

AWANA DISCIPLINE POLICY

The word discipline has the same root meaning as disciple, which means learner or follower. This root meaning implies a leader-follower relationship in which the follower learns about proper conduct. The purpose of discipline is to teach Christ-like behavior, not merely a set of rules. To discipline is to teach or mold, resulting in a happy, well-adjusted individual. Discipline is something done for the child, not to the child. Discipline results in an organized, smooth-running club.

FIVE-COUNT

Awana uses two methods to deal with discipline. The first is the Five-Count and is used for a group of clubbers. The person in charge raises his or her hand and begins the five-count by slowly and loudly counting to five. By the count of five, clubbers are to be quiet and lined up or sitting straight.

THREE-COUNT

The second method is the Three-Count and is used for an individual clubber who continues to misbehave after repeated correction; this method follows the three-strikes-and-you're-out philosophy. We will not allow an unruly child to be a distraction to the whole club.

- A **One Count** is a warning that the clubber is disobeying one of the club guidelines.
- A **Two Count** means the clubber has continued to disobey club guidelines and must talk with the club Director and/or Commander.
- If a clubber receives a **Three Count** a parent will be called. The parent will be expected to review club guidelines with their child. The clubber may return to club when they are ready to follow the club guidelines.

SUSPENSION

If the clubber agrees to behave and returns to club, but continues to cause problems and receives a **Three Count**, then the Director will inform the Commander of the nature of the problem. The Commander will inform the parents of the misbehavior again and that the clubber has been suspended from Awana for one week. Again, explaining that the clubber is welcome back to club after his/her one week suspension if they agree to abide by the club guidelines.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Our prayer in Awana is that all children in our ministry come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Because a habitually misbehaving, disrespectful, and/or disruptive child could potentially keep other children from hearing or understanding God's love, a Discipline Committee has been formed.

A Discipline Committee, consisting of the Awana Commander, a staff member of The Tabernacle and if necessary, the Director of the club involved, will evaluate each suspension. This committee will determine the length of suspension for each incident. After the second suspension, expulsion will be considered. The Discipline Committee will handle the severity of discipline after the first suspension.

The Awana leaders realize family situations may affect a child's behavior. We encourage you to let your child's Awana leader know if there is any situation that may help us in ministering to your child. This helps the Awana leader to potentially minister to the child as opposed to just viewing a situation or action as a discipline problem.



The Tabernacle
Danville, VA