

Role Description – Commander

An Awana® commander, under the leadership of a pastor, oversees the Awana ministry in his or her church. He or she provides direction, enthusiasm, leadership and support for Awana directors, leaders, children and parents. He or she, along with the pastor, is the communication link between the church staff and the Awana ministry.

Roles and Responsibilities

A commander is responsible for the overall club operation in a local church. He or she will perform the duties and responsibilities included in this role description.

Awana ministry Advocate

A commander has the lead influence over a club's passion, commitment and accuracy in evangelizing and discipling children and youth. He or she can also influence the priority of the Awana ministry in the church.

Responsibilities within this role are the following:

- Ensure that the gospel is presented regularly, accurately and clearly.
- Communicate passion and vision to Awana leaders, parents, church leadership and the congregation.
- Communicate ministry needs to church staff and request resources, facilities and equipment to support the ministry.
- Work with church staff to help achieve the evangelism and discipleship goals of the church.
- Work with church staff to integrate the Awana ministry with other ministries.

Shepherd

The success of an Awana ministry depends largely on a commander's ability to shepherd volunteers. A commander sets an example by shepherding directors who, in turn, shepherd leaders. Shepherding is Christlike leadership that involves motivating, developing and training.

A shepherd is responsible to do the following:

- Regularly practice disciplines of Christian living to ensure a growing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Encourage spiritual growth in others, especially the club directors.
- Encourage directors to shepherd their leaders and leaders to shepherd children.
- Motivate volunteers through vision casting, recognition and team building.
- Provide training opportunities for leaders to grow spiritually and serve excellently.
- Develop leaders to assume greater ministry responsibilities.

Administrator

A commander oversees administrative functions to ensure clubs run smoothly. While some tasks may be delegated, a commander is ultimately accountable to a church's staff for the Awana ministry.

A commander must ensure the following administrative responsibilities:

- Establish, communicate and implement administrative club policies.
- Complete and submit Awana annual registration renewal paperwork.
- Prepare budgets and assure good stewardship within a church's Awana clubs.

- Coordinate club calendars and integrate them with a church's calendar.
- Schedule speakers for club night, or ensure that directors do.
- Plan and promote leadership dedication ceremony and the award program.

Leader

A commander must lead his or her team to success.

Leadership is required in the following ways:

- Establish annual ministry goals using the Ten Standards of Excellence.
- Oversee implementation of the Ten Standards of Excellence.
- Assess clubs' performance to help club leadership improve its performance and club operation.
- Pray for kids, leaders and parents on a regular basis, and encourage all leaders to do the same.
- Discipline kids, when necessary.
- Recruit new leaders.
- Implement and enforce the child protection policy.

Communicator

A commander is the main communication link between a church's staff and club leadership. He or she also communicates with children, parents, community members and the local Awana missionary.

Some responsibilities within this role are the following:

- Promote and publicize local, regional and national Awana events and ministry opportunities and coordinate club participation in these events.
- Promote and publicize the Awana club ministry to the church and community to generate awareness and increase participation.
- Meet with church staff to report praise and prayer needs.
- Speak at club occasionally.

Qualifications

An Awana commander must demonstrate the following:

- Trust in Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior.
- Growth in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Passion for children and youth to come to know, love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Demonstrate leadership abilities.
- Effective communication skills in a large group setting and one-on-one.

Time Commitment

Five to seven hours per week