



# Handbook

2022-23



AWANA Director: Pastor Bryan Gotcher  
bgotcher@oakhillbc.org  
812-476-3450

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# What is AWANA Club?

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## **AWANA History:**

AWANA is an international, Bible-centered ministry founded over 60 years ago by Christian men who saw a need for children to be reached with the good news of Jesus Christ. AWANA has grown, from its beginnings in a church basement in the Chicago area, into a ministry that reached hundreds of thousands of children around the world each week.

## **AWANA Fun Facts:**

- AWANA clubs meet each week both in the US and internationally.
- AWANA has reached over 2 million children worldwide.
- Over 28,000 churches use the AWANA program.
- AWANA can be found in over 100 countries.

## **AWANA Purpose:**

AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed and is taken from 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

The key focus of AWANA ministry is Scripture memorization, understanding and application. The AWANA handbooks clearly present the Gospel at an age-appropriate level, and initially focus on establishing a personal relationship between each clubber and Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The memory work, Bible studies and other fun activities continue to carefully give each clubber a Biblical worldview by building up their Bible knowledge and instilling in them a love and respect for God and His Word.

AWANA curriculum materials are designed to help parents and churches guide children in spiritual growth, and are based on the following master life threads:

- Teaching respect for God and His Word
- Building wisdom through Bible knowledge and understanding
- Helping children and youth demonstrate grace in relationships
- Giving them a sense of destiny and purpose
- Encouraging them to see things from God's perspective

## **Who can participate in AWANA?**

AWANA at OHBC is open to any child, regardless of whether they regularly attend our church, another church, or no church at all. AWANA clubs are available for preschool & pre-k age children (3 years old, must be two years before Kindergarten), Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

# AWANA Leadership and Parent Involvement



## **AWANA Leadership:**

Our AWANA leaders have committed their time, talent, and enthusiasm to helping you nurture your child's spiritual development in a fun, age-appropriate way. All leaders must complete a volunteer application and pass a background check. We take your child's safety very seriously and strive to ensure our leaders are equipped to work with your child. AWANA leaders are members of Oakhill. AWANA helpers are not required to be a church member but must complete the application and background check as required by our program.

Please pray for the AWANA leaders and helpers that they would be faithful and effective in leading children to Christ and training them to serve Him. We always welcome new volunteers! If you are interested in learning more, please contact our AWANA director, Bryan Gotcher at [bgotcher@oakhillbc.org](mailto:bgotcher@oakhillbc.org) or 812-476-3450.

## **AWANA Parent Involvement:**

Our goal as an AWANA ministry is to help and equip parents as they guide their family's spiritual development. We strongly encourage you to work with your child in their AWANA handbook! Help them memorize the Bible verses and talk with them about what that verse means and how they can use it in their life. Read the Bible passages and answer the questions as a family. Use your children's handbooks for family devotions or have a family Scripture memory contest! The handbooks have tools and practical suggestions to help you as you learn and study together. Just a few minutes a day can yield eternal rewards!

Find what incentives work for your child! We will offer incentives and awards throughout the program, but you can also reward your child for meeting your expectations as well!

Parents are invited to visit their child's club anytime! Just be sure to stop by the Check-In Desk and let us know.

*Deuteronomy 11:18-21, God instructs parents to... "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."*

## **Parent Expectations:**

- Make sure your child(ren) arrive on time with their uniform, handbook, Bible, athletic shoes and jacket if needed.
- Make AWANA a priority in your plans. Be committed to working with your child(ren) at home and encourage and congratulate them on their accomplishments.
- Pray for our church, AWANA club, leaders and clubbers.

# AWANA Club Overview



AWANA Cubbies is for preschool children who are no more than two years from entering Kindergarten and are potty -trained. Cubbies' parents work directly with their children throughout the week in the scheduled handbook section as active participants in their child's spiritual development. Children learn key truths about God, Jesus, salvation and the Bible through memorizing shortened passages of Scripture as well as games and activities. All Cubbies will begin in the Apple Acres Entrance Book. Once they complete the Apple Acre book, Cubbies will receive their uniform vest and AWANA Handbook. Cubbies will work together on the same handbook section each week. If your child is absent, he or she can choose to make up the missed sections. As clubbers progress through their handbooks they earn award patches to display on their blue vests.

AWANA Cubbie rotation includes Games/Activities, Snack, Lesson, and Small Group/Handbook time. All other rotational activities are in the Cubbie rooms.

\*Cubbies will be dismissed from the Cubbie classroom. Parents must pick up their child no later than 7:30pm. If a friend or family member will be picking up your child, please notify us in writing and on the registration form.

Lastly, if you go off campus during the AWANA club, please keep your mobile phone on and available in case of an emergency.



Sparks Club is for children in Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. The Sparks program contains memory verses of gradually increasing difficulty, teaching children more about Jesus, God and His Word. Sparks' Handbooks provide a complete overview of the Bible from Genesis-Revelation and coincide with the grade each clubber is in:

- Kindergarten-Hang Glider Book: Genesis-Joshua
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Wing Runner: Judges-Birth of Christ
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Sky Stormer: birth of Christ-Revelation

All children in the Sparks program will begin by completing the Flight 3:16 booklet. Once they complete the Flight 3:16 booklet, they will receive their uniform vest and handbook. Clubbers will follow the handbook schedule for their handbook to scope out full completion. If a clubber is absent, he or she can choose to make up the missed section. Clubbers can complete more than 1 section per week.

AWANA Sparks rotation includes Games, Large Group Lesson Time, and Small Group/Handbook time.

\*Sparks Clubbers will be dismissed from their Sparks room. Parents must pick up their child no later than 7:30pm. If a friend or family member will be picking up your child, please notify us in writing and on the registration form.



AWANA Truth and Training Club is for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders (goes up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade in some cases) and is exactly what the name implies: teaching boys and girls the truth of God's Word and training them to follow God and live lives of grace. T&T Club is on a four-year cycle with four different handbooks:

- 2019 – 2020: Discovery of Grace – 34 Verses
- 2020 – 2021: Grace in Action – 36 Verses
- 2021 – 2022: Evidence of Grace – 40 Verses
- 2022 – 2023: Agents of Grace 27 Verses

All Clubbers will begin in the Start Zone entrance book associated with their grade. Once they complete the Start Zone book, clubbers will receive their uniform and handbook. T&T clubbers 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade will receive the green and white customizable jersey. Clubbers 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade will receive a customizable blue and white jersey. Clubbers will follow the handbook schedule for their handbook to scope out full completion. If a clubber is absent, he or she can choose to make up the missed section. Clubbers can complete more than 1 section per week.

AWANA T&T rotation includes Opening Assembly, Small Group/Handbook time, Games, and Large Group Lesson Time.

\*T&T Clubbers will be dismissed from their T&T room. Parents must pick up their child no later than 7:30pm. If a friend or family member will be picking up your child, please notify us in writing and on the registration form.

# AWANA Club Meeting Information



OHBC AWANA Club meets from 6:00pm-7:30pm on Wednesday evenings during the school year, following the EVSC school calendar. The club meeting begins promptly at 6:00pm. Check-in will begin at 5:45pm. Clubbers are rewarded for attendance, dues, bringing a Bible, having their handbook, wearing their uniform, completing their sections, bringing a friend, and participating in the theme. Each semester the points are tallied, and the kids can go the Country Store and redeem their points for a prize.



**Game Time:** high energy, exciting games played outdoors or indoors on the AWANA game circle. Game time promotes fun, exercise, good sportsmanship, and an opportunity to excel.



**Small Group/Handbook Time:** Clubbers work in small groups with other clubbers in their grade and book with a leader. The leader will lead the small group time and help clubbers learn their verses. The leader and listeners will listen to completed sections and sign-off in their handbooks. After a section is completed, the clubber will receive point toward the Country Store.



**Large Group Lesson Time:** An interactive, age-appropriate Bible lesson, worship and/or prayer time. Large Group Lesson will include the Gospel presentation and other biblical truths. It provides an opportunity for clubbers to share praises and prayer requests. At the end of Large Group Lesson time, clubbers will receive their awards for the week.

**Theme Nights:** A year calendar is distributed to announce Theme Nights! It can also be found on Kids Ministry page on our website. Theme Nights may include Crazy Hair Night, PJ Night, or Tacky Night. Clubbers who participate will receive extra points for the Country Store.

**What to wear:** Each clubber should receive their AWANA uniform or vest each night to receive recognition and incentives. In addition, please have your clubber wear pants or short and ATHLETIC SHOES with ties or Velcro. Please note that ATHLETIC SHOES with ties or Velcro are required for your child to participate in Game Time. Croc, sandals, flip-flops, Toms, boots and bare feet can cause injury to your child as well as other children. Please help us with this concern and have a pair of tennis shoes available for your clubber on Wednesday nights!

## What to bring:

- Your AWANA Handbook
- Your Bible
- Your Uniform
- A Friend!

# AWANA Discipline System, Awards, and Registration Costs

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## **Oakhill Discipline System:**

The following methods are used by our teachers/volunteers:

1. **Give positively worded directions:** "You may sit on the floor or on a chair." "Walk inside." "Run outside or in the gym."
2. **Redirection:** Substitute a positive activity for a negative activity (i.e. "You may throw a beanbag." "We use blocks for building.").
3. **Distraction:** Change the focus of the activity or behavior.
4. **Positive Reinforcement:** Try to catch a child being good or affirm a child's appropriate behavior.
5. **Active Listening:** Help the child determine why there is a problem and help the child acknowledge his feelings and/or reaction.
6. **Separation from the group:** When all of the above fails, only then is a child briefly (less than 5 minutes) separated from his/her classmates. The child will always be within sight of the teachers.
7. **Contact Children's Minister:** If a child's behavior is a danger to himself or others and/or other measures have been taken and are not effective, teachers and volunteers need to contact the Children's Minister for additional intervention and assessment.

***Physical discipline and shaming methods are NEVER used.***

## **AWANA Awards:**

Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T clubbers have the opportunity to earn awards throughout the year. Clubbers receive their awards the week after they have earned it during Large Group Lesson Time. The handbook will explain the awards for that particular club and how they should be worn. The registration fee covers award costs, but if your child loses an award, you will need to purchase a replacement. Clubbers may also earn Country Store points during check-in and handbook time.

## **Registration Costs:**

The registration cost for AWANA is \$20.00/child per year paid upfront, which includes the handbook. This helps us offset extra expenses like awards and prizes. Club Sponsorships are available to help cover costs if needed. The AWANA Uniform is an additional fee (see individual club heads for prices). If a child loses a handbook or uniform, the parent will have to purchase a replacement.