



Heritage Homeschoolers Inc.

2023-2024 Membership Handbook

On behalf of the Heritage Homeschoolers family, we would like to welcome you! We're excited that you chose Heritage, and we look forward to offering support for your homeschooling journey. Your membership offers your family a fun-filled opportunity to learn from and explore with like-minded families.

This handbook serves as a resource for you to read and refer to throughout the year. It includes our Vision, Membership Requirements, Event Planning Process, Code of Conduct, and various other resources to help you get the most from your membership.

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Group Overview

- **Vision:** Heritage Homeschoolers Inc. is a local non-profit support group for black homeschool students and their families in Cobb County, Georgia. We strive to create a sense of inclusive community, belonging, and relationship for black homeschooled children, their parents/caretakers, and other homeschooling families who share this vision.
- **Activities:** Our group meets regularly for enrichment activities, service projects, field trips, park days, indoor activities, book club meetings, play dates, family events, celebrations, educational road trips, a mom's retreat, Mom's & Dad's Nights Out, and more! Along with the activities planned by the leadership team, additional activities are determined based on the needs and desires of the group with each family having opportunities to plan and/or help with events.
- **Ages:** We serve homeschool families with children in K-12th grade. Member families MUST have at least one school-age currently homeschooled child.
- **Location:** While the Marietta area of Cobb County is our home base for meetings and most events, we do have activities throughout the county and explore all of Greater Atlanta and beyond on our field trips. Cobb County residency is not a requirement for membership.
- **Guiding Principles & Culture:**
 - *Varied* - Different types of activities on different days & times
 - *Accessible* - Lots of free & low-cost activity options
 - *Wholesome* - Clean environment with trusted adults and well-behaved children
 - *Targeted* - For K-12 with accommodations for younger siblings
 - *Centralized* - Cobb County home base but residency not a requirement
 - *Inclusive* - Open to all who successfully progress through membership process
 - *Flexible* - No mandatory attendance; minimal meetings
 - *Participative* - Every family has an opportunity to plan and help with activities.

Membership Requirements*

Prospective members must complete the following steps before being considered for membership:

- Complete the online information form by following the 'Request Membership' link below the login box at the bottom of the HeritageHomeschoolers.org homepage.
- Complete the membership application.
- Pay annual membership dues of \$100 per family.
- Review the Code of Conduct. Membership is contingent on adherence to the Code.
- Watch the orientation video and complete a brief phone call with leadership.
- Upon acceptance, each family must sign up to host an activity or event. This applies to every family, and there are no exceptions.

Following the successful completion of these steps, new members receive an email confirming membership and activated website access.

** Membership is open to new members & renewals July 15th – Aug 15th, 2023.*

Membership Renewal

- **July 15th** – Membership renewal period opens. This is the first day to renew your membership.
- **August 15th** – Membership renewal period ends. Members who have not completed the full renewal process by this date will be “parked” on the website (unable to sign up for events) until registration re-opens in January.
- Renewal process: Go to July 15th calendar entry, sign up, and pay \$100. Then sign up to host at least one event or activity.
- **Please note:** Families that have not put their volunteer event on the calendar by December 1st will be parked on the website and unable to attend events until their volunteer activity is added. The event/activity can take place in any month.

Event Planning Process

- Heritage thrives on community-based event planning, so we require each family to plan or help with at least one event during the year. If you're not able to plan or help organize at least one activity or event this school year, please do not register at this time, but you are welcome to join during the next open enrollment if your schedule permits.
- We value our families and their time and want to make sure we spread our planning efforts across the board. Events can be planned at your convenience and based on your family's preferences. You will receive the volunteer signup link via email.
- To plan an event, [please complete this form](#). It will come to the Heritage email, and we'll respond with follow-up questions and/or add it to the calendar.

Event planning tips:

- You must complete the event planning form. Feel free to ask questions beforehand, but events will not be added to the calendar based on emails, texts, or Facebook messages.
- Look at the form before contacting a facility so you gather all necessary info.
- Plan ahead. Last-minute activities are hard to schedule, usually not well-attended, and better served as FYI mentions on the Forum and/or FB page.
- Check the calendar before submitting form to ensure we don't already have activities for your age group that day or too many activities in that week.
- Balance paid activities with free & low-cost (under \$10) activities.
- Avoid activities with high minimums and narrow age bandwidths. Example: We may be able to meet a minimum of 15 students, but not 15 third graders.
- Generally, only exclusive/proprietary activities will be added to the website calendar. Please post public event “let's meet here” options on FB or website forum. There are some exceptions, so please ask if you're not sure.

- Do not submit forms for personal events (i.e. birthday parties), as these will not be added to the calendar. Bringing treats to an event to informally celebrate a birthday is fine, but the event itself cannot be an activity/party to celebrate a single child. Use the directory to send individual invites for parties.

Fundraising

Raising money for the group allows us to keep the membership dues low and offer more free activities for our member families. Please help our ongoing fundraising efforts by participating in the following opportunities:

- **Kroger.** Sign up for a free rewards card at any Kroger or online and then link your card to the Kroger Community Rewards Program at [Kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com). New users will need to create an account. Once logged into your Kroger account, you can search for Heritage Homeschoolers Inc either by name or NPO #: TY757 and then click “Enroll.” Every time you use your rewards card when checking out at Kroger, Heritage will receive a small percentage of your total purchases.
- **Amazon.** Follow this link to make Heritage Homeschoolers your preferred non-profit, shop through the link every time you visit Amazon and we will automatically receive a small percentage of your total purchases. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-2905949>
- **Box Tops for Education.** Download the box tops app. Select Heritage Homeschoolers as your school. Scan grocery receipts each time you shop, and box top eligible items will automatically be credited to our account. Heritage will receive \$0.10 for each collected box top. Here is a [list of participating products](#).
- **Donations.** Heritage Homeschoolers Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and 100% of the membership fees you paid are tax-deductible. To make a tax-deductible donation to Heritage, please use www.paypal.me/PayHeritage as ‘friends & family’. Be sure to include “Donation” in the notes so we’ll know what the money is for. You will not receive a receipt for donations under \$600.

Please spread the word to family & friends as these are such easy ways for us to raise money to make our events nicer and less expensive for our member families.

Event Signups

- **Website calendar**
 - The website calendar is the heart of this group, and 100% of your activity signups should occur on the website. The events are posted on our member FB page for your convenience but signing up on FB doesn’t count. You’re not signed up for an activity unless you’re signed up on the website.
- **Cancellations**
 - If an event is cancelled, those who have signed up on the website will receive an email.
 - If you can’t make an event, please officially cancel on the website as early as possible so we can plan or postpone/cancel if needed. Also, text the host directly if you’re canceling at the last minute. This is very important so we’ll know who to expect and don’t waste money, time, and effort prepping for

someone who is not coming. Some events also have waiting lists, so not showing up may unnecessarily prevent others from participating.

- Not paying by the deadline is not an appropriate way to communicate your cancellation. If your plans have changed and you're not coming, please be courteous and cancel on the website.
- **Please note:** Any family that has three or more "no-shows" will be able to choose between a \$30 fine or being parked on the website for 30 days (unable to attend events).

- **Refunds**

- We often cannot give refunds for Heritage events. We frequently have to pre-pay for group events and tickets, or we must commit to a certain number of participants ahead of time to get a group rate or make a reservation. Other times we've already ordered and/or paid for supplies or food based on the reservations/payments received. We try to be flexible, but please don't assume that refunds will be given when you cancel a reservation.
- You are welcome to post on forum/FB page to try to sell your tickets/spots.
- When refunds *are* given, they're usually all processed once a month, so there may be a delay before seeing the refund in your Paypal account.

- **Payments**

- Activities requiring pre-payment should be paid on the website. Ideally, you should pay when you sign up. If you choose not to pay upon sign-up, it is up to you to put the payment deadline date in your calendar, login, and go to your account and pay in time.
- Whenever possible, pay for everything through the Heritage website. In some instances, you will have to pay for something directly via Paypal. When that occurs, PLEASE INCLUDE A NOTE with your real first and last name and what you're paying for. Sometimes we receive transactions from unknown Paypal accounts (business names, nicknames, etc.) with no notes. We don't know who they're from or what they're for.
- The direct Paypal link is www.paypal.me/PayHeritage (always choose "friends & family"). Please do not use this method of payment unless specifically instructed.

Group Communication

- **Website:** www.HeritageHomeschoolers.org

- **Calendar:** The official group calendar is the heart of our group, and this is where it is housed. Please use the website to sign up for all events.
- **Auto-emails:** When you sign up for certain calendar events, you will receive an automated email confirmation and an automated reminder 2 days before the event. You cannot turn these off. You also should receive a weekly email every Sunday morning with a list of upcoming activities. You can turn this off in your profile, but please don't. In your profile, you can also determine whether you want to receive an email of every post on the website forum, a once-daily digest with a summary of all posts for that day,

or no email. We suggest you receive at least a daily digest so you don't miss important messages posted to the forum.

- **Targeted emails:** Please make sure that your primary email is listed in your website profile so you don't miss information. We send out emails through the website regarding updates or changes to calendar events that you've signed up for. We also send important group announcements through the website. These emails go to whichever email you have in your profile.
- **Secondary contact email:** If your spouse would like to receive email notifications and updates from Heritage, please add him to your profile under "secondary name" and select his preferred notification settings. He will not receive updates for events unless he is the one who signed up for the event, but he can receive other general communication.
- **Other website features:** Though the calendar is the heart of the website, the website has other helpful features:
 - **Classifieds:** You can post things to buy/trade/sell to other Heritage families. You can adjust your profile settings to ensure that you receive emails of all Classifieds right away.
 - **Forum:** The website forum is a posting board where members can communicate about a variety of topics. It is broken up into categories so you can quickly post in and find the most relevant areas. Please remember that some of our member families are not on FB at all or rarely check FB, so you will need to post in the forum if you want everyone to see your message. Please adjust your account settings to receive Forum posts via email. You can receive every post in real time or choose to receive a once-daily digest with all posts from the previous day.
 - **Member directory:** If you opted out of including your contact info in the group directory, please reconsider and update your profile to opt in. The member directory is only accessible on the password-protected website, and it is the only way other members can get in touch with you.
 - **Kids' birthdates:** If you skipped the kid birthdate question on your profile, PLEASE go back in and fill it out. This is a membership REQUIREMENT. Without the birthdates, we have no way of knowing the ages in our group, making it difficult to plan full group events.

- **Member Facebook**

- We have a members-only FB group that is ONLY for official paid Heritage moms & dads and is purged annually. To be added, please send a friend request to "NM Heritage Heritage." This is our FB profile for adding members to the group because you have to be our friend to be added. This is a great place to share info or ask homeschooling questions. Questions? Problems? Please reach out to tisha@heritagehomeschoolers.org for all things related to social media.
- If your husband is on Facebook, please encourage him to join our official FB group page so he can stay in the loop with our group and what our dad crew has going on. If not, be sure to share details with him whenever dad

events are added to the calendar. We want to make sure Heritage dads have community, too!

- If you do not have a FB account, you can still fully participate with the group by relying solely on the website. However, there are articles, updates, polls, opportunities, and discussions on the FB page that you will miss so you may want to consider creating a “fake” account just for access to the Heritage page.
- **Public Facebook:**
 - [This FB page](#) is open to the public, and it’s strictly used for marketing purposes. It’s just a way for people to find us. If you have questions about homeschooling, events, etc. please use the website forum or post on the official member FB page.

Hospitality

- Our Hospitality volunteers serve as a “welcome committee” and ensure the group is acknowledging and meeting the needs of families going through life changes – both celebrations and crises. Periodically, you will be asked to step up and volunteer to deliver a meal or help in some other way as we support one another.
- If you are expecting, our Hospitality team wants to know about it! Please email tika.clarke@ymail.com with your name and due date so we can keep up with your exciting news.

Group engagement

- Please remember to be warm and inclusive at events as we will always have a range of families and individuals to learn and grow with. Reach out to new people and get to know others who have been around a while!
- As we strive to make the group an inviting and comfortable space for both new and old members, please remember that deeper relationships take time to evolve, and the best way to feel a sense of belonging is to get involved on a regular basis. The more you engage, the more quickly you and your children will build friendships.

Heritage Book Club (See Attachment 3 for additional details)

- The Heritage Book Club meets in person monthly on 1st Thursdays at 10:00 AM as part of *The Gathering*. The kids are broken up into groups by age/grade, and the groups meet at the same time in different rooms.
- Register at www.HeritageGathering.org to participate in the book club. You don’t have to sign up for other classes. You’ll have the option to attend only monthly Community Days (which is when book club is held) if you prefer.
- While we encourage students to get the most out of book club by reading their books (or parents read aloud or provide audio versions), your children can still attend book club if they haven’t completed the entire book.
- If you have a child that you think could be moved to a different book club, please feel free to let our book club coordinator know. The book club ages aren’t set in stone. Your child can also move groups for certain months, based on the book

selection. Just be sure to sign up for the correct group on the site each month. Also, please ensure that your child's maturity level matches the target group. Book club is a social activity, so reading levels alone should not determine placement.

Ages & Stages

Heritage is a family-friendly group comprised of families with mixed-aged children, so many of our events are open to all or most ages. However, we recognize that our kiddos also have needs/desires for targeted age-specific activities.

- Preschool parents, please be mindful of what your child can and cannot handle and use your discretion and best judgment based on your child's level of maturity as to whether an activity or event is appropriate for them. We have several events on the calendar open to our Heritage Littles, and we'd love to have more!
- Parents with children of multiple ages have special circumstances, and smaller siblings are often welcome to tag along. Please feel free to confirm with the organizer of the event or activity if you have any questions.

Zoom Etiquette (Please review with your children!)

- Mute your microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure your child mutes the microphone when they are not speaking.
- Be mindful of background noise: Ensure that other family members, including parents, are not talking or yelling when children are on calls. Parents, PLEASE watch your language! We can all hear everything when your child is on a call.
- Use the chat wisely: Children should NOT post anything in the chat without the group leader's permission. Everything typed into the chat must be 100% G-rated in every circumstance. No exceptions!

Mom's Night Out

- If you'd like to host a Mom's Night Out (MNO) this school year, you'll be responsible for completing an event planning form at least 4 weeks prior to your event.
- If you plan an event at your home, you have the freedom to choose a menu of appetizers/finger food only, snacks or dessert only, tea & coffee only, dinner food, etc. Feel free to make it potluck style!
- You can have a theme, plan icebreakers or conversation starters, or just have a low-key time of chit-chat among new and old friends. We've had a variety of MNO formats, and they've all been great. The most important thing to remember is that the point of MNO is fellowship and getting to know each other, so your event must allow for that first and foremost.
- Please be mindful that we aim for most MNOs to be free. Occasionally, paid options are fine, but please spread them out from each other on the calendar.
- Minimal is best. Moms enjoy the opportunity to relax and chill, so MNO should be just that. Intimate settings like homes are preferred but other locations also work. Please try not to select too many activities that will limit the number of participants.

Tips for Success

- Don't overschedule your family.
- Look out at future months and mark your calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.
- Get a Paypal account, and mark payment deadlines in your calendar.
- Update website settings to receive communication from the group.
- ALWAYS cancel on the website if you can't make it.
- Understand our refund policy.
- Get involved!

Anti-Bullying & Harrassment Policy

Heritage Homeschoolers does not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student or parent. A student or parent shall not intimidate, harass, or bully another student or parent through words or actions. Such behavior includes but is not limited to: direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; and social isolation or manipulation. Parents should discuss this policy with their children and assure them that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students or parents who bully or harass are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal from events, temporary membership suspension, and revocation of membership.

Code of Conduct

Please read the attached Code of Conduct. Your continued participation in the group assumes that you've read and agree with all that is included in the document. Please contact membership@heritagehomeschoolers.org with any questions.

Please note: Cussing/cursing/swearing and other vulgar language and gestures are NOT PERMITTED at any Heritage events where children are present. This rule also applies to children, including teens. If you permit your child to use swear words in your home, please let them know that your family's permission for foul language does not extend to Heritage events. No exceptions.

Conflict Resolution

Due to the size of our group, it is impossible for leadership to moderate every disagreement or difficulty that arises between individual members. Before involving Heritage leaders, please go directly to the one with whom you have conflict. The following steps can assist you with resolving conflicts with other members:

- Do not assume intentionality.
- Agree on a time to meet in person or via phone to discuss the issue.
- Define the conflict clearly and stay on topic when discussing.
- Affirm the importance of the relationship and listen carefully.
- Propose a solution that looks out for the interests of others as well as yourself.

When conflict arises between members of the group, we strongly encourage the above steps for resolution. If a resolution cannot be made between the two parties, then **issues impacting the integrity and operation of the group** should be brought before the leadership for further discussion and to solicit support in conflict resolution.

Legal Help & Support

We recommend that homeschooling families join HSLDA. Even if you never experience legal trouble yourself, your HSLDA membership will help defend our right to homeschool here in Georgia. Membership in HSLDA also provides personal access to the legal staff; HSLDA's experienced high school, special needs, and Toddlers to Tweens consultants; and discounts through HSLDA's PerX program. (For more information about HSLDA's many benefits, see www.hslida.org.) Heritage members save \$15 on the HSLDA membership price when you enter our discount group code **210858** on the HSLDA membership form.

Contact List

Please contact these moms directly when you have relevant questions/suggestions or if you'd like to volunteer in a certain area:

Membership	Jailyn Nicholson	membership@heritagehomeschoolers.org
Hospitality (2)	Tika Clarke Allison Humphrey	tika.clarke@ymail.com humphrey.allison@gmail.com
Social Media & Marketing	Tisha Harper	marketing@heritagehomeschoolers.org
The Gathering	Brittany Williams	gathering@heritagehomeschoolers.org
General	Amber Johnston	amber@heritagehomeschoolers.org

If you have ideas or would like to help with certain aspects of the group in a more formal way, please speak up and let us know! You have every opportunity to help in small & big ways.

Quicklinks

- Heritage Paypal account: www.paypal.me/PayHeritage
- Add your event to the calendar: <https://form.jotform.com/HeritageCobb/activity-form>
- Amazon fundraiser: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-2905949>
- Box tops fundraiser: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>
- Heritage website (with calendar): www.heritagehomeschoolers.org

Attachments

1. Code of Conduct
2. *The Gathering* policies
3. Book club information page
4. List of local coops & hybrids (parent resource)

Attachment 1

Heritage Homeschoolers Members' Code of Conduct

Heritage Homeschoolers of Cobb County is a non-profit homeschool support group with the following objectives:

1. To promote and offer members a wide range of educational activities and services that cater to homeschooling families.
2. To support homeschooling families in their educational endeavors.
3. To create a community of black homeschooling families within Cobb county.
4. To cooperate with other clubs or entities having objectives similar to those of the organization and formed for the purpose of fostering and promoting learning and social opportunities for homeschooling families.

Membership is contingent on adherence to the Code of Conduct.

Members have a right to:

1. Be treated fairly, equally, and respectfully by other members.
2. Socialize in an environment free from all forms of harassment and discrimination of any kind.
3. Privacy and confidentiality in documentation and any other communication containing a member's personal information, unless consent is otherwise provided.
4. Participate in organized member activities within noted event parameters.
5. Be actively involved in planning and executing activities and/or events for organization.
6. Plan events upon approval of submitted activity form.
7. Respectfully voice their opinions and suggestions, and if possible, come up with helpful solutions.

Members must:

1. Treat other members, guests, staff of venues and other patrons (where functions are being held) fairly, equally, respectfully and courteously.
2. Act responsibly and ensure they conduct themselves in a manner which will not injure the reputation of the organization.
3. Not physically or verbally harass other members.
4. Respectfully, calmly, and privately try to work through disagreements before involving leadership.
5. Abide by and uphold the Code of Conduct.
6. Pay annual membership fees and any associated costs in relation to an event/activity in which they have committed to in a timely manner.
7. Cancel sign-ups on the Heritage website and notify event leader directly of any attendance changes within 24 hours of the event.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct:

1. Any member not acting within accordance of the terms of the Code of Conduct at an event may be asked to leave the function and will not be entitled to a refund of any monies paid.
2. Constant inappropriate behavior (2 or more violations) of any members will be discussed by leadership. An appropriate course of action will be taken, which may include a temporary suspension or revocation of membership.

Attachment 2

The Gathering by Heritage Homeschoolers Participation Agreement

By joining The Gathering by Heritage Homeschoolers, you have read and agreed to these terms of service and behavior expectations below, and have indicated that you accept and agree with each requirement of The Gathering Participation Agreement

- Adults and children must stay in the designated THE GATHERING space or common outdoor areas. Any other space on the Church campus is off-limits to THE GATHERING.
- Adults must remain on campus in the designated THE GATHERING spaces while their children who are 12 and younger attend classes. No drop-offs unless a teacher offers this option in class description or an arrangement has been established.
- If you need to leave campus, you must have a designated adult responsible for your children age 12 and under on campus and that person must be able to contact you via phone.
- Children 13 and older may be dropped off for classes. Drop-off privileges may be revoked and you may be required to stay in THE GATHERING space while your child attends classes and/or events if your child age 13 years and older does not follow the behavior guidelines.
- Teachers are not responsible for students after or between classes.
- ***If you opt to withdraw your child from a THE GATHERING class once the semester and/or block has begun you will not receive a refund for any Class Registration Fees.***

Please note: Our children are legally considered minors. If they are out of school and unsupervised during school hours, they may be considered truant. If your child is injured or has an emergency while at THE GATHERING activity, and you or another designated adult is not there, you could be considered negligent.

Behavior Expectations for THE GATHERING members:

- **Leave THE GATHERING space in the same condition you found it or better.** We rent our space from Towne View Baptist Church. Please be respectful. Do not damage property. Put trash in trash cans, straighten chairs and tables, wipe up spills, clean the coffee maker or microwave if you've used it, put away games/books/ etc. and, in general, help us keep THE GATHERING space neat, tidy, and somewhere folks will enjoy spending time!
- **Remain in THE GATHERING space while at Towne View Baptist Church.** THE GATHERING rents certain areas of the church and the staff requires that we only enter those spaces. Any other space on the church campus is off-limits to THE GATHERING.
- **Treat others with respect.** Remember that others may have different views or beliefs from yours. Do your best not to offend them. Refrain from using obscene language and gestures. Avoid topics like religion and politics on our forums and in general conversations. Leave others' belongings alone if you do not have their permission to use/touch/take them. Do not interrupt classes unnecessarily, either by opening and closing classroom doors or making excess noise in classroom areas. Verbal harassment, bullying (including online), and physical assault (hitting, biting, pushing, kicking) will not be tolerated.
- **Be safe.** Please take care when playing or walking through the campus and do not engage in any risky behavior or activity that could endanger yourself or others. Do not bring weapons, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, vape pens, or alcoholic beverages to THE GATHERING. Your safety is very important to us!
- **Do not let anyone into the building that is not a current and familiar member of THE GATHERING or an expected guest/visitor of THE GATHERING.** Children and students under the age of 13 can find an adult member if they see someone at the door unable to enter the

building. They should not open the door themselves unless they are helping their class teacher or their parents enter unencumbered. If a child or student brings your attention to the door and the person trying to enter is not a known THE GATHERING member or your expected/guest visitor of THE GATHERING, do not open the door.

All THE GATHERING members must know what is expected of them when they are at THE GATHERING. Please discuss these behavior expectations with your children. Please understand that if your child does not follow the behavior expectations outlined by THE GATHERING, you may be required to stay with your child during classes or events. You may also need to supervise your child more closely. Your child could receive direction to leave an activity, a class, and in extreme cases, may be banned from participating in THE GATHERING classes and events altogether. As a parent or guardian, you have also agreed to this behavior agreement and acknowledge that you and your family will be required to leave THE GATHERING if you do not comply with THE GATHERING Participation Agreement.

If you have a concern that falls under THE GATHERING Participation Agreement, please connect with your child's teacher first. If your concern remains unresolved, please address your concern to THE GATHERING Class Coordinator.

I have read and understood the policies and behavior expectations in THE GATHERING Participation Agreement. I agree to abide by them at all times during THE GATHERING sponsored activities. I have explained the policies of THE GATHERING to my children, and to my child-care designees, who fully understand and agree to abide by these policies when they participate in THE GATHERING activities. By submitting the form to join THE GATHERING, I am indicating my full agreement with any and all aforementioned statements of THE GATHERING Participation Agreement and Behavior Expectations, the Hold Harmless paragraphs below, and the attached THE GATHERING COVID Safety Policy.

Hold Harmless: Furthermore, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless THE GATHERING, Heritage Homeschoolers Inc., its volunteer staff, officers, directors, agents and assigns, from any and all claims, damages and losses of any form or nature, known or unknown, expected or unexpected, including but not limited to, actual damages resulting from, either directly or indirectly, any accident or illness occurring at or subsequent to any class, event, activity, or outing sponsored or endorsed by THE GATHERING and/or Heritage Homeschoolers Inc. ; and hereby release THE GATHERING, Heritage Homeschoolers Inc., and the additional above-named parties from liability in the event of such an accident or illness, including death.

Hold Harmless 2: I am legally authorized to agree on behalf of my children and/ or those under my guardianship to hold harmless the above-named parties in the event of accident or illness experienced by the undersigned and/or that child or those minor children in his or her charge, against the claims of any party in the occurrence of such an event. It is understood and agreed that THE GATHERING, Heritage Homeschoolers Inc., its volunteer staff, officers, directors, agents and assigns, are reasonable in relying upon the representations contained in this Agreement in accepting participants in Heritage Homeschoolers Inc-sponsored activities and THE GATHERING -sponsored activities conducted by THE GATHERING, Heritage Homeschoolers Inc., and the additional above-named parties.

Updated: July 2022

THE GATHERING by Heritage Homeschoolers

COVID SAFETY POLICY

Volunteer, staff, parents, or students that present with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home, away from others, and seek care from their healthcare provider.

Symptoms Of Covid May Include:

- Fever in the last 72 hours
- Chills or Shaking
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students must not come to classes if they exhibit these symptoms.

Any persons exhibiting these symptoms will be denied entry, and/or asked to leave the premises.

Individual teachers are welcome to add layers of protection within the confines of their classroom (e.g. temperature checks at the door, mask requirement).

If you or any member of your household has tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay home until it has been 10 days since the most recent member of the household first developed symptoms (or received their first positive test if asymptomatic).

If you have been otherwise exposed to someone with COVID-19, we ask that you remain home for the next 5 days following exposure (with the day of exposure being Day 0) and follow CDC guidelines regarding testing and masking after that period.

We're taking these steps to mitigate risk and reduce transmission (which can occur even among vaccinated people). These protocols are subject to change as needed, and in accordance with or exceeding CDC guidelines as well as recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

THE GATHERING reserves the right to cancel/reschedule or convert to online/remote learning if necessary to protect the health of our members. All Instructors and students should be prepared to use Zoom (or similar remote platform) as a backup plan in case the situation warrants it.

Key CDC recommended prevention strategies that are essential to the safe delivery of in-person instruction and to help prevent COVID-19 transmission in schools include: 1. Universal and correct use of masks. 2. Physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. 3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette. 4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities. 5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. 6. Watching out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested, stay home, and away from others. 7. Getting vaccinated

Attachment 3



Meeting date: 1st Thursdays at The Gathering community days

Meeting time: 10:00am for all ages

	Little's	Explorers	Juniors	Tweeners	Middle Schoolers	Teens
Types of books	Picture books	Extended picture books, Early reader chapter books	Elementary intermediate chapter books	Early middle grade chapter books	Mature middle grade chapter books	Young adult chapter books
Recommended ages	Pre-K & Kinder (Ages 4-6)	1 st & 2 nd grades (Ages 6-8)	3 rd – 4 th grades (Ages 8-10)	4 th – 5 th grades (Ages 9-11)	6 th -8 th grades (Ages 11-14)	9 th -12 th grades (Ages 14-18)

Age recommendations are provided merely as guidelines. You know your child best, and you can choose which group to place them in based on reading level, maturity, and topic/discussion appropriateness. However, remember that book club is a social activity. The age overlap is intentional, to allow for more flexibility.

The goals of Heritage Book Club are to:

- Foster a life-long love of reading
- Provide a fun environment in which to safely build lasting friendships
- Promote opportunities for leadership and public speaking among peers
- Expose children to a variety of literary styles, authors, and genres
- Enhance literacy skills and increase vocabulary

Membership Requirements (*subject to change*):

- Participants must be current members of Heritage Homeschoolers.
- Book club is free but parents are required to pay a registration fee (or drop-in fee) for The Gathering and provide a copy of each book for their child.

Meeting Format (1 hour):

- **10 min:** Group check-in with ice-breaker question or general conversation
- **25 – 35 min:** Book discussion facilitated by leader
- **15 - 25 min:** Snack, craft, game, or activity based on the book

Ground Rules (Please review with your child):

1. Come prepared to discuss the book.
2. Be a good listener and participate in the discussion.
3. Raise your hand if you would like to talk.
4. Be respectful of your friends.
5. Ask questions.
6. Feel free to disagree but do it respectfully.
7. Have fun!

General Guidelines:

1. Please encourage your children to remain open-minded about books they may not normally choose themselves. The diversity of thought/choice is one of the alluring aspects of a book club.
2. If your child does not enjoy a certain book, please have them come to the next meeting prepared to discuss specifically why they disliked the book, what they wish the author had done differently, how the book compared to other books that they've read, etc. rather than just "I hated it." Disagreement is expected/healthy. Being disagreeable is not.
3. Most of our groups are mixed gender with boys & girls meeting together. We may decide to break out girls and boys into separate groups when we have enough committed participants to do so.
4. The meetings are only an hour long and latecomers can be distracting, so **please make every effort to login on time.**
5. Feel free to read books aloud, tag-team read with your child, or utilize an audio book if a title is chosen that is above your child's current reading level or if your family just wants to enjoy sharing a book together. That's TOTALLY OK!
6. Please remember that this is supposed to be a stress-free fun enrichment activity for the children & parents. **Let's keep it sweet & simple!**

Book Selection Guidelines:

1. Books are selected ahead of time based on leader experience, book reviews and parent recommendations.
2. **All books must absolutely be age-appropriate and family-friendly.** If in doubt regarding questionable or mature content, it's likely not an ideal book for the group. Our families have varying philosophies on when and how to expose their children to sensitive topics or language, so please make a reasonable effort to respect the boundaries of your group.
3. Unless otherwise agreed upon by the parents ahead of time, the Juniors, Middle Grade, and Teen book selections should be chapter books that provide a healthy challenge, plenty for the children to read over several weeks, and enough substance for a good discussion during the meeting.

Attachment 4

The Gathering Classes

The Gathering is Heritage's private co-op featuring monthly and weekly academic and enrichment classes held in Powder Springs, GA. These optional classes are open to all Heritage members, and there is a SEPARATE registration fee to participate. The individual class costs vary.

Visit the GATHERING CLASSES tab on the Heritage website for full details and video links. The information shared below is only an overview.

- **Option 1:** Community Days: 1st Thursday of each month
- **Option 2:** Clubhouse Days: All other Thursdays (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays) in 6-week increments (We offer four quarters of classes, and each quarter includes six weeks of classes. There is a NEW registration for each quarter.
- **Option 3:** You can attend both!

Interested in joining us on Thursdays?

Step 1 - Go to The Gathering website HeritageGathering.org

Step 2 - Watch the website walkthrough video below! This video will allow you to preview member-only pages, know where to find important information, and see how to complete the registration process.

Step 3 - Create your personal login for the Gathering website. Once you've created your login, we will manually verify your Heritage Homeschoolers family membership status prior to granting site member access. A notification will be sent once approved. After we have approved your access, you will need to log back into the Gathering website to see members' content. Request member access

Step 4 - Purchase your Gathering family membership (i.e. program registration fee) which is SEPARATE from the general Heritage Homeschoolers membership that you paid to join our group. After paying that fee, you can register for Community and/or Clubhouse Day classes.

Step 5 - Sign-up for your participation requirement. Each participating family is required to volunteer during each quarter that their family attends The Gathering. We have crafted several volunteer options that will allow everyone to contribute to creating an outstanding experience for our kids & teens. Signup to Volunteer

PLEASE NOTE: This volunteer requirement is completely separate from the required volunteer activity for Heritage Homeschoolers. If you sign your kids up for The Gathering, you're agreeing to help out while you're there because we're a parent-led organization.

And you're done! If you still have questions after reading this information AND watching the help videos below, please contact gathering@heritagehomeschoolers.org.

We're happy to have your family on board, and we look forward to working with you to give our children an amazing "village" atmosphere of quality learning, friendship, and fun!

Attachment 5

Please note: This list has not been updated since COVID, so some of the listings are outdated. Please verify all information on the organization's website.



Parent Resource: Area Hybrids & Co-ops

This list has NOT been updated since COVID so some programs may no longer be operational. Please doublecheck all info before assuming.

Amplify Homeschool

- **Website:** <http://amplifyhomeschool.com>
- **Type of program:** enrichment
- **Classes:** unit study/project based, science club, science labs and history club
- **Ages:** PreK- 12th graders
- **Days:** Monday, Friday
- **Location:** Noonday Baptist Church, 4121 Canton Rd, Marietta 30066

CHIA Academics

- **Website:** <https://chiaacademy.org/>
- **Type of program:** hybrid
- **Classes:** math, language arts, science and social studies, foreign language, technology, and fine arts.
- **Ages:** 6th-12th graders
- **Days:** 2-3 days/week
- **Location:** Our Redeemer Anglican Church, 2625 Canton Rd NE, Marietta 30066

Classical Conversations

- **Website:** <https://www.classicalconversations.com>
- **Type of program:** curriculum presented in a community ("co-op" style)
- **Classes:** history, science, english, latin, geography, and math
- **Ages:** 4-12th graders
- **Days:** 1 day a week
- **Location:** several locations that primarily meet in churches

Cornerstone Preparatory Academy

- **Website:** <https://www.cornerstoneprep.org>
- **Type of program:** K-12 university model hybrid
- **Classes:** math, english, science, history, bible, PE, arts, electives, athletics
- **Ages:** K-12
- **Days:** Tuesday and Thursday (k-6th); Monday, Wednesday and Friday (upper grades)
- **Location:** 3588 Hickory Grove Road, Acworth 30101

Explore Wildwood

- **Website:** <http://www.explorewildwood.com/p/home.html>
- **Type of program:** co-op
- **Classes:** environmental education, wilderness skills, homesteading & pioneer life, and play-based early childhood education
- **Ages:** 4-8 years old
- **Days:** Monday and monthly required events
- **Location:** Dallas not far from where Dallas Hwy and Macland meet

Great Oak Academy

- **Website:** <http://www.greatoakacademy.com>
- **Type of program:** a'la carte science classes
- **Classes:** botany, zoology, earth sciences, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, physics, general science, physical science, biology, conceptual physics, marine biology, advanced chemistry, advanced biology
- **Ages:** 1st - 12th graders
- **Days:** varies
- **Location:** Inside Norma Street's home- located between Roswell, Marietta, and Woodstock near Highway 92 and Sandy Plains Rd

Heart's Academy

- **Website:** <https://www.heartsacademy.org>
- **Type of program:** tutorial classes, co-op
- **Classes:** language arts, history, science, technology, engineering, art, math, athletics
- **Ages:** PreK-12th
- **Days:** Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday
- **Location:** 4010 Farmbrough Drive, Powder Springs 30127

Inspire Homeschool Academy

- **Website:** <http://www.inspirehomeschoolacademy.com>
- **Type of program:** a'la carte
- **Classes:** science, history, art, band, sewing, literature, creative writing, music, voice, piano, guitar, STEM
- **Ages:** 4th-12th graders
- **Days:** Tuesday
- **Location:** West Cobb Church, Building M-1 and M-2, 1245 Villa Rica Road, Marietta 30064

Johnson Ferry Christian Academy

- **Website:** <http://www.jfca.org/>
- **Type of program:** accredited hybrid/private school, college-prep
- **Classes:** ELA, maths, science, social studies, bible, history, foreign language, health/PE, electives
- **Ages:** K-12
- **Days:** 2 ^{1/2} days/wk for K-5, 6th-12th 2 days/wk
- **Location:** 955 Johnson Ferry Road, Marietta 30068

Joyful Noise Homeschool Band

- **Website:** <http://www.joyfulnoiseband.com>
- **Type of program:** enrichment
- **Classes:** mommy/me music class, pre-k music class, chorus (elementary, middle high), violin, guitar, ukele, recorder, worship band, jazz, orchestra, ensembles, marching band
- **Ages:** age 2 - 12th graders
- **Days:** Friday
- **Location:** Sandy Plains Baptist Church, 2825 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta 30066

Legacy Community Academy

- **Website:** <https://lookatlegacy.org>
- **Type of program:** hybrid
- **Classes:** humanities, math, science
- **Ages:** Alpharetta K-12th, Atlanta K-5th graders
- **Days:** 2 days (K-5), 3 days (6-8th), and 4 days (high school)
- **Location:** Alpharetta Business Center, 11940 Alpharetta Hwy, Ste 128, Alpharetta 30009 OR Church of the Apostles, 3585 Northside Dr. Pkwy NW, Atlanta 30327

Master's Academy Arts & Academics

- **Website:** <https://www.mariettamastersacademy.com>
- **Type of program:** hybrid, and a'la carte classes
- **Classes:** music, art, history, drama, language arts, math, bible, science, history, spanish
- **Ages:** PreK-12th
- **Days:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
- **Location:** Grace Community Church, 770 Kennesaw Avenue, Marietta 30061

Metro Academic Studies

- **Website:** <https://metroacademicstudies.com/>
- **Type of program:** a'la carte classes
- **Classes:** AP, math, science, history & social studies, language arts, foreign language, health & P.E., American Sign Language, speech & debate, fine arts electives
- **Ages:** 6th-12th graders
- **Days:** Mondays and/or Wednesdays
- **Location:** The Church of the Apostles, 3585 Northside Pkwy NW, Atlanta 30327

Natural Learning Alternative

- **Website:** <http://naturallearningalternative.com>
- **Type of program:** co-op
- **Classes:** child-led play-based learning
- **Ages:** 2-10 years old
- **Days:** 1-2 days a week
- **Location:** Not listed

The Classical School

- **Website:** <https://www.inspiredstudents.com/about-classical-school/>
- **Type of program:** hybrid
- **Classes:** history, literature, English grammar, writing, and math enrichment, bible studies, logic, latin, worldview studies, theology, economics and government
- **Ages:** 3rd-12th grade
- **Days:** 1 day a week

- **Location:** Hope Presbyterian Church, 4101 Sandy Plains Rd, Marietta 30066

The Garden School:

- **Website:** <https://thegardenmarietta.org>
- **Type of Program:** hybrid
- **Classes:** student-directed learning outdoors much of the morning, focusing on science and art, environmental education activities, spanish, fine arts, math, engineering, yoga, handwork
- **Ages:** K-8th graders
- **Days:** Tuesday and Thursday
- **Location:** 4010 Canton Rd, Marietta 30066

The Homeschool Extension

- **Website:** www.homeschoolext.com
- **Type of program:** tutor model
- **Classes:** full day academic curriculum with enrichment opportunities
- **Ages:** K-12
- **Days:** Monday - Friday
- **Location:**

The Homeschool Consortium

- **Website:** <https://thehomeschoolconso.wixsite.com/website>
- **Type of program:** co-op, a'la carte
- **Classes:** latin, literature, history, science, public speaking, comparative religions, composition, ASL, engineering, math, drama, health, creative writing, computer, art
- **Ages:** varies per teacher requirement
- **Days:** Tuesday, Thursday
- **Location:** 1210 Wooten Lake Rd NW, Kennesaw 30144

The King's Academy

- **Website:** <http://www.thekingsacademy.org>
- **Type of program:** accredited hybrid/private school, college-prep
- **Classes:** social studies, math, language arts, science, foreign language, composition, electives (art, chess, choir, drama, robotics, creative writing, and many more including an athletics department)
- **Ages:** K-12
- **Days:** Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Friday, lab/club days on Thursdays
- **Location:** 471 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock 30188

The Mable House

- **Website:** <https://mablehouse.org/index.php/arts-center>
- **Type of program:** enrichment
- **Classes:** varied depending on season
- **Ages:** PreK-12th graders
- **Days:** Wednesdays
- **Location:** 5239 Floyd Road Mableton 30126

Morah Sheli Village

- **Website:** www.morahsheli.com
- **Type of program:** online junior and senior high classes

- **Classes:** language, literature, history & custom-subject classes
- **Ages:** 6th-12th graders
- **Days:** Varies

Timothy Ministry

- **Website:** <https://www.timothyministry.org>
- **Type of program:** a'la carte
- **Classes:** art, language arts, composition, literature, ASL, spanish, math, science, history, music, electives
- **Ages:** K-12th graders
- **Days:** Tuesdays (Woodstock) and Mondays (East Cobb)
- **Location:** First Baptist Church Woodstock, 11905 Hway 92, Woodstock 30188 OR Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, 955 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta 30068

True North hybrid:

- **Website:** www.truenorthhomeschool.com
- **Type of program:** a'la carte classes
- **Classes:** english, math, science, history, electives (band, voice, music, guitar, keyboard)
- **Ages:** K-12
- **Days:** Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Location:** Sanctuary Church, 700 Mars Hill Rd, NW, Kennesaw 30152

Veritas Classical Schools

- **Website:** <http://veritasschools.com>
- **Type of program:** Hybrid
- **Classes:** literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, history and geography, and fine arts, study skills, logic, and critical thinking, choir
- **Ages:** K-12th
- **Days:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday
- **Location:** Tapestry Community Church, 800 Hembree Rd, Roswell 30076 (also in Dunwoody, Cumming, Macon, Sugar Loaf and 5 different states)

Victory Academy

- **Website:** www.victoryacademyga.org
- **Type of program:** a'la carte
- **Classes:** art, science, math, spelling, religion, math labs, language arts, latin, history, public speaking, life skills, high school essay intensive, and *Foundations in Personal Finance* by David Ramsey
- **Ages:** K-12
- **Days:** Wednesday
- **Location:** Woodstock Christian Church, 7700 Highway 92, Woodstock 30189

This is not a comprehensive list of classes offered by each program, and this list has not been updated since COVID began. Many programs were impacted and may have changed schedules or closed. Be sure to verify information on their websites prior to making plans.