

**CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS OF SULPHUR SPRINGS KNIGHTS  
(CHESS KNIGHTS)  
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE 1**

**NAME**

The name of this organization shall be CHESS Knights (also known as Christian Home Educators of Sulphur Springs- Knights), a non.-profit organization.

**ARTICLE II**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this Organization requires that members read and agree to abide by the CHESS Knights Statements 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 it's activities. This "Code of Conduct and Organization" applies only during those times and places that CHESS Knights members (to include parents, designated guardians, and children) are participating in or supporting CHESS Knights sponsored activities. ALL CHESS Knights activities, including sports, field trips, classes, etc., require CHESS Knight membership to participate. Unless otherwise stated as a CHESS Knights sponsored activity, the activities and items that members post on email or other social media sites are for information purposes only. CHESS Knights cannot examine or speak for all of 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 Knights are not necessarily an endorsement from the CHESS Knights Board.

Membership in CHESS Knights and participation in its associated activities is a privilege, not a right. The CHESS Knights Steering Committee, based on continuing unacceptable conduct by a member(s) can revoke this privilege and terminate their membership in the Organization.

Members are encouraged to provide input and opinions about any aspect of CHESS Knights. Recommendations and/or disagreements that members may have are to be handled in a responsible and respectful manner. Such comment and discussion is to be directed to the appropriate Board member(s) and escalated, if necessary, to the CHESS Knights Steering Committee.

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 from are due as stated by the Board. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of voting privileges and removal from the email loop.

Special provisions will be made for those who desire to be members but are unable to pay.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **PURPOSE**

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 homeschooling in the community through education and media communication.

Support may include services such as field trips, small group meetings for close fellowship and for mutual education, academic, spiritual and emotional encouragement; Mom's Night Out; regularly scheduled meetings for the discussion of general business related to the CHESS Knights organization, information on curricula and assistance in choosing appropriate curriculum and for special speakers and workshops.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **CODE OF ORGANIZATION**

Leaders must read, agree, and sign the CHESS Knights' Statement of Faith. Board members need to be in fellowship with other Christian believers (Hebrew 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 school year, the leader will resign the position and availability of that position will be posted.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

The Board members of the Organization shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Community Liaison, and Event Coordinator depending on current size and/or makeup of the group.

The President shall preside over meetings of the Organization and oversee the operations of our group.

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.

The Secretary will be responsible for keeping a record of each meeting and handling any correspondence necessary.

The General Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving funds and disbursing payments and will provide an accounting of the activity upon request. Records shall be reviewed annually or as determined by the Board.

The Event Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing all organized committees, events, and activities related to students, as well as notifying and updating members of such happenings.

The Community Liaison shall cover the Organization's meetings with prayer and offer support to CHESS Knights members. This may include but is not limited to new member information, member hospitality during major life events, event donation drive, and other tasks as deemed necessary by the Board.

CHESS Knights board members should consist of volunteers that preferably meet the following requirements:

- CHESS Knights member for at least two years
- Active in the group
- Displays character attributes that reflect our code of conduct, especially at CHESS Knights events

In the event that volunteers don't meet all of the preferences listed above, the current CHESS Knights Board has the responsibility to make a collaborative decision on who may be best for the job and/or choose to leave the position open.

A board member's term of office is on a voluntary 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.

The CHESS Knights Board is here to serve the group and encourages an open door policy. Should any CHESS Knights member desire the input of the Board, he or she may contact any Board Member. Board Members may request that the question/concern be submitted in writing. The CHESS Knights member should understand that the Board will need time to confirm before responding.

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 in order to hold an official board meeting.

**CO-OP**

Co-op is a volunteer, parent-led classroom environment for participating parent's, who are active, paid members of CHESS Knights, as another option for a supportive home-educational experience.

Co-op teachers are also required to be active, paid, CHESS Knights members. As such, they will be held accountable to uphold and abide by the CHESS Knights by-laws at all CHESS Knights events, including participation in the Teaching Co-op.

The Teaching Co-op will operate under the Teaching Co-op Committee.

Complete information regarding the Teaching Co-op, including policies and procedures, is contained in the Co-op Registration Packet.

## **SPORTS PROGRAM**

CHESS Knights sports activities are a volunteer, parent-led recreational environment for participating parent's, who are active, paid members of CHESS Knights, as another option for a well-rounded home-educational experience.

Athletic Coaches are also required to be active, paid, CHESS Knights members. As such, they will be held accountable to uphold and abide by the CHESS Knights by-laws at all CHESS Knights events, including participation in the CHESS Knights Athletics Events.

The Athletic Department will operate under the Athletic Committee.

Complete information regarding CHESS Knights Athletics, including policies and procedures, can be obtained by contacting the Sports Director.

## **VARIOUS PROGRAMS OR CLUBS**

These may include, but are not limited to, things such as Robotics, History, Theater, or the such. These will be operated as needed, according to interest and participation. All clubs and organizations operating under the CHESS Knights name must be granted approval from the CHESS Knights Board by completing the Organization/Club Form which can be found on the website.

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

All Board Members, Committee Members (prom, theater, etc.), Coaches, Assistant Coaches, any adult participating in CoOp, and/or organizing, leading, or assisting in an event or field trip is required to complete and pass a background check. Background checks will be conducted through the company as selected by the Board and each individual is responsible for the cost of

their background check. Individuals will not be allowed to serve in any of these roles until the background check is completed and passed.

## **EMAIL**

The purpose of email correspondence is to share with one another CHESS Knights business, other homeschool-related items, educational opportunities, and personal prayer requests. Anything falling outside of these topics should not be posted through CHESS Knights' email. If you have a question about whether an email you would like to send meets the requirements or not, please feel free to ask a member of the Board, If you have non-related items you may send them only to individuals whom they pertain, not the email group.

## **MEETINGS**

The time, date, place and frequency of Board meetings shall be decided by the Board members. It is the responsibility of the individual members to access this information through the Board, if so desired.

## **EXECUTION AND AMENDMENTS**

These by-laws shall become effective upon approval by majority vote of the Board Members present at a board meeting called for that purpose. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of Board Members present at a board meeting called for that purpose. Written notice of the amendment will be posted on the email loop within one (1) week of the meetings. It is the responsibility of the individual members to access this information, if so desired.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Member families will act in such a way that their words and actions promote the unity and encouragement of fellow CHESS Knights families.

Member families will avoid acting in such a way that is considered disrespectful, offensive, immoral, intimidating, or rude.

Member families will avoid gossiping to or about other CHESS Knights families.

Member families will be responsible for their own children's behavior to ensure they are acting in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

Any member of the Organization that persists 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 Knights Board in an attempt for correction and restoration.

See Discipline Guidelines below.

## **FIELD TRIP CONDUCT**

As Christian Home Educators, we are a representative of both Christ and home education in the community. Please ensure conduct that will reflect well on both.

Scheduling and payment arrangements shall be determined by the Event Coordinator or the designated individual(s) for each field trip.

Please be considerate and contact the Event Coordinator or the designated individual(s) at least 24 hours in advance, if you cannot make a field trip for which you are registered.

The coordinator is working hard so please, sign up on time and show up on time. As a courtesy, please arrive at the field trip destination at least 10 minutes early.

All prepaid field trip fees are non-refundable. It is recommended that the coordinator not pay for field trips from their own personal funds.

If a member fails to appear for a field trip in which he has been scheduled, resulting in loss of discount for all participants, that member may be required to prepay for any further field trips he wishes to attend for the remainder of the school year.

## **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 reflective of the christian values on which this organization was established.
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 this 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 pirates).

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**

1. 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 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. There is one God existing in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14)
3. 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. (Romans 4:25, Ephesians 2:8-9)
4. The ministry and gifting of the Holy Spirit is for the edification and unification of the church to the glory of Jesus Christ. (John 16:7-11, I Corinthians 12:3-11, I Corinthians 14:12)
5. In Christ we, who are many, form one body. (Romans 12:4-5)

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.

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 to the Creator and Savior (Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20).

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 through we recognize the exception of a single parent.

We reject the homosexual marriages or homosexual orientation because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation. (Romans 1:18-32). 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, Colossians 3:21, Ephesians 6:4). In view of this, no homosexual or merely co-habiting "parents" are eligible for membership.