

# CHEER SUPPORT GROUP PARENT HANDBOOK

## ARTICLE I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the CHEER Support Group (referred to, as Support Group throughout this document) is to provide support to women and their families who are members of the CHEER Support Group and who educate their children at home, as defined by OCHEC and HSLDA “exclusively as the privately-funded, home-based education and discipleship of children by their own parents or guardians.” This includes the use of privately funded co-ops. This excludes publicly funded Virtual/Charter/Public School Independent Study programs. Such support will include regularly scheduled meetings, educational programs, service projects, and social events to promote fellowship among the families of Support Group members and to enhance our children’s education. Other purposes of the Support Group may include: providing information and encouragement to prospective home school parents; assisting other like-minded home school support groups; joining with other home school support groups by sponsoring speakers, educational programs, political and legal efforts of mutual concern.

## ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Preface: Our Statement of Faith concerns the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3, Eph. 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity (Rom. 15:7).

Statement in concept and in the practice of Christianity as outlined in the Tenets of Christian Theology:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant and only infallible Word of God. (II Tim. 3:15-17, II Peter 1:20-21, 1 Thess. 2:13).
2. We believe in the only true God, the Creator, who eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All of the persons are equal in power and glory (Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 13:14).
3. We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and man (John 1:1, 14), born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18), sinless in His life (Heb. 4:15). He died on the cross as a substitution for sinful men (Heb. 9:15). He rose bodily from the grave (John 20:1-9, 24-31, Acts 2:24) and now reigns with the Father (Acts 2:33, Heb. 10:12). He will return visibly and personally to the earth both in salvation and judgment (Acts 1:11, Heb. 9:28, Matt. 24:44).

4. We believe all humans are sinful by nature (Rom. 3:23, 5:12) and can only be forgiven by repentance and statement of trust in Jesus as Savior (John 3:16), brought about by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7).
5. We believe in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:1-17).
6. We affirm the biblical definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:6-9). God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged other than in the context of marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 19:5, 26:8-11; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4) God has wonderfully and immutably created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) (From OCHEC Article II By-laws)
7. We reject the anti-Christian tenets of secular humanism, including the general theory of evolution, one-world government, government-mandated sex education, government mandated parenting courses, modern feminist ideology, abortion, and the promotion of homosexuality and transgender identity.

## ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

### A. Membership Requirements

The membership of the Support Group shall consist of families who educate their children at home as defined as follows:

1. Abide by Oklahoma state laws, diligently educating their children for the prescribed 180 days per school year, in good faith. 2) OCHEC defines the terms 'home education', and 'homeschooling' exclusively as privately-funded, home-based education and management by their parents, or guardians. Government-funded school-at-home programs, such as Epic Charter Schools and K-12, administrated by local public-school systems, are 'public education' and not considered by OCHEC and Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) to constitute 'homeschooling' or 'home education.'
2. Agree to abide by the guidelines of conduct as mentioned in Article IX for Support Group activities and continuing agreement with the Statement of Faith in Article II.
3. To join CHEER the following is expected to be reached: Go through the CHEER 101 with a Steering member and attend two meetings, such as: ladies meetings, ladies fellowship meetings, lady's fellowships, MNO's, or a student activity.
4. Agree to complete a membership information form which includes a release of liability and proof of CHEER 101. Orientation by a designated CHEER member/Steering.
5. Agree to be an active member during the current school year and actively participate on a team within the Support Group. "Active Member" and "Actively participate" are defined as follows:
  - Active Members attend at least 2 monthly Ladies Meetings and events, as discussed in #3, after joining, unless otherwise stated in their team job description where more commitment is required
  - Active Members respond to their Team Leaders e-mail, phone calls, texts, and/or private FB Team if applicable

- Active Members attend their team meetings or communicate with their Team Leader as to why they need to miss

- Active Members help plan and/or help fulfill a minimum of at least 2 of their Team's scheduled activities.

6. Must pay the annual dues and insurance fees of the Support Group.

7. All Members who fill the above requirements will receive E-mail messages, be eligible to sign up for CHEER'S private Facebook group, and receive the monthly newsletters via E-mail.

8. Steering leadership reserves the right to reject individual membership applications.

#### B. Revoking Membership

1. If a member is not educating their children at least to meet the state standards of education, according to the Oklahoma State law which includes schooling for 180 days, working toward the completion of 23 credits to graduate from high school, etc. (see ochee.com for complete details), CHEER membership will be revoked.

2. Any member who does not fulfill her commitment to the Group by participating on a Team or attending the two required Ladies' Meetings or fellowships will not be permitted to join the CHEER Support Group the following year, unless member has spoken to Steering leadership about any hardships that have occurred to prevent attendance.

3. If a member does not meet the definition of "Active Member" as defined in Article III, Section 5, the Steering Team may ask that member to give up their current membership without a refund of dues and fees.

4. Misuse of the Roster, E-mail, or any other Support Group lists may result in membership being revoked or other disciplinary action as determined by the Steering Team.

5. If an unresolved problem arises within the group, and the Steering Team has followed Matthew 18:15-17, then the Steering Team can revoke the membership of the involved member, without refund of fees and dues.

As a reminder, CHEER's Bylaws and the co-op manual state: If you have a grievance with someone within CHEER, you are to go directly to them. If you cannot resolve the issue on your own, you are to ask someone in CHEER leadership to assist you in approaching them and aide you in resolving the hurt, or grievance.

6. If a member fails to meet the qualifications for membership or engages in prohibited conduct as outlined in this handbook the Steering Team may revoke the membership effective immediately, with or without notice, and without refund of dues and fee.

#### **C. CONFLICT/RESOLUTION. EXPOUNDING ON THE ABOVE STEPS OF THE MATTHEW 18:15-17 PASSAGE:**

1. WITH ANOTHER CHEER MEMBER If you or your child are having an interpersonal relationship problem, CHEER leadership encourages you to offer grace as far as possible. We then ask you to follow the example of handling sin issues given in Matthew 18:15-17.

15. "If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

Please follow these guidelines:

- 1) Offer grace
- 2) Go to your sister alone [resist the temptation to share the problem with others] (V. 15)
- 3) If necessary, contact a member of leadership to go with you to your sister [again, resist the temptation to share with others] (V. 16)

There are certain types of situations that should not be overlooked. These situations include:

- It is damaging your relationship with a person;
- It is hurting or frightening other people;
- It is hurting the offender;
- It is significantly dishonoring God

If any of these situations occur, approach the person about the situation or come to a ST member for help.

\*If AT ANY TIME these situations occur, approach the person about the situation and/or come to a ST member for help. It is always OK to come to a ST member for help with any conflict.

#### D. Mentoring Membership

Upon Steering Team's discretion, Honorary Memberships can be given to those who have served CHEER in a leadership capacity. The primary purpose of these memberships is to allow for these individuals to offer support and encouragement in homeschooling matters and to offer their knowledge to those currently in leadership within CHEER. The avenues for them to utilize for this are: CHEER's Facebook page, attending monthly meetings, attending CHEER fellowship events, attending activities appropriate for their family, and attending the monthly mom's breakfast. These Honorary memberships will be given free of charge and will be evaluated on a yearly basis and only renewed with the full agreement of both the Steering Team and the Honorary Member.

## ARTICLE IV. DUES

Each member shall pay Membership Fees in the amount of \$20.00 for membership, \$7.50 for the website fee CHEER uses per person and \$15.00 for insurance. The purpose of the fees is to cover the monthly cost paid to the church where we hold our Ladies' Meetings, gifts or fees for outside speakers, photocopying expenses, office supplies, and other miscellaneous expenses. This does not include the cost of activities and other special events.

Dues may be increased at the discretion of the Steering Team if it is deemed necessary for the effective functioning of the group.

## ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

The Support Group shall meet on the 2nd Tuesday of selected months as scheduled by the Steering Team at a predetermined location. All members should make every effort to attend

monthly Ladies' Meetings in order to facilitate the purpose of the Support Group. The meetings are for homeschooling mothers and, if necessary, their nursing infants. Please make arrangements for older children.

## ARTICLE VI. E-MAIL LIST AND FACEBOOK GROUP

The Support Group will have an E-mail list and a private Facebook group and other CHEER Social Media to receive information, prayer requests, and legislative alerts quickly and efficiently. Only members are entitled to have their names on these lists.

### The purpose of our Social Media group:

Help make homeschooling a positive experience for our CHEER members and utilize our Social Media page to assist in that goal.

Keep with our CHEER Vision: To provide resources to members to use their giftings in encouraging one another toward excellence in homeschooling.

We reserve the right to remove photos, comments and other material deemed "unproductive," by the Admin. team.

### Our CHEER Social Media guidelines are as follows:

1. Only CHEER members are invited to participate in our private social media outlet(s).
2. Please do not upload photos of an event on this page with CHEER children, unless if member has received permission from the parent. We may not have permission from every parent to post their pictures.
3. Please only post or write comments here that you would say directly to a member in person. We ask that you are mindful to not bring division in conversation by any posts or comments.
4. Postings about political and controversial topics are not to be posted within our social media group(s), unless it is directly related to legislative issues regarding homeschooling.
5. The primary topic on our page is that of homeschooling and issues related to that, as well as encouragement and prayer for one another.
6. Please keep a spirit of encouragement, equipping and support on all CHEER private social media outlet(s).
7. Personal for sale items: Members can advertise curriculum or homeschool related items they are selling. Please ask members interested to PM you. Items not related to homeschooling "for sale" should not be posted here. If you are having a personal garage sale, you may post that you are having one and to look on your personal FB page for information about it.

We desire to have CHEER's private Social media outlet(s) be a tool(s) of encouragement as we walk together in-home education.

Hebrews 10:24- "Let us consider how to stir up one another in love and good works."

## ARTICLE VII. NEWSLETTER

CHEER no longer maintains a newsletter. All communications are via regular meetings, web site and CHEER Social Media outlets.

## ARTICLE VIII. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Roster, Newsletter, and E-mail Lists and Facebook groups and other CHEER Social Media are for the CHEER members only. For reasons of privacy these names and numbers need to be protected and should NOT be shared outside our group. These lists may not be used for business solicitations or other personal gain. Misuse of these lists may result in membership being revoked or other disciplinary action as determined by the Steering Team.

## ARTICLE IX. ACTIVITIES

Only members of the Support Group will be allowed to participate in activities on a regular basis. However, a guest who is looking into CHEER, can attend a student event with the parent present. It is expected that the following guidelines will be followed when participating in any kind of group activity.

1. If the activity requires a sign-up, do so on time with the person coordinating and pay any money that is required ahead of time or you will not be allowed to attend.
2. Age guidelines of the public school will be followed when a facility requests that children be in a specific grade or older. For example, if an activity requires being in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or older, your child must be 8 years old by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Even if your child is doing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade work but is younger, we must respect the guidelines of the facility as they assume the children will be the age appropriate for that grade. Some facilities are very strict on their age requirements and we don't want to take advantage of them by bringing younger children.
3. If a member signs up to participate in an activity, it is expected that participation will occur. If unable to attend, the contact person must be given a minimum of twenty-four-hour notice in order to allow another member the opportunity to participate. If an unexpected illness occurs on the morning of the activity, the contact person must be called immediately. No-shows not only leave a negative impression of the group, but are also an inconvenience to the facility we are visiting. Because of this, if the activity requires a sign-up sheet, failure to give notice to the contact person will cause the member to be placed on a no-show list, which could negatively impact their eligibility to participate in future activities.
4. Make sure whether or not babies and toddlers are welcome beforehand. If not, make other arrangements for childcare for the younger children or arrange with another mother to be responsible for the older children attending the function. No children will be allowed to participate without being under the supervision of a support group member!
5. Be on time for all activities! Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the start of the activity. The tardiness of one may leave a poor impression of the whole group. Be respectful of other's time!
6. Make a good first impression by your appearance. Children and adults should dress neatly and appropriately for the activity and within the dress code.
7. All children must behave in a courteous and controlled manner, be able to follow directions, remain silent for short time periods, and raise hands to ask or answer questions. Each participating student and adult is expected to respect and follow the leader's directions. In the

event that a child or parent becomes disruptive or behaves in a manner which degrades the Christian witness of the group, the offending family will be asked to leave immediately by the group organizer or by a member of the Steering Team.

8. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their own children to ensure safety and avoid accidents. If arrangements have been made for another parent to supervise a child, every effort needs to be made by that parent to prevent any accidents from occurring. However, in no way will another parent, the leader, or the group as a whole be held liable for any accidents that might occur. Each member must be willing to sign a "release of liability" form when joining the group or if not a member, prior to participating in any activity with children.
9. See Appendix 1 for Accident Proof of Loss/Claim Form in the case of injury at a CHEER sponsored event. This form must be submitted to Steering within five days of incident.

## ARTICLE X. DRESS CODE

All participants in Support Group activities shall abide by the following dress code:

1. Dress neatly and appropriately for activity. Hair neatly combed.
2. Refrain from tight fitting shirts, no backless outfits without a shirt under it, and only tank tops with wide straps. No muscle shirts, mesh jerseys (unless if a shirt is underneath it), or halter tops. The student's torso, chest, or undergarments should not show while bending, leaning, or sitting. No miniskirts, extremely short dresses, short shorts, bike shorts, or boxer shorts. Parents are responsible to check their kids before an activity and confirm that shorts, skirts, dresses, and shorts are as follows: inseam of shorts has to be 5" and skirt/dress cannot be further above the knee than the length of a dollar bill. It is not leaderships, or co-op teams job alone to enforce these rules.
3. Earrings are for girls/ladies. No body piercing other than nose stud. When participating in CHEER events, including Co-op, if a nose ring is worn, it needs to be flush against the skin and/or subtle as to not be noticeable or cause distraction.
4. No apparel to be worn that contains offensive, objectionable artwork and/or slogans that reference alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, pornographic material, vulgarity, gang/cult slogans or any other material that goes against CHEER's Statement of Faith or Biblical teachings. Examples of offensive and objectionable material include, but are not limited to: promotion of evolution, transgender, homosexuality, abortion and other anti-Christian values.
5. Yoga pants or see through pants are unacceptable at CHEER events. Any form fitting pants and leggings worn without a shirt long enough to cover the behind, and baggy pants that reveal undergarments, are all unacceptable at CHEER events as well.
6. Boys swim trunks to be at the knee and meet requirement of the shorts guidelines. If a girl's swimsuit reveals cleavage, a dark shirt will be worn over top. If a two-piece bikini, or one that reveals the mid-riff, then shorts and a dark t-shirt are required to be worn over it.

These guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive. All final decisions rest with the Steering Team.

## ARTICLE XI. STUDENT CONDUCT

The CHEER guidelines for Student behavior is not designed to be detailed. Behavior violations are not limited to bullying, and public displays of affection; however, they do include those. In general terms we ask that your students:

1. Behave in a Christ-like manner at all CHEER events and make things right with others when they fail.
2. Honor our non-dating policy for ALL CHEER events. This is sent out to membership at the beginning of each year.

CHEER's Non-Dating Policy: Our policy for ALL CHEER events (including co-op) is a non-dating policy. What your family chooses to allow as far as dating in your home is fine, but when your student attends any CHEER event, he/she needs to understand that they are not to behave in a manner that demonstrates that they are in a dating relationship with any other CHEER member. Our goal is for all our kids to be able to be friends and grow in Christ together and to be protected from the fall out that comes from broken relationships that often occur because of dating. Please also realize that those hurts often extend to the mothers as well and we just don't want that as a stumbling block in our support group.

In addition to this, remind your children to reach out to others in friendship and help make all welcome to join in on activities. We are about reaching out and being a friend and helping students feel welcome.

3. Examples of student behavior violations include, but are not limited to the following: ● Willful disobedience or disruptive conduct; ● Use of racial, ethnic or religious slurs and profane, vulgar, or lewd language; ● Sexual harassment: Unwanted sexual attention such as looks, gestures, teasing, jokes, pressure for dates or sex, demeaning comments, attempts to handle the clothing of others, deliberate cornering, or attempts to kiss; ● Sexual misconduct: Sexual touching of intimate body parts, handling or touching the clothing of others, sexual intercourse, indecent exposure; ● Commission of criminal acts: Arson, bomb threats, extortion, fire alarms, trespassing, or unlawful interference with school authorities; ● Fighting or causing physical injury; ● Assault: Attacking or threatening physical injury; ● Possession or transmitting any weapon or dangerous object or instrument that may create a danger to self or others, or cause a disruption of the learning environment. Pocket knives are permitted as long as they are used for the intended designed task. Playing with it unnecessarily will constitute the parent or responsible adult confiscating the knife. If a student is caught threatening someone with the pocket knife, it will be considered a weapon and dealt with as such; ● Sale, distribution, trade, transfer, use, and/or possession of tobacco products, alcohol, illegal and other mind altering drugs or substances (or that which purports to be) or paraphernalia; ● To publish or distribute written material which is obscene, lewd, profane, or defamatory; ● Destruction, defacing, or theft of CHEER, or member-owned property; ● Inappropriate use of electronic devices that include the promotion of any prohibited behavior ● Gang Activity – Members shall not knowingly engage in gang activity

\*Prescription drug policy: No student shall possess, trade, or distribute prescription drugs at CHEER events. No student shall use prescription drugs at co-op or CHEER events unless given by the student's parent.

Exception: a student may possess and use emergency medication, such as an epi pin, asthma inhaler, seizure medicine, diabetic medicine, or any other medicine that requires a quick administration for



the student's wellbeing. All of the student's teachers at co-op, the co-op team leader, and the parent in charge of a CHEER activity must be alerted of the student's medical condition, so they can be prepared to respond if a need arises if the parent is not present. Parents are responsible to notify those individuals of these medical needs their child may have and the location of the medication, epi pin, etc. to be administered.

If the student is prescribed medical marijuana, smoking marijuana may not be used at any CHEER event. Prescription marijuana in the form of oils, or pills may be administered by the parent, but like all other prescription medication, may not be possessed by the student.

\*for co-op members and when CHEER uses their facility: Per Broken Arrow Church of Christ written policies, any student, parent, teacher, or visitor who is prescribed medical marijuana, may not be in possession of any such item that is or includes marijuana on Broken Arrow Church of Christ.

4. If your student chooses to violate our standards for behavior in a manner which the Steering Team determines to need a warning, one will be issued to the student's parent. The parent is responsible for choosing how to correct their student's behavior. Once your student has been warned by our team and the parent receives a written warning, if the student chooses to violate our behavior guidelines a second time, he/she will be excused from CHEER (including Co-op) for the remainder of the year. Renewing membership, the following year, as well as the student's participation in activities and Co-op, will be at the discretion of the Steering Team. The Steering Team RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY OR CANCEL MEMBERSHIP TO ANY FAMILY OR STUDENT. Failure to comply with the guidelines in the membership handbook, or any display of defiance or irreverence toward these guidelines, may result in Steering Team discipline, loss of privileges and/or permanent loss of membership.

## ARTICLE XII. STEERING TEAM

The Steering Team consists of the Support Group Leader and other members at the discretion of the Steering Team. Those who serve do so at the prayerful invitation of the current Steering Team.

The purpose of the Steering Team is to:

1. Handle any business requested by the Leader.
2. Oversee the group in the absence of the Leader.
3. Contact members regarding disciplinary issues.
4. Initiate removal of a Support Group Leader who is no longer leading the group in accordance with these bylaws and/or the desires of the majority of the members.
5. Make decisions regarding CHEER group affiliations.
6. Removal of a support group or steering team leader

## Article XIII. PROCESS OF REMOVAL OF A SUPPORT GROUP LEADER/STEERING TEAM MEMBER and Process of Renewing office of Steering Team:

1. Removal of Steering Leader, or Steering Team Member:  
If at any time the Support Group Leader, or Steering Team Member fails to abide by the guidelines set up by CHEER, the Group, the Steering Team must reach a unanimous vote to remove a Steering Leader, or Steering Team Member.

If the majority of the membership is dissatisfied with the Steering Leader, a written complaint must be submitted to the Steering Team for review. The Steering Team will pray and go to scripture and look at the CHEER Handbook, and By-laws for discernment. Removal of a leader must be if the leader is not keeping in accordance of the purpose of CHEER, the Handbook, bylaws, or if there is unrepentant sin. If there is a Biblical evidence the leader has unrepentant sin and is not willing to repent, the Steering Team will go to her personally and use the Matthew 18 passage to bring back the believer to turn to God. If the leader is unrepentant still, she will be asked to step down, or will be removed. A decision will be made by a vote of the Steering Team pursuing removal and must be unanimous. The Steering Team will seek out advisors if it is not unanimous for the purpose of arbitration. The same process will be used for a Steering Team Member if there is unrepentant sin as well.

2. Renewing the office of Steering Team: The Steering Leader will ask the Steering Team Members if they desire to remain on the team to serve in leadership. If they need to step down, the Steering leader will suggest a member to replace them. The Steering Team will pray, interview and decide together as a group.
3. If the Steering Leader is needing to Step down, or her time of schooling is finished, she will recommend a member to be the Steering Leader. She will interview the member at great length and will ask the Steering Team to pray and then meet with the prospect Leader. The Steering Team will prayerfully work together on the Steering Leaders suggestion of the new leader and will come to a decision together. If a decision cannot be met, the Steering Leader will either wait till all are in agreement or will ask the Steering Team to trust her decision and move forward.

Those who serve do so at the prayerful invitation of the current Steering Team.

### ARTICLE XIII. TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Team Leader is responsible for promoting unity, fellowship and encouragement within her team. She is also responsible for making sure the team carries out the purposes and objectives of the team as determined by the Steering Team. Team Leaders will:

1. Schedule and lead at least one team meeting each semester.
2. Ensure that the team is handling its responsibilities completely and effectively.
3. Assist any new members as necessary.
4. Be a channel between team members and the Steering Team.
5. Encourage team members through communication.
6. Inform your team and Steering Team Members when a need becomes known in your group.
7. Work in conjunction with the Steering Team to review parent handbook and make changes.

### ARTICLE XIV. CHANGES TO PARENT HANDBOOK

The process to revise, update or amend the parent handbook is as follows:

1. Any member may recommend changes to the handbook in writing to the Steering Team or the Steering Team can consider changes unilaterally.
2. The Steering Team must unanimously agree on all suggested handbook changes and has the authority to modify wording to bring this unanimous consensus.

3. Any change unanimously approved by the Steering Team, must then be presented to and approved by 2/3 of the current Team Leaders.
4. After full approval per the process above, the revised handbook will be emailed to the membership noting the changes made.

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