



LEADER TIP: Ideas for Your Awana Store

Ideas turned in to Awana for running an Awana store. Sources for store items:

- Oriental Trading
- Thrift stores
- Dollar stores
- Sale racks at the Christian book store
- Donations from the congregation
- Bottom of closets and/or drawers
- Bargain aisle at Michael's and Hobby Lobby (Yes we do have two – Lynnwood & Everett)
- Garage/rummage sales – especially the by-the-bag price near the end of the sale
- End-of-season clearance stuff at Walmart and Target

Popular store items:

- T-shirts, tote bags
- Basketball, footballs (small and regular size)
- Hair bows, bandanas
- Candy, snacks
- Water guns, small cars
- Gifts for dads: flash lights, wallets, key chains
- White elephant gifts (great around Christmas)
- Card and board games, puzzles
- Rings, bracelets, buttons, pins
- Stuffed animals, plastic animals
- Duct tape in various colors
- Lip gloss, nail polish
- \$5 gift cards to Game Stop or Walmart (for Trek and Journey)
- \$10 or \$15 iTunes cards for the big dollar items
- [Operation Christmas Child](#) gifts (to put in shoe boxes for needy kids)
- Craft kits: friendship bracelet, best-friend necklace, bouncy ball, cross-stitch, sewing, model airplane, painting

Favorite operating ideas:

- Provide items they can wrap and give to someone at Christmas.
- We do store two times a year, in December and May. We combine it with a Christmas party and Awards Night.
- We do a Christmas store so they can buy presents and a Mother's Day store in May.
- My group put little New Testaments in the store. Buy one, get one free to give to a friend.
- We try to get things that parents would like, too, because our kids love to buy stuff for family members.
- Get ready for [Operation Christmas Child](#) and give the kids a chance to buy items for shoe box gifts. We stock the store with usual stuff, but take additional donations from the church for shoe box appropriate items. If the kids buy items to pack an OCC shoe box, they get double value.
- We put out a bowl of candy/gum for those who don't have enough shares for big stuff.
- Our store is in the Awana office. We have the walls lined with shelves and each shelf is marked with a certain dollar amount.
- The parents donate \$1 store items. A selection of toys is spread on a table. Each Cubbie chooses one item to put in their take-home bag. Two to three go into the store at a time.
- We give Cubbies a gift with three to five small items rather than take them to store.
- I do a treasure box for Cubbies and let them pick from it. It cuts down them wanting something and not having enough Awana bucks. The kids love it.
- Only our T&T clubbers go to the store (about once a month). We provide Sparkies with a small gift choice whenever they complete a rank or jewel.
- We do ours like a school book order form. They take home a flier with the things they can buy and the number of shares they have. We back up all the "orders" and hand them out at awards time during closing. Saves a ton of time that the kids can use for Handbook Time