



PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Revised 6/2020

Either you are thinking about homeschooling or already there... either way you have questions, need answers and are feeling the need for community. We are glad you have found our Eastside Explorers!

We are passionate about bringing families together and supporting each other through all the ups, downs and unknowns.

Take a moment and read through this Guidebook to see if our group is a good fit for your family. If there are still questions you still have, don't hesitate to email our Membership Team at membership@eastsideexplorers.org.

HISTORY OF EASTSIDE EXPLORERS

Eastside Explorers began in 1989 as Northeast Valley Home Educators when North Phoenix/Scottsdale was actually the "eastern" most part of the Valley. A group of homeschool parents saw the need for a faith-based community to support their journey when homeschooling wasn't as common. They paved the way for our group today!

WHO WE ARE

Since then, homeschool parents have carried this precious group under the guidance and direction of God's sovereign hand. Today, we are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) group of homeschool families who still seek to continue those same values and experiences for our own children. Although we primarily meet in North Phoenix/Scottsdale, we have families from all over Arizona including Anthem, Glendale, and even the "new" eastern cities like Mesa!

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of Eastside Explorers is to bring together like-minded homeschooling families who each contribute their gifts, talents and time to create a beautiful experience for our children. As a group, we agree to encourage and support each other and to abide by our Statement of Faith and Honor Code treating each other respectfully and modeling the same for our children.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Son, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, and was resurrected from the dead. Because of His sacrifice and defeat of death, we may be saved by confessing Him as Lord and believing in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead. We believe in the infallible, inspired Word of God, the Bible. We believe that marriage is an institution prescribed and sanctioned by God as a sacred, covenant relationship between one man and one woman, symbolizing the union of Christ and His church.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- We will seek to honor God and others with our speech, conduct and dress. We will model desirable social behaviors and guide our children in following our model, encouraging one another with loving accountability.
- We will speak what is kind and true.
- We will remain aware of our children's behavior in order to quickly redirect them when necessary and coach them in Biblical character development.
- We will provide opportunities that reinforce godly characteristics and will limit play activities that are contrary. As such, play guns (Nerf or otherwise), swords, or other weapons will not be permitted at Eastside events including park days, field trips, parties, outings or other gatherings.
- We will put the interests of the group ahead of the interests of our family alone by looking for ways to serve, choosing forgiveness when wronged, and showing respect for others.
- We understand that Eastside will not tolerate bullying or retaliation for alleged bullying at any time and agree to apply biblical conflict-resolution practices. Neither bullying nor retaliation of any kind will be tolerated at our events, on our website forum, on social media, or electronically. Because of the nature of our group, with different families attending our wide variety of events, we may not encounter the same friends at each offering. Each of us has a responsibility to live peaceably with one another (Romans 12:18) and contribute towards the enjoyment of Eastside events for one another.

Eastside's Board of Directors may rescind membership and/or participation privileges for any family who violates any of these guidelines or for any reason determined by the Board.

MEMBERSHIP OFFERINGS

A Family Membership (\$55) is good for an entire academic year (Aug. 1 – May 31).

Membership includes:

- Access to our calendar, forum, entire website, and private Facebook page
- Discounted and free field trips
- Specialized small groups. (i.e. God's Girls, 12-14 Girls, Teen Events, Mom's Time Out, Prayer Group, Boys Group)
- Weekly Park days
- Holiday parties
- Special events such as Family BBQ, Friendsgiving, Geography Fair, Science Fair, Market Day Talent Showcase and Art Fair
- Optional drop-off classes
- Community, endless support and great friends!

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Eastside Explorers is a completely volunteer-led homeschool group. At least one parent from each family must commit to serve in Eastside on a short-term, volunteer basis (see below). Contributions by our members are not only fair but a necessity in making Eastside successful.

Each member must commit to:

- Agree to follow our By Laws and Honor Code
- Respect our Statement of Faith
- Fulfill your volunteer commitment in a timely manner (i.e. plan two field trips, organizing an event, hosting a group, etc. each semester) **see below*
- Submit yearly membership dues and update your Family Profile
- Be a friend — we have many new families and even members without any extended family out here. Share a smile, set up a playdate, get to know each other, and have fun on your homeschool journey together!
- Be an active part of our group and attend a minimum two (2) events per month

***PARKED MEMBERSHIPS:**

Members may be “parked” if they do not fulfill their first or second semester volunteer commitment or they do not show to be an active member of our group by attending a minimum of two monthly events consistently. If a membership is rescinded membership based on any conflicts with our group’s guidelines, By Laws or between members, no refunds will be given.

REFUNDS:

Members enjoy a 14-day grace period during which they will receive a full refund of their membership fee if requested in writing to the President. After 14 days of membership, no refunds will be given for a member-initiated withdrawal. Withdrawing members will be “parked” for the balance of the school year with the opportunity to reactivate their membership for the current school year with Board approval. No refunds are given for Board-initiated removal.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We welcome you to visit a Park Day or a Mom's Time Out to get to know a handful of our members and see if Eastside Explorers is the right fit for your family.

If you still have questions or would like to visit, please [contact our Membership Team](#).

When you are ready, visit our website to [complete your Membership registration HERE!](#) Once our Membership Team has had a chance to review your registration and approves your membership you will be able to log-in and enjoy all the benefits of Eastside Explorers!

DON'T FORGET:

File your [Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool](#), if you haven't already done so.



**Arizona Families
for Home Education**

Join our hard-working Christian state homeschool organization, Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE) at www.afhe.org.

This organization plans and implements our annual homeschool convention (held in the summer), monitors homeschool-friendly (and unfriendly) legislation, hosts our amazing Junior and Senior High Graduation each year, writes encouraging newsletters for homeschooling families, and offers a myriad of other support tools for co-ops such as ours.



HSLDA

advocates for homeschooling since 1983

The **Home School Legal Defense Association** is a non-profit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms.

DISCOUNT: When applying for membership, mention Eastside Explorers and group discount code '**210119**' to receive special savings.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can come alongside you on your homeschool journey!