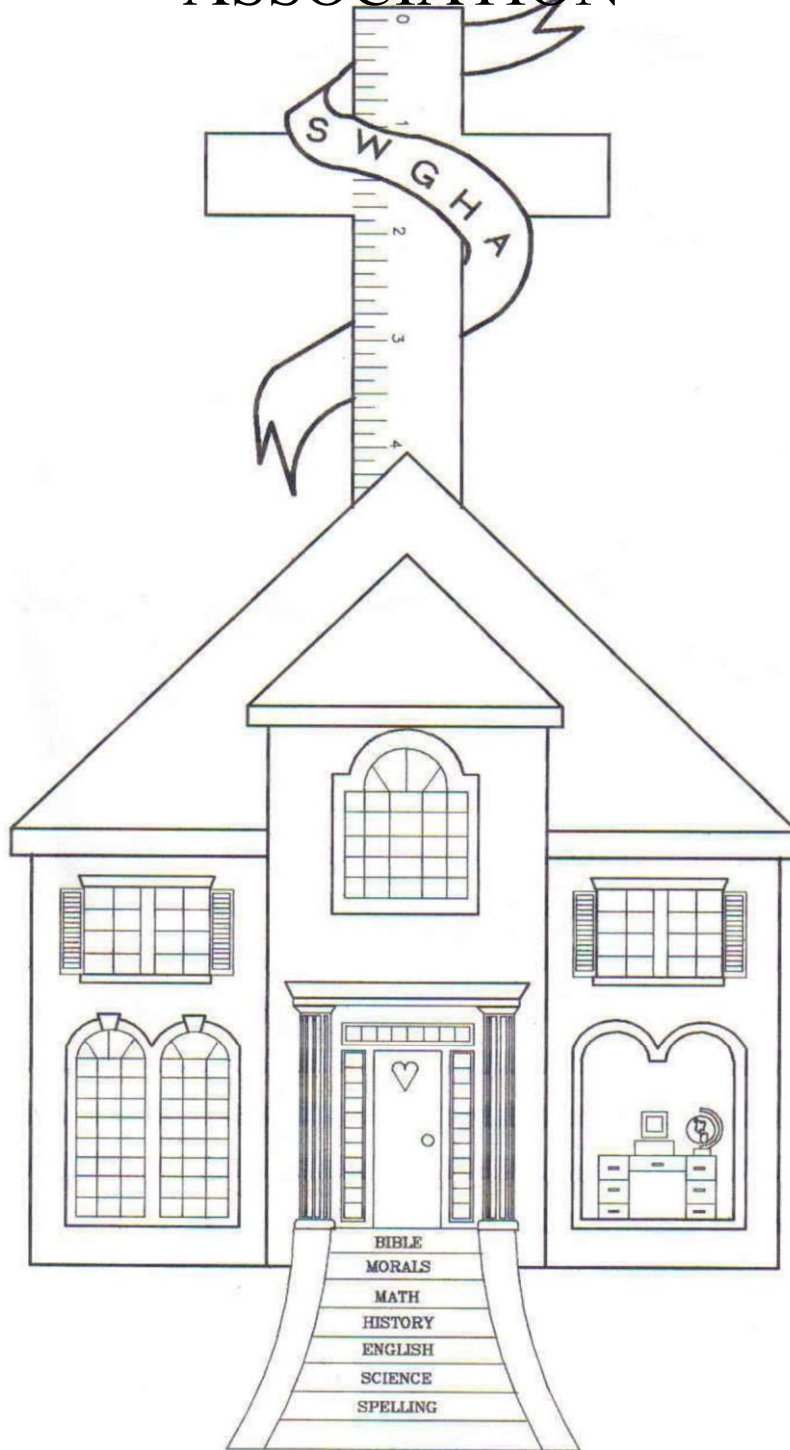


SOUTHWEST GEORGIA HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION



2022 HANDBOOK

Faith~Family~Fellowship

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SOUTHWEST GEORGIA HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION

HANDBOOK

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WELCOME TO SWGHA ...from the SWGHA Board

The SWGHA Board members welcome you to our homeschool association. We hope to be a source of encouragement, a source of fellowship, a source for information, and a source for educational opportunities for your family.

Each member family is unique and has a homeschooling style that meets the needs of their family. But within the homeschooling community, we do have a common unity; that of parental accountability to teach and to train our children.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Colossian believers to put aside 'the old self'. He encouraged them not to follow the 'new age' thinking and culture. He warned them not to let anyone take them captive through philosophy and empty deception according to the traditions of men and elementary principles of the world.

In Colossians, chapter 3, the Apostle Paul instructed the Colossian believers to put on 'the new self' (vs.10), to "set your mind on the things above, not on things that are on the earth" (vs.2), to clothe themselves with Christ: "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you." "...put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."(Vs.12-14), to let Christ umpire their thinking: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you..."(vs.15-16a), "...and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."(Vs.17) and to understand Whom they really serve: "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."(Vs.23-24)

We encourage you to lay aside your traditional thinking regarding schooling, your fear of failure, your doubts of not doing enough, your attitude that you're not smart enough, or any mental thought that tears down your confidence.

We encourage you to run the marathon of home schooling. There may be days when the hurdles seem too high (piles of laundry), when the children rub you so as to make you 'blister' (whining & complaining), when you feel weary, worn-out and winded (running errands), and then, when you think the finish line is just around the corner, it's another hill (I'm pregnant). Buffet your body and your mind, run with direction, exercise self-control, and run to win. Do not just seek the "perishable wreath", but seek the "imperishable" crown of a faithful steward. (1Cor.9:24-27)

"But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good." 2 Thessalonians 3:13 6

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Southwest Georgia Homeschool Association is a Christian organization of homeschoolers. We are open to Christians of all affiliations and non-Christians as well; however, all should understand that we are committed to Biblical standards in all that we do. This includes the field trips we choose, the standards of behavior we endeavor to exhibit, and the way we interact with one another. Our guiding principle is this:

The Lord our God is one Lord!

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Leviticus 19:18c

And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

And you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

SWGHA's goal is to provide support and assist families of southwest Georgia with the challenges of educating their children at home. There are many ways we attempt to accomplish this goal by:

1. Providing encouragement to homeschooling families within southwest Georgia.
2. Providing information regarding the legal climate of home education in Georgia and in our nation.
3. Working to protect the future freedoms of home education in Georgia and in our nation.
4. Reviewing and disseminating home education materials and information considered vital to home educators.
5. Publishing SWGHA website and handbook.
6. Conducting educational activities to provide information and training to home educators and their children.
7. Providing information concerning standardized tests for grades 1-12.
8. Offering opportunities for much needed fellowship, counsel, and laughter with other homeschool parents.

WE BELIEVE:

That it is the responsibility of parents to properly direct the needs of their children mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and physically.

That the parents have the constitutional right to choose the best method of providing for each of these needs, including the child's formal education.

That the learning process begins at home from the moment of birth, and the parents are the primary educators of their children.

That the conscientious parents can provide in the home a very adequate and often superior comprehensive program for their children's education.

That home schools offer the very best method of teaching: one-on-one tutoring.

That a child's educational needs can be met on a more individual basis in a home environment; that the flexible nature of a homeschool program allows each child to progress at his own ideal pace in every subject, without stressful competition or pressure.

That the homeschool atmosphere encourages an intensive adventure into learning through natural self-discovery, this builds self-confidence and individual thinking rather than peer dependence.

That home education encourages valuable social interaction with people of all ages in the home and in the community. This helps the child learn to relate well to people outside his own peer group.

That the family is the basic link in the structure of any society, and that America has seen a definite weakening of the family unit in recent years. Homeschoolers have found that the interaction between parent and child in the homeschool serves to strengthen family unity as well as providing the best possible alternative for education.

Thou shalt teach them (these words which I command) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:7

*Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 2:6

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of the organization shall be Southwest Georgia Homeschool Association (SWGHA).

Article II –Definition

SWGHA is an organization of families that promotes home education and is dedicated to observing the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18C, and Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

The Lord our God is one Lord. Thou shalt love thy Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Thou shalt teach them (these words which I command) diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Article III –Authority

We believe that the education of one's children is an inalienable right given by God which government can neither create, destroy, nor alter. Parents may delegate to others certain aspects of their children's education, but ultimately, all education must be under the control and supervision of parents.

Article IV –Purpose

SWGHA exists for the purpose of providing service and support to home educators within the southwest Georgia area, including, but not limited to the following:

Providing encouragement to homeschooling families within southwest Georgia,

Providing information regarding the legal climate of home education in Georgia and in our nation,

Working to protect the future freedoms of home education in Georgia and in our nation,

Reviewing and disseminating home education materials and information considered vital to home educators,

Publishing the SWGHA website and handbook,

Conducting conventions and other educational activities to provide information and training to home educators and their children, and

Providing social activities for homeschool families.

Article V – Membership

Section 1: Specifications

Membership is open to all home education families who are in agreement with the statements of purpose of this organization and who agree to abide by the guidelines as published in the handbook.

Section 1A: Family

We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social, and spiritual unit created by God. In the family the child learns self-control and social responsibilities while developing a relationship to the Creator and Savior (Eph.6:1-4, Col.3:20-21).

SWGHA defines ‘family’ as one male and one female parent with one or more children, united in holy matrimony (married), although we allow exceptions due to death, divorce, re-marriage, and adoption.

SWGHA recognizes maternal and paternal grandparents, natural or otherwise, as part of the extended family. Legal guardians are recognized as legitimate authority, but SWGHA does not grant membership privileges to legal guardians involved in homosexual or cohabitating relationships (Heb.13:4, 1 Cor.5:11, 6:9-10).

Section 2: Expectations

It is expected that all member families will support SWGHA in the work of the organization so that its purposes are met.

Section 3: Applying for Membership

Application for membership is made by submitting a registration form and the annual dues payment to the secretary. Dues must be paid by September 1st.

Section 4: Term of Membership

The term of membership shall be for a period of one-year beginning September 1. Member families will need to renew their membership on an annual basis. Registration and dues will be accepted at the Annual Planning Meeting in August.

Section 5: Voting Rights

Each member family shall constitute one vote.

Section 6: Use of the Southwest Georgia Homeschool Association Name

Member families must obtain prior written approval from the current Board of Officers (the Board) before using the name SWGHA for fundraising purposes, or in any electronic medium for general public

distribution. Additionally, members are asked to refrain from making any generalizations in print or in a public forum that would appear to be a reflection of the group as a whole.

Article VI –Government

Section 1: General Powers

The affairs of SWGHA shall be under the policy direction of the SWGHA officers and advisory board. In the absence of a President, and until the position of the President is filled, the general powers of the Association will be vested in the Board of Directors.

The SWGHA Board shall include seven elected positions: President, Public Relations Director, Secretary, Financial Director, Communication Director, Education Programs Director, and Activities Director.

The thirteen appointed positions shall include: Graduation, Enrichment, Legislative Liaison, Ministry, Library, Fundraising, Website, Education, Yearbook, Activities, Hospitality, and Field Trips.

The President, Public Relations Director, Secretary, Financial Director, Communication Director, Education Programs Director, and Activities Director shall serve a term of office of two years.

The President, Public Relations Director, Secretary, Financial Director, Communications Director, Education Programs Director, and Activities Director, shall be elected by secret ballot no later than May 6.

Section 2: Organizational Meeting

Prior to the fall organizational meeting, the board members shall meet for the purpose of planning and scheduling annual events and activities, and any other business deemed necessary by the board.

Section 3: Officers

A. Nominations

In the March website, between February 15th and May 28th (29th during Leap Year) an announcement will appear informing all members that nominations for officers will be accepted by the board between March 1 and April 30. The names of the candidates for President, Public Relations Director, Secretary, Financial Director, Communication Director, Education Programs Director, and Activities Director will be placed on the ballot provided they meet the following criteria:

1. President:

- a. A minimum of five years as a registered home educator
- b. One year membership in SWGHA

2. Public Relations Director:

- a. A minimum of five years as a registered home educator

- b. One year membership in SWGHA

3. Secretary

- a. A minimum of two years as a registered home educator
- b. One year membership in SWGHA

4. Financial Director

- a. A minimum of two years as a registered home educator
- b. One year membership in SWGHA

5. Communication Director

- a. A minimum of two years as a registered home educator
- b. One year membership in SWGHA

6. Education Programs Director

- a. A minimum of two years as a registered home educator
- b. One year membership in SWGHA

7. Activities Director

- a. A minimum of two years as a registered home educator
- b. One year membership in SWGHA

B. Election

1. Ballots

The board will prepare a ballot to be included on the May website forum. Ballots may be cast in one of three ways:

- a. Ballots may be returned to the address indicated on the ballot and postmarked by the date specified on the ballot,
- b. Ballots may be cast at an election meeting to be held before May 31, or
- c. Ballots may be cast through the official SWGHA website, if available; if not available, an online venue that meets criteria as set by SWGHA bylaws and as approved by the SWGHA Board will be used.

2. Procedure

- a. When casting a ballot by USPS mail, please put your return address on the envelope of the ballot, and mail it to the address as designated on the ballot (usually the SWGHA USPS Post Office Box). This is to assist the secretary (or designee) in determining who has voted. Your vote will remain confidential. The envelope will not be opened until the election meeting.
- b. At the meeting, members will receive a ballot, mark the ballot, and hand it to the secretary (or designee), who will check the member's name off the membership roll as having voted. Members

voting in person may be asked to initial the membership roll when turning in a ballot as an additional security measure.

- c. Online voting must be secure, and must be accessible according to bylaw procedures. When casting a ballot online, families log in using their password and cast their vote. Ballots cast online will remain confidential, just as votes obtained using other methods. At the election meeting, at least three board members will meet to download the online results, taking care to preserve the confidentiality of the vote.
- d. At least three board members will meet to tally all the votes at the conclusion of the election.

3. Special Circumstances

In the event there has been no nominee to fill an elected board position, the board may announce an extended nomination time for the open position immediately upon the passing of the usual deadline. Extended nomination time will end May 15th or by Field Day, whichever comes last. Nominees must meet stated requirements for that position. Voting will be handled in the usual manner.

4. Special Elections

In the event an elected officeholder is unable to fulfill their elected term, the board may announce a special election within two weeks of the office being vacated or the Board may defer the special election until the next regular scheduled elections. Nominees will be taken for a period of 30 days. The special election will occur during the two weeks immediately following the nomination period unless it is deferred. Term length will be to fulfill the vacated elected term of that position. Nominees must meet stated requirements for that position.

C. Appointments

The Board additionally has the responsibility of filling the appointed positions as described in Article VI, Section 1, as deemed necessary from year to year from those expressing willingness to serve in those capacities.

Section 4: Guidelines

Guidelines for functions and activities shall be published in the SWGHA handbook. Guidelines shall be reviewed and modified annually by the appropriate chairmen and their respective committee members. This review shall occur after the election of new officers and prior to the announced deadline for publication of the handbook. Periodic changes to the guidelines may be made as necessary by the appropriate chairmen and will only become effective after announcement in the next website. The board may choose to review and/or revise such changes as needed.

ARTICLE VII

With the exception of Articles II, VII, and VIII which are irrevocable and not subject to amendment, these by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or called

meeting of the SWGHA, provided that the proposed changes are presented to each member family at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

In the event that this association should be dissolved for any reason, then, all assets of the association, if any, shall be transferred to another Christian home school organization.

Updated April 2012, Reflects by-law changes of Jan. 2009, April 2009, Jan. 2010, and April 2012
Reviewed July 2013, Updated February 2022

Responsibilities and Duties of Board Positions

PRESIDENT

- Chair all board meetings
- Facilitate SWGHA group meetings
- Set meeting agendas and send reminders of meetings
- Work with all Directors to facilitate each of their duties
- Address any questions or concerns from members and bring these issues before the board.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

- Co-chair all meetings
- Act as a liaison between the SWGHA, the public, and elected officials- particularly concerning legislative matters
- Act as a liaison between SWGHA and Darton, Albany State University, and Albany Tech
- Act as a liaison with local places of interest for special activities offered, i.e. Chehaw, libraries, etc.
- Act as a liaison between SWGHA and other homeschool groups
- Update testing schedule for Do. Co. and surrounding counties
- Contact with media: television and newspaper
- Encourage community awareness
- Keep website calendar up to date

SECRETARY

- Keep minutes of all meetings and archive them
- Keep current member list
- Compile information concerning each family membership in notebook
- Submit Secretary's Report
- Prepare and mail New Member packets
- Update the Handbook after any changes are made
- Manages SWGHA mail
- Maintains Robert's Rules of Order
- Have membership cards available for planning meetings and classes
- Secure lists of all class/club participants to ensure that all are current members

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

- Disperse funds as needed
- Pay bills incurred
- Submit Treasurer's Report
- Maintain bank account
- Keep record of and communicate any membership payments to secretary and communications director
- Collect budget reports from all club, organizations, and event leaders

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

- Schedule and organize the annual events and activities
- Provide hospitality for group meetings
- Be a liaison with event leaders to help facilitate events and ensure guidelines are being followed
- Secure member volunteers to lead events and activities
- Secure clean up for after activities
- Maintains and updates Activity/Event Folders
- Maintains and updates Activity/Event Coordinator contact list and calendar Keep activities posted
- Act as liaison for SWGHA clubs

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

- Organize and schedule scholar and enrichment classes
- Secures teachers for each semester
- Make sure non-member teachers fill out background check paperwork
- Make sure teachers are paid/reimbursed each semester
- Secures volunteers for High School, Middle School and Elementary coordinators Secures volunteers for assisting with clean-up duties after classes

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

- Manages and maintains SWGHA emails
- Manages and maintains SWGHA website
- Manages and maintains our Facebook page for additional presence and to help public find our website
- Secure any volunteers needed to help with website/forum
- Keep families updated with secretary and treasurer cooperation
- Answer any interested new members emails or forwards to other board members Keeps special activity form/registrations updated on website

Responsibilities and Duties of Appointed Positions

GRADUATION CHAIRMAN

- Reports to President
- Works with graduating families to facilitate the high school graduation

Works with junior families to support the graduation exercises and pre-plan their upcoming graduation

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON CHAIRMAN ENRICHMENT CHAIRMAN

Reports monthly to Public Relations Director Reports monthly to Public Relations
Keep members up-to-date on current homeschool Director
issues, including national, state and local governments Coordinates community educational
Keeps members up-to-date on HSLDA, HEIR and GHEA alerts resources
Answer member's questions concerning legal problems Contact/liaison for community programs
or issues

MINISTRY CHAIRMAN FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

Reports monthly to the Secretary Reports monthly to the Financial Director
Mentorship to New Homeschooling Families Manages fundraising activities for SWGHA
Mentorship to SWGHA Families Including Used Book Sale, Publix Partners, Ministry
Support: Sunshine Boxes, Cards, Prayer Box Tops for Education

WEBSITE CHAIRMAN FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN

Reports to the Communication Director Reports monthly to Activities Director
Co-moderates forum Coordinate field trips
Co-moderates website

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN YEARBOOK CHAIRMAN

Reports monthly to the Education Programs Director Reports monthly to Education Programs High
School, Middle School, and Primary Coordinators Director
help to develop classes and curriculum for Format the yearbook and publish annually each
semester Submits hardcopy to library archive Assist in securing teachers each semester
annually

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

Reports monthly to Activity Director Reports to the Activity Director
Co-chairs Get-Acquainted Dessert Fellowship Member volunteers to assist with planning
Maintains paper goods inventory for social events Activities/Events
Responsible for decorations for selected events
Greeters for New Homeschooler's Meeting, Annual
Planning Meetings
Helps coordinate refreshments for Evening of Excellence, High School Graduation

SERVICES

Board Meetings

SWGHA Board Meetings are open to all SWGHA members. If you would like to address the board, please submit a request to the secretary one week prior to the meeting.

Website

The SWGHA website forum is now considered our website. It contains information about SWGHA activities and events, upcoming local and regional events for homeschoolers, and any legislative information involving homeschooling.

Submit any announcements on the website forum.

Handbook

A SWGHA Handbook can be accessed on the SWGHA website. It is updated annually and contains much valuable information for both new and seasoned homeschoolers. Please read it.

Membership Roster

A SWGHA membership roster of all member families is available on the SWGHA website. This list is exclusive to SWGHA members and is not to be released to non-SWGHA members or groups.

Student Identification Cards and Membership Identification Cards

A SWGHA Student Identification Card is available for each homeschool student that is six years old and above. A SWGHA Membership Card is available for each member family. These are obtained yearly from the secretary.

Association Colors and Logo

SWGHA colors are navy blue and gold. Our logo, as seen on the handbook cover, is used on T -shirts and other items. Our motto is “Faith, Family, Fellowship”.

New Homeschoolers Meeting

SWGHA hosts an annual informational meeting in June or July to provide potential homeschool parents and families with information about Georgia Home Study laws, fulfilling home study requirements, county contact information, curriculum resources, support organizations, and encouragement.

Standardized Testing

SWGHA provides standardized testing for its members each year as needed. If you desire standardized testing for your children, please contact a board member or the event coordinator early in the year so that we may make testing arrangements.

SWGHA Website

Southwest Georgia Homeschool Association maintains a secure website for our membership. This is an easy-to-use service that allows sending our website, calendar and other updates electronically; allows our members to post information and share items of interest such as: time savers, money savers, prayer requests, legal issues, homeschool advice/questions, etc. This website also allows event/activity leaders to notify the membership of important and/or last minute changes in Friday Classes, field trips, and other functions. The website address is www.homeschool-life.com/ga/swgha

Used Book Sale

SWGHA hosts a used book sale for our members and nonmember homeschool families to sell and buy curriculum, games, toys, and other related materials.

POLICY

Bylaw Changes, Policy Changes and Parliamentary Authority

“The bylaws define the primary characteristics of the organization, how it operates, and the relation of the assembly and individual members to the organization as a whole. The bylaws contain those rules that the society deems so important that they can’t be changed without previous notice and a specified large majority.” (Robert’s Rules of Order, Robert McConnell Productions).

The SWGHA Bylaws, under Article VII, provides that “these by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or called meeting of the SWGHA, provided that the proposed changes are presented to each member family at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.”

The SWGHA board will announce any proposed bylaw amendments on the forum 2 weeks prior to the annual or called meeting. At the meeting, members will have opportunity to discuss, amend, and vote upon these bylaw changes. Members present will speak for the majority.

Policy (guidelines or traditions) are rules related to the details of the administration of a society rather than to parliamentary procedure and can be changed or adopted as the need arises. (paraphrased, Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, pg18)

The SWGHA Bylaws, under Article VI, Government, Section 4, provides that “Guidelines for functions and activities shall be published in the SWGHA handbook. Guidelines shall be reviewed and modified annually by the appropriate chairmen and their respective committee members. This review shall occur after the election of new officers and prior to the announced deadline for publication of the handbook. Periodic changes to the guidelines may be made as necessary by the appropriate chairmen and will only become effective after announcement on the forum. The board may choose to review and/or revise such changes as needed.”

The SWGHA board will announce proposed policy changes on the forum. The SWGHA board will discuss, amend, and vote upon the policy change. Final policy changes will be published on the forum and updated in the handbook.

The SWGHA board members agree to operate under the parliamentary authority of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition (or most current edition available). Interpretative guidance is from the Robert's Rules of Order by Robert McConnell Productions. Procedures and guidelines not specifically addressed in the by-laws will follow the customary and standard practices of these reference books except disciplinary procedures.

The SWGHA Board will utilize a modified process for disciplinary procedures:

1. Offense by member will be addressed by a board member, either verbally or by letter. Offending member has the opportunity to correct the offense, and will be responsible for any property damage or monetary expenses.
2. If no correction of offense by the member is forthcoming, then a written letter from the board will be sent to the member, beginning a three month suspension of membership privileges. The offending member may take steps at any time to correct the offense and restore membership privileges.
3. If no correction of offense by the member is forthcoming after a three month suspension, then a written letter from the board will be sent to the member, beginning a suspension of membership privileges for the remainder of the membership year. The offending member may take steps at any time to correct the offense and restore membership privileges. Resolution of the offense must occur prior to membership renewal.

Activity/Events:

Activity/events are designed for family participation. All members are encouraged to attend any event or activity that they choose.

1. Members are responsible to handle all preregistration and payment of any associated event fee prior to the published deadline. Members should notify the activity/event coordinator of cancellation of participation by their family so another family may be added to the participation roster.
2. Event coordinators are responsible to maintain the registration roster, fees and expenses; give notification of event to the Communications Director; and submit an announcement on the forum and post to the website calendar. Activity/event date/time/location, etc, should be coordinated with the Activities Director and posted to the master SWGHA calendar. Any changes in the event are to be communicated to the Activities Director and membership by the event coordinator thru the forum, the website, and if urgent, by phone.
3. Activity/Event Folders: Folders are available from the Activities Director for each activity/event at the annual fall planning meeting. These folders contain information for the hosting of each event/activity. Folders should be returned to the Activities Director after the activity/event has concluded with the summary report.

4. Activity/Event Summary Report: Coordinators for each activity/event that is held under the name of SWGHA shall submit a summary or outline of the activity/event no later than one month prior to the activity/event to the Activity Director, who will submit it to the Board for approval. Proposed budgets for events must be approved by the board in advance.
5. No child under the age of 18 years old will be allowed to stay at an overnight event or activity without being accompanied by a parent or guardian, unless a SWGHA chaperoned event. Permission for the child to come to the activity/event under another SWGHA member's supervision must be approved by the Activity Director at least two days prior to the activity/event, otherwise, parents or guardians must accompany and supervise their own children at all times.

Activity/Event Visitor:

1. Family or student guest/visitors may attend and participate in certain annual events. Permission must be granted from the Activities Director or board members prior to the event. Family or student guest/visitors should complete the guest application, pay the guest fee, sign the waiver, and pay any event fee. All guests/visitors must abide by all SWGHA rules.
2. Adult guest/visitors may attend activity/events as a guest speaker, vendor or in other educational capacities.
3. Extended family members may attend activities/events in support of SWGHA member families.
4. Extended family members and friends may attend certain activities/events in support of SWGHA member families. Activity/events open to the public: New Homeschooler's Meeting, Annual Planning Meetings, Evening of Excellence, High School Graduation, Performing Arts.
5. Nonmember homeschool families may observe an event or activity with another member family or board member in consideration of joining our association. This is considered a hospitality visit. If participation is desired, then the visiting family will need to complete the guest application, pay the guest fee, sign the waiver, and pay any event fee as noted in #1.

Teaching Guidelines:

1. All curriculum, whether Christian or secular, should be clearly identified in the class description prior to class registration. No curriculum should deny that God, as the Trinity, is the Creator, Sustainer, and Author of our faith, however, it may remain silent on the subject. It is the parents' responsibility to research the curriculum and determine whether it is appropriate for their child.
2. Original curriculum written by the teacher must be reviewed by the SWGHA Board or an Education Committee that reports to the Education Programs Director (p. 13 of Handbook).
3. Teachers may not teach classes to promote their own personal agendas, promote their businesses, or sway students toward any particular political or religious ideology.

4. Teachers who are new members (or unknown to present or former members) must be members for at least one semester, and have their children/grandchildren enrolled in classes, prior to teaching any class.
5. All teachers must obtain a criminal background check from a local sheriff's or police office once every two years, prior to the start of classes in the semester they begin teaching.
6. Teachers must be willing to allow parents to sit in their classrooms to observe at any time.

Classes & Clubs:

1. All classes and clubs are for current SWGHA members only. Registration for classes occurs at the Fall and January Planning meetings or online at www.homeschool-life.com/ga/swgha .
2. Classes are offered as volunteer teachers are available. Professional teachers may be engaged to teach classes for an additional fee. Please offer assistance to our teachers as needed.
3. Scholar and Enrichment class participation includes volunteering to teach, assist teachers, monitor the playground and lunch room and to help keep facility clean as needed.
4. Students under the age of 16 may not be dropped off. A parent or guardian must be on site. Students can be left for a short period of time under the supervision of another parent, as long as both the student and assisting parent are aware.
5. All students should be engaged in the activities or programs. Please see that they are in the correct place at the right time.
6. Children in K5 to 3rd grade need to be picked up by the parent from the assigned classrooms at the end of the class period.
7. Please refrain from coming if you or your children are sick.
8. Keep noise in the hallway to a minimum.
9. Eat only in the designated areas. Please clean up after yourself.
10. Please be respectful of the property and grounds. Return items to their original place, pick up any trash or messes, and remember to collect your personal items to take home.
11. Please do not allow small children to play in the parking lot or anywhere unsupervised.
12. Any student being disrespectful or behaving inappropriately will be brought to their parent. Participation can be denied for inappropriate behavior or conduct.

13. Please keep pets at home. If a class activity includes a pet related activity, prior authorization from the Educational Director is needed.
14. Students who are 16 years old drivers and older, may attend Scholar and Enrichment Classes without parents, as long as the student is actively engaged in a class.
15. Students who are 16 year old drivers and older, may attend Scholar and Enrichment Classes with a younger sibling(s) when both are involved in the same activity/class.
16. Families may participate in a rotating supervisory schedule for students involved in the weekly Scholar and Enrichment program. Students are not allowed to leave the premises without permission.

Field Trip:

1. You must make a reservation unless otherwise stated in the website.
2. Field trips, which require a fee, must be paid by the deadline. Cash or a check for the full amount should reach the trip coordinator by the deadline. Your payment confirms your reservation. If it has not been received by the deadline, it is assumed you have decided not to go. Your reservation is forfeited to the next family on the waiting list. Monies paid are not refunded unless entire trip is canceled.
3. If the field trip is for a particular age group, please do not ask us to stretch the guideline to include older or younger children. The age guideline is established by the place we are visiting for good reason and should be respected. If it is permissible to bring other children it will be stated in the website.
4. While on each field trip, parents must be responsible for the behavior of their children. All should exhibit attentiveness and respect for the tour guide. We want to present a positive image of homeschoolers.
5. Many trips require that we stay together as a group. Please respect this request and do your best to stay with everyone else.
6. Please arrive at the departure location 10 -15 minutes before the planned meeting time to receive any last minute instructions and to avoid unnecessary delays.
7. If you are in charge of a field trip, please make provision for a back-up member to take your place for a scheduled event should something prevent you from leading the trip.
8. SWGHA members will receive priority in making reservations for field trips. Non- members will be placed on a waiting list and notified by the field trip coordinator if space is available.
- * 9. Neither SWGHA nor the event coordinator will be responsible for the supervision of children attending field trips or events. Neither SWGHA nor the event coordinator is liable for bodily injury or property damage incurred during any SWGHA function.

Volunteer:

SWGHA is a volunteer-based organization. Each member family is responsible for fulfilling the purpose of our group. Each member family should select in what capacity they would like to volunteer. Choose one activity, event, and two class day clean-ups per semester. Families not desiring to volunteer may pay the volunteer exclusion fee of \$100.00 per year.

Website Forum:

The SWGHA website forum is to be used in accordance to our purpose: to provide encouragement and information to homeschooling families within southwest Georgia. Any post, after preview by the forum moderators, that creates undue confusion, that is excessively critical or that falls outside the encouragement and information purpose, will be addressed privately between the member and a board member.

GROUP ACTIVITIES**NOT ALL ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE EVERY YEAR****Annual Planning Meeting**

This Fall Meeting is held for our members and for parents interested in homeschooling. Plans are made for the organization's year-long activities and events. Lots of information!! A Must Attend Event!!

Get-Acquainted Fellowship

The annual Get-Acquainted Fellowship is held each fall. Families gather to fellowship with one another. The association's president may conduct a short meeting.

January Planning Meeting

This January Meeting is held for all members to 'jump-start' the year. Updates on the activities and events calendar are provided, and any SWGHA business is handled.

Parent Meetings/ Fellowships/Coffee & Conversations

Parent meetings may be held during the year to discuss topics relevant to homeschoolers. The time and place will be announced in the website. We ask that children be provided for elsewhere during the parent meetings; children can utilize the playroom during the meeting at BRCC.

Mom's Night Out

This is 'time for mom' to visit and fellowship with other homeschooling moms. Join your contemporaries for a cup of coffee at the coffee shop or a dinner out with the girls.

Scholar and Enrichment Classes

Parents and other instructors volunteer to teach classes or direct clubs on Fridays. Families pay a minimal registration fee to participate in Scholar and Enrichment Classes. Each class or club may also have an additional fee for teacher supplies/materials or national/local club dues. Parents must volunteer one class day each semester to clean after Scholar and Enrichment Classes. Please review the Scholar and Enrichment Class guidelines.

Yearbook

The SWGHA Yearbook is an annual yearbook that reflects our association and its member's activities. On its most basic level, the yearbook is a record of everything we did during the year.

Family pages include 'our little babies' to 'our graduates', and many of the family activities like: schools days, field trips, vacations, sporting events, awards, and favorite activities. Student picture pages include homeschooled students of the same ages and grades. Events and club pages include SWGHA activities and affiliated clubs.

The SWGHA Yearbook is a reflection of who we are at our best! It is a picture of the many different facets of homeschooling, and a reflection of homeschooling through our member families. The yearbook is an excellent resource when sharing homeschooling with family and others in the community.

Class Pictures

Member families have opportunity for yearly photos to be made by a professional photographer. "School picture day" is for individual student photos, family photos, group photos, or club photos. These pictures are available for purchase. No sitting fee.

Field Trips

Field trips provide an opportunity to glimpse the world around us. SWGHA provides an opportunity to visit places of interest in the community as a group. Please review the field trip guidelines. Contact the Field Trip coordinator for upcoming events and consider leading a field trip for our group.

Commerce Day

This event is an opportunity for families and students to engage in trade. Set up a booth or table; stock your table with home-made crafts, games, snacks, drinks, or other items; and sell them. A money box and change is a must!

SWGHA Spelling Bee

This is a good time to "hone your spelling skills". The spelling bee is no elimination and grade divided. First place ribbons are awarded to the winner for each grade level; certificates of participation awarded to all who participate. This event is for students in grades 1 – 8. The official online study booklet for the National Spelling Bee is Merriam-Webster's Spell It! www.myspellit.com/ This site

provides 1150 words delineated by their language of origin. “All the words listed are linked to the Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary with audio pronunciations.”

SWGHA Geography Bee

The SWGHA Geography Bee is held each fall. This noncompetitive geography bee is to help develop a student’s interest in geography and, hopefully, to help encourage students to prepare and participate in the National Geography Bee. All grade levels are encouraged to participate.

Students in grades 4 through 8, who may be interested in the National Geography Bee, will need to contact the event coordinator. This local bee will need a minimum of six students of eligible grades participating. An official application to the National Geography Bee for the eligible student(s) must be submitted prior to October 15th each year.

Reading Olympics

This is a reading competition designed to promote and to encourage a love of reading. Competition runs from August 1st to April 30th each year. Awards are given to the competition winners during the Evening of Excellence in May. Reading Olympics Competition Guidelines for Students:

1. Sign-up with the Reading Olympics Coordinator giving your name, grade level, and contact information.
2. Use the Reading Olympics Book List Form to record the titles of the books you have read and the number of pages in each book.
3. Present a brief book report (3-5 minutes) about one of your favorite books at a Reading Olympics meeting.
4. Submit this record of books and page numbers to the Coordinator by April 30th each year.
5. This competition excludes conventional textbooks.
6. Grades K5 and 1st grade may include pages of read-aloud books.
7. Awards will be given to the students of each grade level (K5 to 12th) who has the highest number of pages read and has completed all of the above requirements.

Science Fair

Do we have an Einstein, Alexander Graham Bell, or George Washington Carver in the crowd? The beginning of the school year is the right time to plan your science project for the annual Science Fair.

Doing a science fair project is a classic way to learn about science and the scientific method. All you need to get started is some curiosity and a good idea.

Guidelines for Students:

1. Pre-register with the Science Fair Coordinator giving your name, grade level, and project. Obtain the Science Fair Basics handout. Review the Science Fair Student Evaluation Sheet in the handbook.
2. Begin your project early; maintain your log book with data; maintain your notebook with research information and reports on your project.
3. Projects generally are science or engineering oriented, but choose a topic that you are interested in learning more about. A Science Project website: www.scienceproject.com/

To enter a science project:

1. This is a judged event. Please have the display neatly prepared. Bring your finished display board, notebook with research and reports, and your log book.
2. All projects should follow the scientific method.
3. A three-sided cardboard divider should be used in setting up your display.
All grades are encouraged to participate. Awards will be given to the winners.

Annual Family Campout

In the fall, SWGHA hosts the annual family campout at Chehaw Park. This is a great time of fellowship and outdoor fun. Evening educational programs are presented by the Park Staff. Bring a tent, sleeping bags, and lots of energy. This is an excellent time to get to know one another "under the stars." Preregistration and prepayment is required.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is a time of good-old-fashioned-family fun with crafts, games, prizes, raffles and food. Students and parents can dress up in costumes. The costumes, games, and crafts vary from year to year according to the Fall Festival theme. Admission price: a large bag of individually wrapped candy.

Science Club

Students will explore different fields of science (chemistry, physics, biology, etc.) through hands-on activities and discussion in order to gain exposure to each field and hopefully acquire a curiosity and appreciation of the natural world.

Yearbook Club

The Yearbook staff and club members work during the year to design and produce the annual yearbook. Club members take pictures at SWGHA events, design pages, sell ads, and write captions. Students will

have opportunities to use the Photoshop program or online designer. Club members will assist families with their family pages as needed. This is for students of junior high and high school grades.

Drama Club

The Drama Club is open to children 8th grade and above. Younger children are encouraged to participate in plays and productions when appropriate. Watch website for any audition/rehearsal times.

Performing Arts/Talent Festival

Music and recitations are on the program for this delightful showcase of talent. Performing arts may include singing, playing an instrument, recitations, dance, or one-act plays or other approved talent showcase. Those interested in participating need to follow the performance guidelines and attend rehearsals at the venue location.

International Day

Students choose a country or a region to study individually or with a group. They study about the geography, climate, government, people, culture, interesting places and facts; then prepare a presentation of this country with posters, songs, maps, costumes, flags, cuisine, and written reports.

Presentations may be elaborate or simple. All grades are encouraged to participate. International Day festivities begin with the presentation of displays of the countries represented.

Those in attendance “visit” each country and “explore” the displays. Students are involved in a fact finding “scavenger hunt” answering questions about geography and the represented countries. The “visiting foreigners” participate in a “United Nations” summit where they share some interesting facts about their country. Students also bring a dish of food native to the country or region they studied to share for lunch.

Students are encouraged to attend, even if they do not prepare a presentation. This is a great opportunity to study geography in a dynamic and festive way. Meeting deadlines and preregistration required.

Field Day

Are you a good team player? Are you future Olympic material? Can you run like the wind? Can you leap tall buildings in a single bound? If you answer yes, you will definitely be an asset to your team.

Students compete in an exciting variety of traditional field sports and non-traditional water games.

Events include individual and team competitions; ribbons to first, second and third place winners in individual events. Preregistration required; parent volunteers required; fees are determined yearly.

Christmas Party

Held on the last Friday Class Day in December, the Christmas Party is a festive time to give and receive gifts with your fellow homeschooling families. Past parties include card swap, ornament swap, cookie swap, crafts, caroling, and drama productions. Bring a covered dish, dessert to share for lunch.

Valentine's Day Swap

Remember how you couldn't wait to read a Valentine card from your favorite friend? ...Or from your secret admirer? This February delight is about swapping Valentine's cards and treats with your special homeschooling friends. Be Mine, Valentine.

Middle School Party

A special time set aside just for the middle school students. Get together with your fellow 6th to 8th grade buddies to play games, watch a movie, go bowling, and have food, fun, and fellowship. Dress code: casual; chaperone parents required.

High School Fall Party

A fun filled night for high school students to enjoy outdoor activities. Scavenger hunts, painting pumpkins, and other fall themed activities. Parent chaperones and pre-registration required. Dress casual. This event is for students 14 years and older.

High School Social (Banquet)

This is an "invitation only" fun night for teens. This "dress-up" event includes a formal dinner, followed by specifically planned "social" activities. In the past, these "social" activities have included mystery dinners, games, scavenger hunts, and karaoke. This is an evening to not "act your age" but to "act your character". This event is for ages 14 years and up, chaperone parents requested.

SWGHA Spring Event (Spring Formal)

By invitation only, this elegant evening event consists of an evening of refreshments and dancing for SWGHA member high school students. Dress code is black tie optional for ladies and gentlemen. This event is for high school students (at the minimum 14 years of age and in 9th – 12th grade). Each attendee is allowed one guest. Guests of attendees must meet the student age and grade requirements.

Attendees shall follow the Dress Code:

1. Dress for this event is black tie optional, unless specified differently on the invitation.

For Gentlemen: Black Tie Optional: Tuxedo or Suit

Semi-Formal: Coat, Tie, Dress Slacks

For Ladies: Black Tie Optional: Ball Gown, full length, or Ball Gown, tea length, or evening dress.

Semi-Formal: as above or knee length dress (dinner dress), dressy pants

Other requirements: No plunging neck lines or back lines; no thigh-high slits in gown

If strapless or spaghetti strap on gown, no cleavage should be shown. No exposed midriff.

2. Christian conduct is the standard. Good manners, poise and social graces are expected.

3. Event coordinator(s) and/or attending board members may dismiss any attendee for any deemed inappropriate conduct or behavior that may include: foul language, disrespect or disobedience to authority, destruction of property, inappropriate dress, sexual misconduct, use of alcohol or drugs.
4. Attendees should give attention to proper dance etiquette. Although we strive to be inclusive and consider the feelings of all, no student is ever required to dance with anyone outside comfort level.

Art and Project Exhibition

The Art and Project Exhibition is held in conjunction with the Evening of Excellence, and is an opportunity for each student to display his or her artistic talents. Students may display their best work in writing, art, science, social studies, penmanship, sewing, book reports, map work, cooking, or other area of interest. Each student's work will be displayed according to grade level and category. All entries should have an index card attached to them with the child's name, age, grade and title of project. All participants will be awarded ribbons. All grades are encouraged to participate. Pre-registration required.

Evening of Excellence

The Evening of Excellence is an awards ceremony whereby students are recognized for achievement and excellence; and are honored by their parents. Family members, grandparents and friends are invited to witness the presentation of certificates, ribbons, trophies and plaques.

Preregistration is required and parents must complete and submit the Evening of Excellence Award Form. Parents should select two areas in which they want to recognize their child - academics, Christian character, fine arts, or a specific skill, trade or talent.

Kindergarten Graduation

What a huge accomplishment to graduate from kindergarten! This precious ceremony includes a cap and gown graduation walk to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance". Parents award their graduates a certificate of completion or a diploma at the beginning of the Evening of Excellence awards ceremony. A reception follows this awards ceremony. Preregistration required; exclusive to K5.

High School Graduation Ceremony

SWGHA recognizes the accomplishments and perseverance of its graduating seniors every year with a formal ceremony and reception. This is a special time for friends and family to congratulate the graduates on their hard work; and for all upcoming seniors to be encouraged to forge ahead. More information is found on the Graduation Information page.

Student Council

Come join us in the SWGHA Student Council! We are a leadership development-focused group, providing our middle and high school students with opportunities such as public speaking, project/meeting/fund-raising management, and service to peers and community. Members can also participate in programs such as the Presidential Service Award,

Congressional Service Award, Boys/Girls State, Teen Pact and SLU (Student Leadership University). We operate under by-laws and a member-elected Board of Officers, giving students the chance to learn and exercise growing leadership skills among peers. Meetings are held during Friday class days, and we schedule our community volunteer and peerfellowship occasions as a group or through committees.

SWGHA Affiliated Activities

Key Club International

“Key Club is the oldest and largest service program for high school students.” Key Club is “a student-led organization that teaches leadership through serving others”. Key Club is sponsored by the larger organization of Kiwanis International. When chartered in October 2003, the Key Club of SWGHA was one of only two homeschool Key Clubs in the United States, and was the only homeschool Key Club in the state of Georgia.

There are national and local dues paid annually. Students are required to learn the Key Club motto, attend bi-monthly meetings, and participate in service activities. There are opportunities for leadership as a club officer. Membership limited to ages 13 and above. www.keyclub.org www.gakeyclub.org/

Omicron Delta

SWGHA is a member of Eta Sigma Alpha, the National Homeschool Honor Society. Chartered in 2004, this honor club focuses upon developing integrity through four key areas: leadership, community service, networking, and scholarship. There are national and local membership requirements and yearly membership dues. This club is for honor students in junior high and high school with opportunity for leadership in the role of club officers. Membership limited to ages 13 and above; bi-monthly meetings at BRCC CHURCH. The National Homeschool Honor Society is recognized by HSLDA.

www.etasigmaalpha.com

Other Activities

These activities are not under the SWGHA “umbrella” but are wonderful resources available to homeschoolers in our area. SWGHA is not responsible for links that are no longer available or non-SWGHA activities that are no longer in effect.

Academic Competitions

Numerous organizations sponsor academic competitions that include home study students. Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Commodore Richard Dale Chapter, Albany, GA, hosts the American History Essay Writing Competition for grades 5-8th; and the Christopher Columbus Essay Writing Competition for 9-12th grades. Contact: www.dar.org/ Francis Miller, jvfranmiller@bellsouth.net American Legion Oratorical Contest, ‘A constitutional speech contest’ for 9-12th grade students, www.legion.org/oratorical Judge Joe Bishop, scjjcb@windstream.net The American Legion also sponsors students for Girls State and Boys State programs.

Fleet Reserve Association, Americanism Essay for 7-12th grades, www.fra.org/essay Branch 339, Albany, GA, Frank Richardson

National Christian Forensics and Communications Association, NCFCA, essay contest, but must be an affiliate of NCFCA. www.ncfca.org/essay

The Churchill Centre, annual research paper contest on Winston Churchill, www.winstonchurchill.org
Guidelines <http://tinyurl.com/3skpsz>

Athletics

SWGHA member students participate in a wide variety of athletic activities. Many local and regional businesses offer opportunities for lessons and competitive teams with swimming, equestrian events, tennis, baseball, soccer, gymnastics, ballet, karate, tae kwon do, football, weight training, and the like. Ask fellow members for recommendations of area athletic opportunities.

Byne Christian School (BCS) Home Schooling Opportunities

Byne Christian School's purpose is to extend academic and athletic opportunities to homeschool families within the southwest Georgia community. Homeschool students may register for a maximum of three academic courses per year and participate in team athletic sports such as baseball, volleyball, softball, and soccer at the secondary level, with a possibility of football and golf added based upon interest. Extra-curricular activities: clubs, field trips, fairs, bees, senior trip, library, computer labs.

Chehaw Science Classes and Chehaw Memberships

Cehaw State Park offers educational classes in the fall and spring to our homeschool students. These classes are for the outdoor, scientific, hands-on type student. Some previous classes have included animal habitats, animal camouflage, canoeing, and compass skills. Preregistration is required, class size is limited. www.parksatchehaw.org Chehaw also offers our group a discounted yearly admission rate. www.chehaw.org/

Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol is the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Albany Civil Air Patrol helps on air-search-and-rescue missions and teaches junior members aeronautics. Being a pilot is not necessary to join. Junior members are 12-18 years old, senior members are 18 and older.

Local contact is Captain Phil Jourdan, 229-446-7218; www.gocivilairpatrol.com

Flint Riverquarium

The Flint Riverquarium offers science classes. These classes focus on freshwater animals indigenous to the Flint River. Other science based classes and service opportunities are available during the year. Pre-registration is required, class size is limited.

www.flintriverquarium.com

Georgia Public Broadcasting [Georgia Home Classroom](#) | [Georgia Public Broadcasting \(gpb.org\)](#)

Georgia Public Broadcasting now offers free streaming for the classroom.

www.gpb.org/education/learn

Georgia Public Library Service

The Georgia Public Library or PINES offers several services. The Outreach Card allows for an unlimited number of items to be checked out simultaneously for a two week period with up to two renewals. There are fees on overdue items. Homeschooling parents should provide proof of homeschooling with a DOI and one other ID with your personal address. PINES offers free online tutoring and offers foreign language courses called Mango Languages.

www.docolib.org or www.georgialibraries.org

Junior Cotillion

The National League of Junior Cotillion teaches etiquette, character qualities, ethics, every day and formal manners, and ballroom dancing. www.nljc.com

Kiwanis Art Exhibit

“For over 30 years the Georgia District of Kiwanis Art and Music Showcase has provided students with the opportunity to demonstrate their talents in a competitive atmosphere with students from across the state. The students have received certificates, trophies, awards, and scholarships in recognition of their talent and effort.” www.kiwanis.org/

Students must be sponsored by a Kiwanis Club in the Georgia District; in good standing and currently in Grades 6-12; original art can be of the following: painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, metal work, graphic design, mixed media and crafts. Application deadlines must be met. See the Key Club sponsor for more details.

Music Lessons

SWGHA member students participate in music; learning vocals, choir and learning to play a musical instrument. Many local, regional, and private businesses, churches and colleges offer lessons. Students in our group play violin, acoustic guitar, electric guitar and bass, piano, drums, and wind instruments. Ask fellow members for recommendations of area music teachers and programs.

National Geographic Geography Bee

This geography bee, generally held in December or January, is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and a corporate sponsor. SWGHA homeschoolers are permitted to participate in the National Geography Bee when a minimum of six students in grades 4 through 8 compete in our local bee.

This is an opportunity to experience moderate competition on a local, state and national level. The local bee winner receives a prize. After completing a written test, if the local winner scores well enough, then

he/she has an opportunity to compete in the state level Geography Bee. Winners of the State Bee compete in the National Geography Bee at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. The national winner receives a scholarship.

www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/

Pizza Hut Book It! Program National Reading Incentive Program

This is a reading program sponsored by Pizza Hut to encourage K5 to 6th grade students to read. Students are encouraged to set goals, and upon completion of a set goal, the student is awarded a pizza. Annual enrollment takes place between March and June, final enrollment date is September 1st, with materials being delivered by mid-September. The program runs between October and March. To sign up, call 1-800-426-6548 or visit the website at www.bookitprogram.com

Teen Pact

Teen Pact teaches Biblical principles of government and family that gets students involved in the political process and formation of laws in our state. Week-long classes for older teens and one-day classes for younger children allow participants to gain a better understanding of how our government works. www.teenpact.com/

The Homeschool Channel

The Homeschool Channel is a project of the American Family Association founded by Donald E. Wildmon. Founded in 1977, the AFA has become one of the leading voices in America promoting traditional family values. The goal of The Homeschool Channel is to help re-establish the home as the center of instruction and discipleship by providing high-quality, biblically based resources. We are committed to assisting fathers as family leaders and encouraging mothers as caretakers of the home. In short, our vision is to bring glory to God by equipping families to change the world.

SWGHA has group membership. Log in www.thehomeschoolchannel.tv/group/swgha Enter Email Address: SWGHAemail@gmail.com Password: home2teach

YMCA Physical Education Classes

The YMCA has developed a special athletic program for homeschoolers. Students participate in a variety of sporting activities such as tennis, basketball, and swimming.

www.albanyareaymcasports.org

4-H

4-H is a program that teaches leadership, citizenship, and life skills. This is a national organization that serves students of ages 5-9, Cloverbuds, and ages 9-19. www.4-h.org

Group Fundraising Activities

SWGHA relies upon fundraising to help keep costs down for our members. We encourage you to participate in our group's fundraisers.

Used Book Sale

The used book sale is the ideal place to get a great deal on used books, plus make a little money from schooling materials that you are no longer using...puzzles, games, maps, and manipulative items. Instructions for buying and selling will appear in the website. A small percentage of the sale of used books goes back to SWGHA.

Publix Partners

Publix Supermarkets has offered members a chance to earn money for SWGHA each time you buy food for your family. You just show this card at the checkout prior to paying, and SWGHA will be rewarded with a percentage of the total sales. So if you do not have your Publix Card yet, call the Financial Director or Fundraising Chairman.

Box Tops for Education

Earn money for our association by collecting Box Tops For Education and turning them in to the collection receptacle at Friday Classes. Box Tops are submitted twice yearly, in the fall and spring. SWGHA members can be online sponsors, adding to the collection process through ebox tops. Games, reading, recipes, coupons, and more are available at the website, www.boxtops4education.com/ Sign up to be an online sponsor with SW Georgia HSA.