

CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS OF SULPHUR SPRINGS CHESS BY-LAWS
Revised May 26, 2018

ARTICLE I

NAME: The name of this organization shall be Christian Home Educators of Sulphur Springs (also known as CHESS), a private Christian charter.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership in this Organization requires that members read and agree to abide by the CHESS Statement of Faith, Code of Conduct, and Code of Organization. This policy ensures that all members are aware of the Biblical basis on which the group makes its decisions and plans its activities. This "Code of Conduct and Organization" applies only during those times and places that CHESS members (to include parents, designated guardians and children) are participating in or supporting CHESS sponsored activities. All CHESS activities, including sports, field trips, classes, etc., require CHESS membership to participate.
- b. Unless otherwise stated as a CHESS sponsored activity, the activities and items that members post on the CHESS forum or other social media sites are for information purposes only. CHESS cannot examine or speak for all the people, places or activities listed. Please use discernment and discretion as you decide which activities meet your family's needs. Posts from members of CHESS are not necessarily an endorsement from the CHESS Board. Membership in CHESS and participation in its associated activities is a privilege, not a right.
- c. Members are encouraged to provide input and opinions about any aspect of CHESS. Recommendations and/or disagreements that members may have are to be handled in a responsible and respectful manner. Such comment and discussion are to be directed to the appropriate board member(s) and escalated, if necessary, to the CHESS Steering Committee.
- d. Membership dues will be exacted per family and will be determined each year by the Board with the approval of the membership in regular general meetings. Annual membership fees, application, and liability form are due as stated by the Board. Failure to submit all forms and fees in a timely manner will result in the suspension of all membership privileges, including but not necessarily limited to attendance at CHESS meetings and events as well as participation in the CHESS forum and other social media groups that pertain specifically and uniquely to CHESS members.
- e. Special provisions will be made for those who desire to be members but are unable to pay.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this Organization is two-fold. First, to provide support to parents and others involved and/or interested in educating children at home. Second, to further the appreciation of home schooling in the community through education and media communication.
- b. Support may include services such as field trips, small group meetings for close fellowship and for mutual educational, academic, spiritual and emotional encouragement; Mom's Night Out; regularly scheduled meetings for the discussion of general business related to the CHESS organization, information on curricula and assistance in choosing appropriate curriculum and for special speakers and workshops.

ARTICLE IV CODE OF ORGANIZATION

- a. All leadership positions (board members, coordinators, co-op teachers, co-op helpers, sports directors, sports coaches, and club directors) must read, agree, and sign Article VI, Statement of Faith, in CHESS bylaws. Board members need to be in fellowship with other Christian believers (Hebrews 10:24-25). It is expected that all Board members believe in the Bible and solely follow Jesus Christ as they continue to actively seek Him. It is also expected that such leaders will make decisions and plan activities that will be pleasing to God and in accordance with His Word, the Bible. Should the signed Statement of Faith not be submitted by September 1 of the current school year, the leader will resign the position, and availability of that position will be posted.
- b. Steering Committee: Steering Committee members shall be men appointed by the Board as necessary from the membership at large. The reason for this is that the CHESS Organization is composed of home schooling families over which men are to provide the leadership according to the Scriptures. The Organization is an extension of the home and should mirror the home. However, Steering Committee members shall not be spouses of Board members.
- c. Board Members: The Board members of the Organization shall consist of President, Vice-president, Secretary, General, Treasurer, Advisor, Chaplain, Elementary, and Teen Coordinator(s) depending on current size and/or makeup of group.
- d. The President shall preside over meetings of the Organization and oversee the operations of our group.
- e. The Vice-President shall assist the president and be able to direct the business of the Organization in the event of the president's absence.
- f. The Secretary will be responsible for keeping a record of each meeting and handling any correspondence necessary.
- g. The General Treasurer and Teen Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving funds and disbursing payments and will provide an accounting of this activity upon request. Records shall be reviewed annually or as determined by the Board.
- h. Advisor will be a former CHESS Board member who can advise and mentor current less experienced Board members, when necessary.

- i. The Elementary and Teen Coordinator(s) will be responsible for overseeing all organized committees, events and activities related to students, as well as notifying and updating members of such happenings.
- j. The Chaplain shall cover the Organization's meetings with prayer and offer support to CHES members.
- k. Board members shall have been members of the Organization for at least two years.
- l. A board member's term of office is on a voluntary basis and shall be reviewed by the members on a yearly basis. An election will be held should two members volunteer for the same position. Should a board member resign during his term of office, the board may appoint someone to complete his term.
- m. The CHES Board is here to serve the group and encourages an open-door policy. Should any CHES member desire the input of the Board, he/she may contact any Board member. Board members may request that the question/concern be submitted in writing. The CHES member should understand that the Board will need time to confer before responding.
- n. Motions and official business of the board are binding pending a majority vote of those present. A quorum of three or more board members must be present. A quorum (or majority) of board members must be present to hold an official board meeting.\
- o. Teaching Co-op: Is a volunteer, parent-led classroom environment for CHES members, which provides another option for a supportive, educational experience.
- p. Co-op teachers are also required to be CHES members. As such, they will be held accountable to uphold and abide by the CHES Bylaws at all CHES events, including participation in the Teaching Co-op.
- q. The Teaching Co-op will operate under the Teaching Co-op Board.
- r. Complete information regarding the Teaching Co-op, including its policies and procedures, is contained in the Co-op Registration Packet.
- s. Sports Program: Contact Sport Director for guidelines pertaining to these activities.
- t. Various Programs or Clubs: These may include, but are not limited to, things such as Robotics, History, etc. These will be operated as needed, according to interest and participation.
- u. Email: The purpose of email correspondence is to share with one another CHES business, other homeschool-related items, educational opportunities, and personal prayer requests.
- v. Anything falling outside of these topics should not be posted through CHES' forum. If you have a question about whether an e-mail you would like to send meets the requirements, please feel free to ask a Board member. If you have non-related items, you may send them only to individuals to whom they pertain, not to the entire group.
- w. Meetings: The time, date, place and frequency of general meetings shall be decided by the board members. Pertinent information regarding said meetings will be posted on the email loop one week in advance. It is the responsibility of the individual members to access this information.
- x. Execution and Amendment: These by-laws shall become effective upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a general meeting called for that purpose. These by-laws may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of members present and voting at a general meeting of the Organization. Written notice of the proposed amendment will be posted on the email loop at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting. It is the responsibility of the individual members to access this information.

ARTICLE V
CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. Member families will act in such a way that their words and actions promote the unity and encouragement of fellow CHESS families.
- b. Member families will avoid acting in such a way that is considered disrespectful, offensive, immoral, intimidating or rude.
- c. Member families will avoid gossiping to or about other CHESS families.
- d. Member families will be responsible for their own children's behavior to ensure they are acting in accordance with this Code of Conduct.
- e. Any members or leaders of the Organization who persist in violating this Code of Conduct are considered to be conducting themselves in a way that is contrary to the specific and primary purposes of the Organization. Such members may have their membership revoked by the CHESS Steering Committee in an attempt for correction and restoration.
- f. See Discipline Guidelines below. Field Trip Conduct
- g. As Christian home educators, we are representatives of both Christ and home education in the community. Please ensure conduct that will reflect well on both.
- h. Scheduling and payment arrangements shall be determined by the individual(s) coordinating each field trip.
- i. Please be considerate and notify the field trip coordinator(s) at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you will be unable to attend a field trip for which you are registered.
- j. Coordinators put a great deal of time and effort into organizing field trips. As a courtesy, please be sure to sign up before the deadline and arrive at the field trip destination at least 10 minutes early.
- k. All prepaid field trip fees are non-refundable. It is recommended that the coordinator not pay for field trips from their own personal funds.
- l. If any CHESS member fails to attend a field trip for which he/she has registered, thereby resulting in a loss of discount for the remaining participants, that member may be required to prepay in order to register for or attend any paid events for the remainder of the school year.
- m. Discipline Guidelines

Adult Conflict Resolution: (The following is in reference to adult interactions.)

1. Give yourself time to calm down.
2. Pray!
3. Be humble: Your attitude should be the same that Christ had. What emotion, desire, right or attitude could you "die" to or put down in yourself?

4. Be merciful: "Let love cover a multitude of sins." Perhaps this incident can be resolved without confrontation by extending grace, forgiveness and being merciful.
5. Be a peacemaker: Does the situation require confrontation? If you feel this conflict can be resolved privately, go to that person. Or, if you prefer, a Board member(s) will be available to serve as a mediator(s). If the problem persists, both parties should then meet with all board members. If no resolution is reached, the conflict should be taken to a neutral mediator (agreed upon by both parties).

This procedure is to be strictly followed. Any member approaching a Board member with a conflict within the group will be asked if he/she has abided by guidelines 1-4 above.

ARTICLE VI STATEMENT OF FAITH

- a. The Bible is the living Word of God and is the infallible, inerrant and the final authority for all matters of faith and conduct. (II Tim. 3:16-17 ¹⁶All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.)
- b. There is one God existing in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28: 19 ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, II Cor. 13:14 ¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.)
- c. Jesus was born of a virgin, died for our sins, rose again on the third day and ascended to heaven. It is through His death and resurrection that we can have eternal salvation and avoid eternal punishment. It is by God's grace, not by our works, that we are saved through faith in Christ. (Rom. 4:25 ²⁵who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification., Eph. 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.)
- d. The ministry and gifting of the Holy Spirit is for the edification and unification of the church to the glory of Jesus Christ. (John 16:7-15 ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but

whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you; I Cor. 12: 3-11

³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. I Cor. 14:12 ¹² Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel.)

- e. In Christ we, who are many, form one body. (Rom. 12: 4-5 ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.)
- f. We reject the anti-Christian tenets of secular humanism including the general theory of evolution, one world government, government mandated sex education, government mandated parenting courses, modern feminist ideology and abortion.
- g. We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social and spiritual unit created by God. In it, the child gradually learns how to govern himself/herself properly, how to conduct himself/herself in social relationships, and how to develop a relationship with the Creator and Savior (Eph. 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."; Col. 3:20 ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.). The family also provides protection from over-extensive government and over-stimulating social involvements.
- h. We understand family to mean one biological male and one biological female parent with one or more children, all related by the institution of marriage though we recognize the exception of a single parent.

- i. We reject homosexual marriages or homosexual orientation because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation (Rom. 1: 18-32 ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their [w]women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷Likewise also the [m]men, leaving the natural use of the [w]woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, [s]sexual immorality, wickedness, [c]covetousness, [m]maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹[u]undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, [u]unforgiving, unmerciful; ³²who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.).

As well, we reject transitory cohabitational relationships as being equally in violation of God's laws and incapable of providing the long-term nurture and instruction needed by children and commanded by God (Proverbs 1:8-9 ⁸My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;⁹For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck., Col. 3: 21 ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged., Eph. 6: 4 ⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.). In

view of this, no homosexual or merely co-habiting “parents” are eligible for membership.

Name _____

Position _____

Date _____