

PRAYER AND PLANNING MEETINGS

Prayer and planning meetings are weekly or monthly get-togethers, planned by commanders or directors. Even if a commander plans and hosts them directors should also have some time, either during those meetings or at another time, with just their leaders. This is one of the greatest tools for leader retention.

Some items to be addressed are the following:

- **Vision for Awana and helping kids come to Christ**

Take every opportunity available to remind leaders of their importance and the critical nature of their goal – to share Christ with kids and help them develop biblical worldviews. Use several methods, including talks, videos and readings.

- **New and upcoming events planning**

Talk about the calendar year, brainstorm theme nights and other events.

- **Anything that's not working well in club**

Are kids losing interest? Is discipline lax? Are leaders coming late? Are Large Group Time lessons boring? Gather leader feedback and do some problem solving.

- **Church issues**

It may be construction in the parking lot or a new children's pastor, but in order for Awana® to serve the church, Awana leaders should be kept abreast of church issues and needs. Not only does it honor leaders as integral parts of the body, but it encourages them to pray for their church and its leadership.

- **Leader well-being and prayer requests**

A significant part of a commander's and director's job is to shepherd leaders. These meetings are ideal times to get to know leaders a little better. This also needs to happen one-on-one, but people can connect well through these regular meeting times.

- **Ongoing training**

There can be some short training in these meetings, such as, discussing section standards or the gospel. This is a good venue for telling leaders about upcoming opportunities. Opportunities may include Awana-specific training, such as an upcoming Awana Ministry Conference or online training modules on awana.org.

- **Team building**

Team building is essential for two reasons. First, Awana leaders are a team with a common goal and clubs will function better if everyone thinks of themselves that way. Second, it is well documented that a big part of the reason people serve is to build friendships and spend time with those they enjoy. Clubs will retain more leaders if leaders feel like they have friends and a team.

- **Leader motivation**

These gatherings are a good time to solicit feedback and new ideas from leaders and to otherwise demonstrate that their input matters. Use this opportunity to give leader awards and praise. Suggest a Scripture memory program and track progress during meetings.

- **Prayer**

Leadership can plan and plan, but it will be flat without spending time praying: for the gospel to reach kids, for the church, for Awana and for each other.

Note: Check out AMC Connection Kits for topical, video-based training curriculum to use at Prayer and Planning meetings. Find them in the Awana catalog or estore.