

CHESCO

Policy Manual

Revised 5/2015



**Christian Home Educators of
South Central Oklahoma**

*"You have been trusted to look after something precious;
guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit Who lives in us."*

2 Timothy 1:14

Table of Contents

Mission Statement and General Information	3
Board of Officers	3
Coordinators	3
Members-at-Large.....	4
Policies.....	4-9
Membership Dues.....	4
Annual Service to the Group.....	5
Guidelines for Group Activities.....	6
Non-Member Participation.....	6
Chesco Enrichment.....	7
Activities Fund.....	7
Public-School-at-Home Families.....	8
Retired Homeschooler Family Membership.....	8-9
How to Join	Back Cover

CHESCO Mission Statement

CHESCO is a non-profit, volunteer Christian co-operative organization of homeschooling families in the south central Oklahoma area whose mission is to provide encouragement, enrichment, support, fellowship, guidance, resources, training, and public awareness for families who have chosen to accept the responsibility and privilege of home centered education.

General Information

CHESCO Website: www.homeschoolardmore.com

Mailing address: 1405 4th Ave NW, PMB #201, Ardmore, OK 73401-3915

CHESCO Board of Officers

A CHESCO Board Member has home schooled at least three years, has been an active member of CHESCO at least two years, and has been elected by simple majority (51% of cast ballots). The Board must work together to uphold the CHESCO Bylaws and to establish group policies not specified in the Bylaws. The Board must oversee the administration of any current/future enrichment programs. Amount of dues and budget are set by the Board of Officers

CHESCO Coordinators:

A CHESCO Coordinator solicits and oversees the organizers in her area, helps facilitate each organizer as needed, provides organizers with liability forms where applicable, verifies that activity or event is on CHESCO calendar/website, and fills out an end of the year report. Coordinators must have home schooled at least two years and be a member of good standing in CHESCO.

CHESCO Members-at-Large:

A CHESCO Member-at-Large refers homeschoolers to appropriate resources and facilitates introductions of new members to the larger group. He/she helps facilitate activities within his/her age group (i.e., elementary, middle school, or high school) and fills out an end of the year report for activities in such group. Members-at-Large must have home schooled at least two years and be a member of good standing in CHESCO.

CHESCO Policies:

A. Framework and Policies

The leadership team evaluates the framework and policies annually, appealing to the Lord for His direction and wisdom. The general framework may change and policies may be added or improved as needs in the group warrant. Members are encouraged to give input as desired at the fall and spring meetings of CHESCO.

B. Membership Fees

Dues must be paid annually. The annual dues cover, but are not limited to website costs, facility rentals, PO Box rental, special speakers, and group rates of activities where applicable.

C. Term of Service and Transition:

Between election and July 1st, current Board will train new Board. Sufficient meetings for a smooth transition may be



*Teaching isn't a job.
It isn't a career. It is
a ministry.*

required at the discretion of the current Board.

D. Co-Operative Framework

Spreading the burden helps prevent a few from carrying the entire load. "If members don't do it, it doesn't get done."

1. **Annual Service to the Group** – Each CHESCO member family agrees to provide one service to the group annually (i.e., coordinating a field trip, teaching an enrichment class, planning of mothers' night out event, serving as a board member or coordinator, etc.) This one service must involve some thought, time, and level of planning and must be provided as an opportunity for CHESCO member families only. (See Bylaws, Article II, C, 3) *Member families who fail to provide the agreed upon one service per year will be placed on conditional membership for the following year, provided that they complete their service to the group before December 30th of that school year. Members who fail to provide this service will have their membership suspended on January 1st, and the membership will not be reinstated until the previous year's service is complete **and** the member's service for the current school year is posted on the CHESCO calendar.*
2. **Other Acts of Service** – CHESCO members who wish to offer their interests and abilities in other acts of service are encouraged to do so and are greatly appreciated for their efforts. In addition to fulfilling the annual obligation to provide one service to the group, members may wonder about planning another activity or event which is not exclusively directed for the benefit of CHESCO member families, but which is open to other area homeschool families or friends who are not members of CHESCO. The following are options members may wish to consider when planning an event/activity:

- a. **Option 1: CHESCO members-only event** – Advantages are that liability forms are signed by all parties, and officers and organizers are more protected from lawsuit; lest there is a case of gross negligence.
 - b. **Option 2: CHESCO-sponsored event** (Open to area homeschoolers) – Features 1) Your family would be more protected from lawsuit. All non-CHESCO members would be required to sign a liability release forms in order to participate. 2) Your activity or event can benefit the wider area homeschooling community. 3) Admission fee, if charged, must reflect a difference between member and non-member. 4) Event should be approved by standing Board of Officers.
3. **Option 3: Independent event** (Open to whomever the organizer wishes to invite) – Features: 1) Event is totally open at organizer’s discretion. 2) Liability is taken upon the organizer. 3) CHESCO’s name is not used in communication about the event. 4) Organizer can charge whatever fee he chooses to charge.

E. Guidelines for Group Activities

Conduct:

When representing CHESCO at meetings, field trips, and other group planned activities, members will do their best to:

- 1) Be prompt.
- 2) Be courteous.
- 3) Be responsible for their child(ren)’s actions and behavior.
- 4) Show proper behavior – i.e., respect, low voices, raising of hands, etc. when necessary.
- 5) Show appreciation by thanking the planner, guide, coordinator, etc.

Non-Member Participation:

- 1) May participate in meetings open to the public.
- 2) May participate in one CHESCO event per year as the guest of a member in good standing.
- 3) Must sign a liability form before participating at any event.
- 4) Will be subject to admission fees for events free or at reduced cost to members.
- 5) Participation is not guaranteed. Priority will be given to members of CHESCO.

CHESCO Enrichment:

- 1) Must be a CHESCO member in good standing to enroll. *A member in good standing a) has completed his/her service for the current school year (if joined before March 15th) and b) has fully completed his/her CHESCO membership for the next school year - including payment and online forms and signatures.*
- 2) Must read and sign the church release and Handbook.
- 3) Must attend orientation and participate as an administrator, teacher, or helper.
- 4) Must be physically present on site for your children to attend or have a viable substitute who is 18 years or older.

F. Activities Fund

Keeping a \$300 base amount, excess funds obtained due to Water Park or other recreational events will be placed in an Activities Fund (part of the budget). These monies would be used (but not limited too) deposits for future Water Park days and other recreational uses, ie, pavilion rental, Skateland deposit, possible defraiment of costs for members attending a members-only recreational event, ie, Lazer Zone.

G. Public-School-at-Home Families

While CHESCO supports parents' rights to choose the method and source of their child(ren)'s education, the board agrees with the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and the Oklahoma Christian Home Educators Consociation (OCHEC) that virtual schools are public-school-at-home, not home education. OCHEC defines the terms 'home education', 'homeschooling', and 'home schooling' exclusively as the privately-funded, home-based education and discipleship of children by their own parents or guardians.

Since the families that take part in public school at home face many of the same issues and challenges as home educators, the board welcomes their membership in CHESCO with all the benefits therein. However, in an effort to protect the integrity of our home education organization, public-school-at-home parents may not hold CHESCO Board of Director positions, nor will CHESCO promote government funded home-based school programs.

It is not the intent of the CHESCO Board of Directors to offend anyone participating in virtual charter schools, but we felt clarification was necessary.

H. CHESCO Membership for Retired Homeschooled Parents

For moms and dads who have at least one student who graduated as a homeschooler and they and/or their homeschooled child(ren) would like to continue participation in CHESCO activities.

Membership fee - \$15/year

The retired member would have access to “open” events such as MNOs, Back-2-School Bash, water park days, skate days, etc. and would have access to other events as invitees of the CHESCO Board, activities coordinator, or event planner. This would be a non-voting/non-office holding membership; however, the member would be welcome to offer feedback at CHESCO meetings.

Graduated children of retired members could also attend “open” events and could attend other events when invited by the Board, coordinator, or event planner. Attendance at high school events would be as a helper (not as a participant) and by invitation only.

Just as with current CHESCO members, non-homeschooled members of the family could attend “open” events if their parents are in attendance.

CHESCO

1405 4th Ave NW
PMB 201
Ardmore, OK 73401-3915

www.homeschoolardmore.com

Join us!

- Visit us on the Web at www.homeschoolardmore.com
- Click on “Request Membership”