

**Welcome to OHC AWANA 2023-2024**

I am quite pleased that you have decided to enroll your child in the 2023-2024 Overland Hills Church AWANA program. Our goal is to provide a place of learning, excitement, challenge, and fun where your child can grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The AWANA program is divided into several age groups that range from three-years-old through 12th grade. A typical club night is divided into four parts:

 1. Music / Opening in the Worship Center

 2. Small Group / Handbook Time

3. Large Group / Council Time

 4. Game Time

AWANA offers opportunities for your child to grow spiritually through Scripture memorization and a basic understanding of Biblical principles and doctrines. The OHC AWANA program uses the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible for handbook materials [although we can get different versions by request]. I ask for your support in encouraging your child to complete their handbook materials prior to each club week. Children in the Sparks and T&T clubs need to average completion of 3 sections per week in order to complete their books by year’s end. This can be accomplished by allocating about 10 minutes each day to Scripture memory, which will facilitate application of the Scriptural truths your child is learning, and encourage spiritual growth for your child as well as your entire family. AWANA also provides an opportunity for children to learn to compete as a team. They will be encouraged to win and lose with an attitude of kindness, fair play, and sportsmanship.

It is necessary that you drop off and pick up your children on time. Check-in starts at 6:30 pm for Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T. To ensure the safety of all children, doors will not open until 6:30 pm. From 6:35-6:45 pm, we will have group music in the worship center, which will serve the purpose of providing order, and an opportunity to learn Christ-exalting music for all ages. The Opening Ceremony will begin promptly at 6:45 pm, and club will end at 8:15 pm sharp for those participating in the Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T. In order to provide accountability and safety for your child, parents will be required to come into the worship center at the conclusion of club to pick-up their SPARKS or T&Ters. Cubbies will be picked up from the Cubbie room. The Trek and Journey clubs meet every Wednesday from 7:15-8:45 pm [those participating as Leaders-in-Training will start at 6:45]. In the event of inclement weather, AWANA will be cancelled if Papillion schools are closed for the day, or if they have announced closure for the following day.

In order to make the registration process as easy as possible, I ask that you complete a registration form and medical release form for your children, regardless of whether you have completed these documents in previous years – this form is online and can be printed out in advance to save you time during the registration process – go to [www.overlandhills.org](http://www.overlandhills.org) and click on the About Us drop box – there you will find the AWANA page. Up to five children can be listed on each registration form. This important documentation must be completed and given to the AWANA secretaries in order for your children to attend Club. In order to offset a portion of the operational costs of the AWANA program, I request each child and teen attending AWANA to pay dues of $1.25 per week. A reduced rate is available for those who pay for the entire year at registration time, and for children with members of the family who volunteer to work as leaders or helpers in one of our clubs. These rates are listed on the registration form. Other expenses include the child’s uniform ranging from $12-$20 and club handbooks ranging from $8-$20.

Finally, please consider serving in the OHC AWANA program. Many positions are available that provide opportunity to serve the Lord and teach the truths of the Bible to our youth. Additionally, to participate in Cubbies, a child’s parents must be members of Overland Hills Church or serving in the AWANA program – if not serving in the program, Cubbie parents may be asked to assist in the Club once a month. Please contact me at awana@overlandhills.org for more information. Thank you for the opportunity to minister to your family.

Bob Atkins

Enclosure 1. Registration Form. Medical release form on reverse side.