to AWANA and it will be passed on.

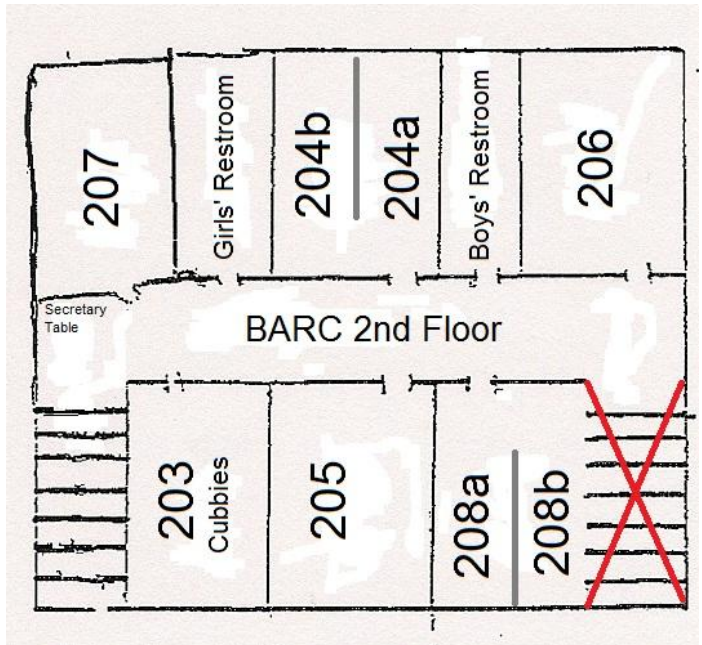
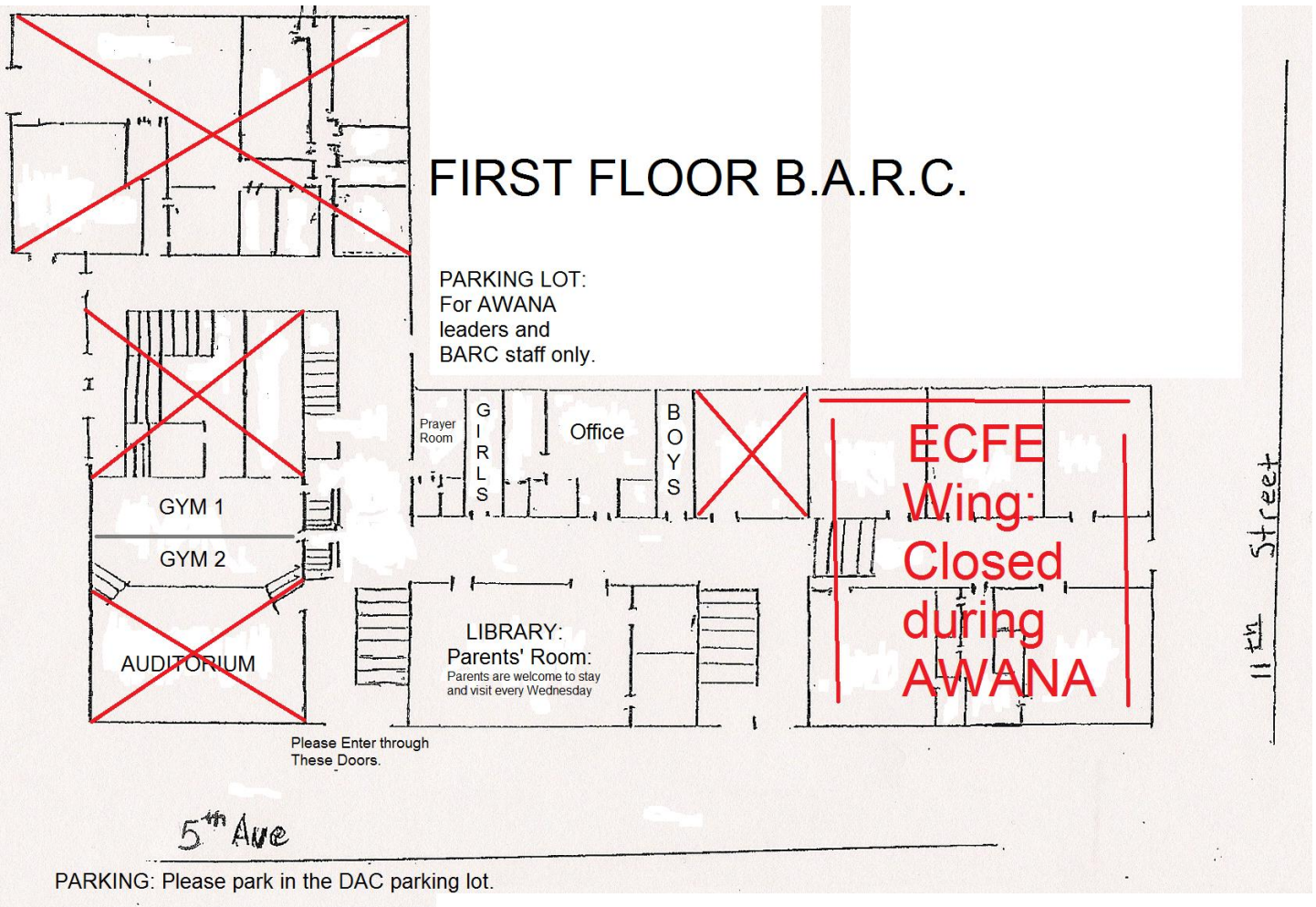
In the event that club is cancelled, due to bad weather or other unforeseen factors, notice of cancellation will be announced and communicated in the follow ways:

- Radio (KDOM 94.3 FM)
- Facebook: "Windom Evangelical Free Church Awana Club"

If Windom public schools are dismissed early or cancelled due to bad weather, there will be no AWANA.

Be sure to "Like" Windom Evangelical Free Church AWANA on Facebook to automatically receive notifications!

Where we meet:



CLUB SCHEDULE

(All Clubs)

	6:30-7:00	7:00-7:30	7:30-8:00
Cubbies	Drop off in Cubbies Room (203) Game Time (Gym 2)	Bible Story (Cubbies Room: Rm 203)	Craft/Snack Time (Cubbies Room: Rm 203)
Sparks	Book Time (by color team)	Game Time (Gym 1)	Council Time (Rm 205)
T&T Girls	Council Time (Rm 205)	Handbook Time (by color team)	Game Time (Gym 1)
T&T Boys	Game Time (Gym 1)	Handbook Time (by color team)	Council Time (Rm 206)
Trek	At Middle School Youth Group @ The Center	At Middle School Youth Group @ The Center	At Middle School Youth Group @ The Center

Handbook Time Schedule

Divided by Color Teams

	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue
Sparks (6:30 PM)	207	208	204	206
T&T Girls (7:00 PM)	208a	N/A	208b	207
T&T Boys (7:00 PM)	204b	N/A	204a	205