

Home Circle of Hernando County

Membership Agreement and Field Trip Etiquette

2010-2011

MISSION

The purpose of Home Circle is to help and encourage new and experienced homeschooling parents to strive for spiritual and academic excellence for their children. Although we are not experts we will assist and direct families to information regarding homeschooling. We encourage the support of the statewide group: Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA), as well as support the Home Education Foundation (HEF) in order to ensure our freedom to homeschool. We inform our members of legislative action required to protect our rights as parents and educators. We also cooperatively organize educational, social, and physical activities for the family.

I. Home Circle will attempt to provide the following for its members:

- A. Member directory (now on line)
- B. Monthly Meetings (except for June & July)
- C. Children's activities which parents volunteer to organize
- D. Membership Discount to statewide groups such as FPEA
- E. Support for HEF (Home Education Foundation)
- F. Legislative updates
- G. Discount on Annual Testing with FL certified teacher.

As a volunteer organization, Home Circle's ability to organize the above is dependent upon the effort of its members. The inability of Home Circle to organize any of the above items shall not be considered actionable.

II. Home Circle Members will:

- A. Pay yearly dues to Home Circle (\$35.00/yr.) The membership dues cover cost of activities, support to HEF, monthly parent meetings, some of the costs of children's activities, and group discount rate for statewide organization (FPEA). (You pay \$ 18 per year on FPEA dues by being a member of a local support group such as Home Circle. You save \$ 10 per year.) Single parents are offered a discounted membership of \$5.00 if they desire one.
- B. Attend as many monthly meetings as possible. We need everyone's input and encouragement; however, these meetings are for adults only. **Please respect our agreement with the church and honor the adults-only policy that has been established for insurance purposes.** Nursing infants are allowed.
- C. Maintain a standard of dress that is appropriate for each activity. Parents should set the example for their children and we should strive to be above reproach as we are judged by how we appear. (This refers to modest, clean apparel that does not advertise something that would not reflect well on our statement of faith. This does not refer to the price tag of the apparel.) We will also honor the dress codes of churches and the other facilities that we utilize.
- D. Maintain a standard of behavior that reflects well on home educators and Christians.
 1. Arrive early to events.
 2. Consider age-appropriateness of activities.
 3. Children should behave in an appropriate manner with courtesy and respect. (Hebrews 10:24.) Children should be responsive, obedient, quiet, and attentive while someone is speaking. They should raise their hand to ask questions in a group. It is especially important that they exhibit obedience

and respect for their parents. (Ephesians 6:1). Children should also respect each other.

4. Parents should set the example by being attentive, etc.

E. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior.

F. Parents should assist in some capacity with activities in which their children participate.
This might be set-up, clean up, errand-person, phone calls, or the actual planning and presenting.

G. Honor our telephone policies, which are as follows:

1. Take the time to check the website before you call. www.homeschoollife.com/fl/homecircleofhernando Many of your answers can be found in this resource.
2. Do not make phone calls to members at what is reasonably considered "schooling" time, unless otherwise indicated by that person to be acceptable.
3. DO NOT GIVE OUT MEMBERS' PHONE NUMBERS TO ANYONE! Take their name and phone number, place the call yourself, unless you have permission to do so.
4. DO NOT MISUSE THE PRIVILEGE OF USING THE HOME CIRCLE EMAIL LOOP.

H. Honor our web site etiquette policies which are as follows:

1. The Home Circle web site functions as a tool to aid in educational activities. There may arise Biblical, political, or health questions or statements from members seeking or sharing information. These questions or statements are not necessarily shared or endorsed by Home Circle of Hernando support group. When views are shared that distract from the focus of schooling our children, the board retains the right to cut that thread.
2. Members use the web site in a manner that is respectful toward the feelings and beliefs of each member. No negative personal comments are to be posted about members, or about opinions expressed by a member. Disagreements that arise should be resolved privately off forum according to the Biblical standard represented in Matthew 18:15-17.
3. Any member behaving in a manner in apposition to this policy will be asked by the board to cease. If negative web site behavior continues, that member will be given the option to cease or to quit their non-refundable Home Circle membership

III. Home Circle will use the Biblical example of Matthew 18:15-17 to enforce our Membership Agreement.

If a member refuses to abide by our Membership Agreement, we will revoke membership. While our activities are not "evangelical" in nature, our members should be fully aware of our Christian purpose to glorify the Lord God in all activities. As such, we will not provide, participate, or knowingly endorse activities that would in any way dishonor our Lord. Furthermore, member families are in agreement that during their participation in any activities or field trips as part of Home Circle, they will conduct themselves according to standards that will reflect positively on our group, homeschooling, and our Savior. Home Circle is not a legal entity; it exists only as a cooperative association of parents who are committed to protect and educate our children, without any attempt to delegate that responsibility to others. These responsibilities are not shared. Any activities associated with Home Circle are merely cooperative activities participated in by various families who are active in the cooperative. Home Circle cannot sue or be sued. Home Circle and its Board of Directors and members are volunteers. We are not experts, and we do not provide professional advice or counseling. Although volunteers active in Home Circle coordinate some activities, we are responsible ONLY for our children and ourselves. EACH family is responsible for the health, safety, and education of their own children and should not be required to perform duties for parents who are not present.

Home Circle Field Trip Etiquette

We want to have a good reputation as home educators as well as representatives for Jesus Christ when we are on field trips or in public. We should be above reproach. If we are to be a light to the world, we need to behave on field trips with promptness, courtesy, and attentiveness. This not only reflects well on our Savior, but also encourages the tour giver to welcome us and other home-school groups to return. It is the policy of Home Circle that "members only" is allowed on designated HC field trips. The following are a few guidelines:

1. Sign up for field trips with the Representative coordinating the event. If there is a fee and/or a sign-up deadline please make sure to honor that. If you must cancel please be sure to notify the representative as soon as possible, so that they have time to revise the attendance forms, etc. Please plan to arrive at field trips early, as the group cannot enter a scheduled field trip late, and the venues do not allow us to prepay for people arriving at a later time. It is not reasonable to ask punctual members to delay their trips for those who did not allot enough time.
2. Be aware of the age-appropriateness of the field trip, and don't bring a child that is too young. Try to co-op with other families so that one parent could stay home with the younger children.
3. Be on time. Arrive 10-20 minutes early, and go in as a group with your group leader.
4. Please dress your children to suit the occasion. A Home Circle tee shirt is always appropriate, but clean, modest clothing will do.
5. Inform your children of any learning experiences that will take place on the field trip. You might want to take advantage of the field trip opportunity, by working into your curriculum, beforehand, any information that would enhance the learning during the trip and afterwards, having the children write a short report and/or illustrate or taking a quiz.
6. Children should behave in an appropriate manner, with courtesy and respect- Hebrews 10:24. Children should always be responsive and obedient. Touch only when permitted. Children stay quiet if adult is talking. Children raise hand if asking a question in a group. It is especially important that they exhibit obedience and respect for their parents- Ephesians 6:1. And, the children should respect each other.
7. Parents or designated adult should stay with their children. This is not the time to be visiting with each other. **You are responsible for your children's behavior.** Do not let them run ahead. Arrange with another adult to watch your child for a minute if you must attend to the needs of another child. Strive to appear as a professional teacher with a classroom, not just as a group of parents and children.

All members must read and agree with our Membership Agreement and Field Trip Etiquette form.

Please note: All activities of Home Circle, unless otherwise noted, have an expectation of "Members only" participation.