

# Good News Club FAQ's 2021

## **What is a Good News Club?**

A Good News Club is a once-a-week after-school Bible club held at a local public elementary school and led by volunteers from a local church. Each week children who attend the club enjoy a one-hour program that includes a Bible lesson, memory verse time, fun songs, a review game, and much more.

## **Are Good News Clubs allowed right now?**

Yes! In-person after-school activities are allowed, as long as current guidelines are followed. A good rule of thumb at any given school is if A+ (the *statewide after-school program sponsored by Kama'aina Kids*) has resumed, GNC can be held as well. Our team will help you with facility use applications and talking to school admins about starting your GNC.

## **Are Good News Clubs legal?**

Yes! Here in Hawaii, the law says that after the school day is completed, every public school is considered a public use facility\*. This essentially means that any organization can use space at any public school once the school day is over. Additionally, because our Good News Clubs are after school, our teams have freedom to share the Gospel and the love of Christ every week with the kids who attend.



Our GNC program also received a favorable verdict by the US Supreme Court in the summer of 2001. In that landmark case, the court ruled that if a school opens its campus after school hours for any organization, they have to open them for all organizations. [GOOD NEWS CLUB V. MILFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL (99-2036) 533 U.S. 98]

## **Who can attend a Good News Club?**

Because our GNC's are held after school, churches are free to invite any elementary-aged child to attend, this includes homeschooled children, private school children, and children from other local elementary schools. The only requirement for children to attend is to have a completed permission form in hand before they can participate.

## **Who sponsors and leads each Good News Club?**

Good News Clubs are held through a partnership a local church and Child Evangelism Fellowship of Hawaii. The Local churches provide volunteers, financial support, prayer support and commit to following up with children who make decisions at each club. CEF of Hawaii provides training, background screening, liability insurance, curriculum, assistance with facility use forms and help communicating with school administrations before, during and after launch of the club.

## **How much does a Good News Club cost?**

Every GNC is FREE for children to attend!

For the partnering church, there are a few affordable costs associated with starting and sustaining a Good News Club. When added together, the cost comes out to less than \$15 per week plus snacks to share the Gospel with children at your local elementary school.

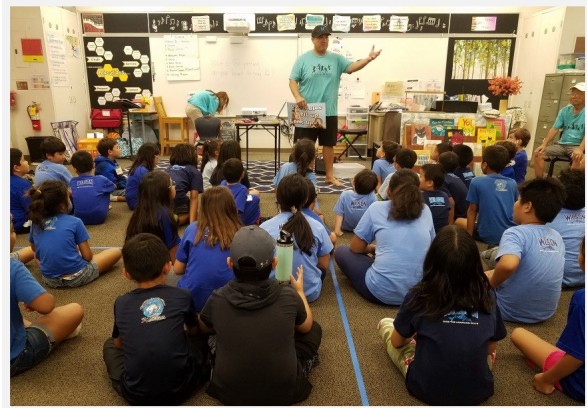
On average, it costs about \$10 per week to use a classroom for two hours at a local elementary school. Also, CEF's required Bible Lesson curriculum costs about \$60 for a six-week series (this includes the teacher's manual and all printed visuals for that series). Finally, most churches opt to provide some kind of snack for the children who attend each week.



*\*Hawaii Administrative Rules, Section 8—Chapter 39, Use of School Buildings, Facilities & Grounds*

## How do I start a Good News Club in my community?

The first step towards starting a new Good News Club is sharing the opportunity with your church family and casting the vision for reaching children in your community with the Gospel at the local public elementary school. CEF staff can help with this by meeting with your church's pastor and staff to talk about the program and answer any questions they may have. CEF staff are also willing to speak in person at your church and/or lead an informational meeting (usually after church) to help answer any questions prospective volunteers may have. Once your church and its leadership are ready to take advantage of this opportunity, CEF of Hawaii asks the church to commit to:



1. **Enlisting** prayer support for the Good News Club, the volunteers who will lead it and for the school where the club will be held.
2. **Recruiting** at three to five adult volunteers to lead the club; who in turn will be willing to commit to the following expectations:
  - Completing a background check
  - Participate in GNC teacher training (up to 8 hours total)
  - Help lead the GNC once a week, after school for six weeks at a time.
3. **Accepting** the financial cost for the use of the school's classroom, the purchase of curriculum from CEF and any snacks the team may wish to provide for students who attend the GNC.  
*(Financial assistance can be provided if needed for these costs.)*
4. **Engaging** with the parents of any child who makes a profession of faith at their GNC and providing follow-up counseling and discipleship by inviting their family to visit your church.
5. **Sharing** with CEF of Hawaii and other churches the success stories of changed lives that will inevitably come from your Good News Club program.



## I have more questions or I'm ready to take the next step, who do I contact?

Feel free to contact Matt Walton, our State Director, using the information below for answers to any questions you may have about the opportunity to start a Good News Club in your community. If you are ready to take the first step in reaching the children at your local elementary school with the Gospel, contact us today and we'll put together a customized plan just for you and your church.

