

CHURCH CAMP COORDINATOR PACK



<https://www.southwesternleadershipcamp.com/>

AT IDYLLWILD PINES CAMP and CONFERENCE CENTER
www.idyllwildpines.org

Dear Church Camp Coordinator:

Thank you for being willing to act as Church Camp Coordinator for your AWANA Club. Yours is a critical role in making camp successful. If you have concerns or questions, please contact your Camp Directors Eric & Cindy Berry at (858) 349-4110 or swlcamp@gmail.com

Southwestern Leadership Camp is for Awana clubbers who are, in the Fall of 2026, **entering** fourth grade or higher and have completed this year's materials by the end of your current club year. T&T students must complete this year's T&T study and reviews; TREK students must have completed this year's TREK study, reviews, and summaries; and JOURNEY students must have completed this year's JOURNEY materials and summaries. All students must be able to do a Review (6 to 10 verses) in one sitting with no more than two (2) helps.

Camp Dates: June 28, 2026-July 4, 2026
Application and Deposit Due Date: March 5, 2026
Final Payment Due Date: May 10, 2026

Please help us with the following:

1. Please direct campers and counselors to download the applications from our website: <https://southwesternleadershipcamp.com/registration-forms/>. In addition, there is also an online registration component at <https://southwesternleadershipcamp.com/register>
2. **RECRUIT** Camp Counselors from your club. The cost per counselor is \$450.00. **To comply with AB506, all counselors will be required to complete a Live Scan at their cost. This is a one-time cost and will cover future camp attendance.**
 - For T&T camp, each club **MUST** send one counselor for every 3-5 campers of the same gender. For example, if you have 3 boys, you must send 1 male counselor, or if you have 5 girls, you must send 1 female counselor. A parent of a camper, who does not serve in Awana, may be considered for counselor if he or she demonstrates a strong Christian Walk and committed church attendance.
 - For Jr High and High School camp, each club should send 1 counselor per 5 campers. Counselors should be Awana Leaders serving in your club. Those from your church serving in a role other than Cabin Counselor may or may not count in your 1:5 ratio. It will depend on our counselor needs.
 - If you have no adults in your club who qualify as camp counselors, you may be asked to pay an additional fee to cover the cost of a counselor from another location.
 - Tell Camp Counselors that there will be a mandatory training day on Saturday, June 6th at Maranatha Chapel in Rancho Bernardo from 9 am- 12pm. Details will be in their acceptance letter.
3. **ENLIST** students for camp who meet the qualifications listed on the application. The cost per camper is \$550.00
 - Campers must be able to listen and follow instructions. If you feel a camper is not mature enough to handle camp, we expect you to have that conversation with parents before they apply to camp.
 - This is an accelerated, discipleship type camp where each student is expected to memorize and recite verses of scripture **each day** with no helps and complete a daily Bible lesson. Each student must review the entire week's verses with only two helps in one sitting. Please make sure that the applicants are ready for the workload. **All work must be completed by Friday at noon** to be considered for camp next year.
 - Please understand that we are not equipped to accommodate campers with severe physical handicaps or special needs.
 - Parents will mail applications directly to us. They will give you the Director Recommendation Form, which you will give to your Club Directors to fill out and sign. Please send all Director Recommendation Forms, your Church Camp List, and one church deposit check by March 5th.
4. Make sure the students are ready for the camp experience. Pray for/with the students that are prone to homesickness, need lots of help to complete verses or have trouble with rules or schedules.
5. Help students make selections for their roommates (one request per camper). Fill out the attached Church Camper/Counselor List and include it along with the Director Recommendation & Consent Forms and church deposit check.
6. Collect a deposit of \$275.00 per camper and counselor. All checks should be made payable to your church. Send one church check totaling all deposits and made payable to **Southwestern Leadership Camp**. **Mail** the church deposit check, all Director Recommendation & Consent Forms, and your Church Camper/Counselor List to:
Southwestern Leadership Camp
1942 Valley View Blvd
El Cajon, CA 92019

Please postmark the package **by March 5, 2026**.

7. Assist the student in raising funds for their camp fee. Some activities to consider are special offerings at church, individual sponsors, Sunday School sponsors, a "Verse-A-Thon", a bake sale, a garage sale, cashing in recyclables or a pancake breakfast, etc.
8. If you have campers or counselors who register after March 5th, please repeat all the above requirements.
9. All campers and counselors will receive acceptance notification no later than April 25th.
10. The **final payment** of \$275.00 for all campers and \$175.00 for all counselors must be postmarked by **May 10th**. Make your church check payable to:
Southwestern Leadership Camp

and sent to:
Southwestern Leadership Camp
1942 Valley View Blvd
El Cajon, CA 92019

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GIST Standard

GIST stands for Graduates In Service Together

Vision: To have a past Citation Achiever as a camp counselor in every cabin working with campers. To use GIST counselors as Team Captains and helpers in T&T and Junior High camps as assigned.

A GIST is age 18-22, must be a past Citation Achiever, at least 1 year past high school graduation and, if not in college, serving in a local Awana Program. A GIST will be accepted as a full T&T or Junior High camp counselor.

Purpose: To be an example and model to younger campers as they work with younger campers to encourage them in their Christian Walk, camp work and to continue in the Awana programs in their area.

Teaching time: To encourage their walk with the Lord and to challenge them to the next spiritual level of growth. Give them fellowship among their peers. Educate and train in mission work both local and foreign. If chosen for the worship team, (must have served at least one year as a Counselor in the cabins) they must be willing to be guided and directed in worship style and method by the Camp Music Director.

Accountability for acceptance: They complete same counselor application as counselors. Camp Director especially watching application for references and recommendations from (1) local Awana Commander or Awana Director where they work in club and (2) local Pastor of church they attend regularly and are in good standing. If they don't work in Awana Clubs (because of college or work) they still need to register through their previous Awana program so Commander or Directors they know by can check their level of spiritual commitment and growth to be sure they qualify as a counselor and their walk with the Lord is above reproach.

Returning GIST counselors will be accepted on basis of regular counselor application process PLUS past obedience to authority at camp, obedience of camp rules, and moral conduct. Example: If their lifestyle is in question, (drinking or sexual activities, or living with opposite sex outside of marriage) they would not be considered to be a camp counselor. Also, previous commitment to their campers will be considered. For example: were they interactive with campers, engaged during meal times, available at free time, committed to being where they needed to be when they were needed to be there. If these qualities are lacking, a would-be returning GIST may be asked to step out for a year (or more) and reevaluate why they want to "serve" as a counselor.

Church Camper/Counselor List

(Add additional sheets if needed)

	Church Name:			
	Coordinator Name:			
	Coordinator Email:			
	Coordinator Phone:			
	Name	Grade (C for Counselor)	M/F	Special Requests (Note if campers should not be together or if counselors have a particular camper or grade request)
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