

Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators (CHE)

2017-2018 Membership Information Packet

This Information Packet contains the following items:

CHE Fact Sheet Instructions for Pastoral Recommendation Letter CHE Constitution
Application Overview Current Policies & Fees Application for Membership

If you have further questions about CHE or the application process you may contact Scott May at JonesboroCHE@gmail.com.

CHE Fact Sheet

Who is Christian Home Educators?

CHE is a support group for home school families that offers connection with other home educators for various activities throughout the year.

How do I become a member?

This packet contains an Application for Membership that must be completed and submitted to the CHE Board of Directors for consideration. Upon receipt of your application you will be notified of the date of the next board meeting where it will be reviewed. After consideration by the Board, you will be contacted by a board member with information about membership.

How much does it cost to join CHE?

\$65 annually. This includes access to our website and a full-color yearbook.

What is Co-Op?

Co-Op is short for Cooperative Learning Day. Participating CHE members and children meet on Mondays in the fall and spring for various classes and fellowship opportunities. A parent from each participating family must volunteer to help in Co-Op by teaching or assisting in a class or working in the nursery. **Co-Op requires a separate registration each semester. The Co-op participation on-line sign-up link will be posted through the website email forum on July 1 for the fall semester and December 1 for the spring semester. This link clearly state deadlines, dues and other pertinent information about Co-Op.**

How much does Co-Op cost?

There is a \$5.00 registration fee per family to cover the cost of copies, mailings, etc. Additionally, \$5.00 per child per class is charged to cover the cost of teaching materials and other items. The family maximum is \$35.00 per semester. (For example, a family with one participating child taking three classes would pay \$20.00, but a family with four participating children all taking three classes would only pay \$35.00 per semester.) Some classes may have extra fees. These are stated in each semester's registration packet.

Helpful internet sites:

www.homeschool-life.com/ar/che
www.youcanhomeschool.org

www.familycouncil.org
www.hsllda.org

Constitution of the Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators

Article 1: Description / Mission Statement

The Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators (CHE) exists to support and encourage families who have chosen to educate their children at home from a distinctly Christian perspective. We do so in part by providing student activities, corporate educational opportunities and forums designed to encourage those facing the practical challenges of home education. Additionally, we seek to raise awareness of legal and political issues affecting home educators. Our hope is that as iron sharpens iron, we will sharpen one another for the task of raising and educating our children to live for the glory of God.

Article 2: Government

CHE shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of eight to twelve members. The Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of all business affairs engaged in by CHE; review and acceptance or denial of all applications for membership, and the calling of all Business Meetings. Board meetings require at least 50% attendance to comprise a quorum.

Members of the Board of Directors are elected to serve a two year term with only six of the twelve Board positions being voted on at the Annual Meeting held each year between April 15 and May 15. If a current Board member declines to complete the second year of his term his position on the Board that position may be filled through election at the Annual Meeting as well. Board members are automatically nominated for re-election unless they revoke such nomination.

All other nominations for service on the Board must be submitted in writing to the current Board President at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominees must be fathers who have been members of CHE for a minimum of twelve months. All qualified nominees shall be presented to the CHE membership on an official ballot at the Annual Meeting. A simple majority vote of all ballots received is required for election to the Board. Board members lost by attrition may be replaced by the Board of Directors. If the number of Board members drops below six, the vacancies shall be filled at a Business Meeting of the CHE membership called by the remaining board members.

The date, time and location of the Annual Meeting and any special called Business Meetings shall be announced by the Board of Directors to the CHE membership at least two weeks prior to meeting date. Any proposed revisions to the Constitution shall be provided in writing to the CHE membership by the Board of Directors at least one month prior to presentation at a special Business Meeting or Annual Meeting. The members present at the special Business Meeting or Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

On the Board, there are six officers. Officers are nominated by any CHE Board member, and voted on by the Board (each officer must be elected by a majority). Officers shall be elected by the Board within three weeks of the Annual Meeting. Board officers shall be announced to the CHE membership through email and by posting on the group website. Officers are chosen every May after the new Board is elected and are as follows:

- President - typically serves for one year after being Vice President
- Vice President - this person will be the next President
- Past
- President***
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Athletic Chair

***The Board Members in these offices do not sit for re-election while serving

Article 3: Membership

The membership of CHE shall be comprised of home schooling parents who are committed followers of Jesus Christ and active participants in a local church. All applicants for membership must receive a 100% affirmative vote by the Board of Directors before membership is conferred.

Applicants for membership must provide the Board of Directors a completed CHE application and a letter of recommendation from their Pastor or other person approved by the Board.

Membership for parents living together is contingent upon marriage. CHE defines marriage as the legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to dismiss any member(s) from the Association on a simple majority vote. The member(s) in question has the right to a hearing before the Board.

Article 4: Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, the final authority of faith and life, without error in its original writing both in doctrine and historical details, and that all true knowledge is consistent with its revelation.

We believe that there is one self-existent God who has always been and will always be, manifest in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that knowing Him truly is the foundation of all knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God manifest in the flesh, born of a virgin, that He is the Savior of mankind through His death on the cross, that He rose from the dead and ascended to God, and that He will return again and will raise those who have believed in Him to reign with Him in power and glory throughout all eternity.

We believe in the brotherhood of all believers who, through faith, have received the salvation provided by God's grace through the death of Jesus Christ.

We believe that children belong to God who has given the responsibility and authority for their education to their parents and that it is their responsibility to protect this parental right.

CHE Policies

Every member of CHE plays a vital role in the success of our group. Members are expected to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner and encourage one another to strive for excellence in educating our children. The following policies provide guidelines for specific activities of CHE and instructions for certain issues that may arise. Should you need more information about activities, please contact the committee chairperson, the MAC president or the Board president.

1. Family Fellowships and Programs – Open to CHE Member families and their invited guests.
2. Field Trips, Children's Parties, & Special Events (Spelling Bee, Art Contest, etc.) – All Children's Parties are open to the children of CHE Member families who have met the requirements set for that event (such as age, fee, sign-up, etc.). No guests are allowed. Field Trips are open to CHE Member families and their guests. All guests must be accompanied by the CHE parent who has invited them. That parent will be responsible for the guest throughout the entire event.
3. Teen Night and Spring Formal – Only open to CHE member children (no guests or visitors) who are currently being home schooled, and who have met the requirements set for that event (such as age, fee, sign-up, etc.).
4. Sports Teams and Cheerleaders – Only open to CHE member children who are currently being home schooled and have met all the requirements for the team (See: NEACHE Athletics Vision, Mission, Values & Code of Conduct document for requirements).
5. MOMS Meetings – Open to all CHE Mothers and their invited female guests.

6. Cooperative Learning Day (CO-OP) – Only open to the children of CHE member families who are currently being home schooled and who have met all the requirements for participation in CO-OP (deadlines, forms submitted, fees paid, parent participation, etc.). To be eligible for the fall semester, a family must have been approved for CHE membership prior to July 1st of that year. To be eligible for the spring semester, a family must have been approved for membership prior to December 1st of the preceding year.
7. CHE Board Meetings – Open to current Board Members and any invited guests. Any CHE member may attend the first 30 minutes of a scheduled meeting to bring a matter before the Board.
8. Graduation – Participation in the ceremony is open to CHE member children who have met requirements set for that event. Observing the ceremony is open to all CHE members and their invited guests.
9. Yearbook – Each family is provided one copy of the Yearbook and is strongly encouraged to submit family and individual children photographs to the Yearbook Committee by the announced deadlines.
10. Fundraisers – All fundraising activities must be approved by either the MAC or AOC. Members should submit a written explanation of the fundraiser, including- what it will be, what it will finance, who will be in charge, and who will be expected to participate in the actual fundraising to the MAC or AOC chairperson to be voted on. If the fundraiser is fronted by CHE, monies are to be turned into the treasurer along with a recap of expenses and all receipts.
11. Board Members – Open to any man who has been a member of CHE for at least one year. His nomination must be in writing by a current member of CHE. A short biography should be submitted to the president at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting when Board members are elected.
12. Conflict Resolution - The proper process for handling conflict within CHE, whether between individuals, families or an individual and a committee shall be as follows: A) The offended party should speak privately to the offender, or in the case of a committee they shall speak to the committee chairperson and seek to resolve the issue. B) If no resolution can be reached by personal interaction, the offended party may submit a letter to the CHE Board president detailing the incident and their concerns. The letter should be limited to personally observed facts and avoid ascribing motives or discussing personality and/or character issues. While awaiting the action of the Board, all parties should seek to keep the matter private and not engage in discussions regarding the conflict. C) The president will bring the matter before the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting or via email if the meeting is more than one week away. D) Board representatives will be chosen to arrange a meeting with all parties involved in the conflict. If the person who wrote the letter refuses to attend, the matter will be dropped. After meeting with all involved parties, the Board representatives will take the matter back to the Board who shall then determine a course of action. All parties involved will be notified of the Board's decision by the representatives or a Board officer within one week. If it becomes evident that a member of CHE (be it the offended party, the offender or any other members) is stirring up dissension within the group by broadcasting information about a conflict, the matter will be addressed by the Board and that member and their family may be removed from membership within CHE.
13. Sexual Immorality - If it becomes evident that a student participating in CHE is involved in sexual immorality or becomes pregnant the following actions will be taken: 1) If a pregnancy is involved, the Board will seek to determine the nature of the pregnancy: if it is the result of rape the Board will work with the student to help continue their involvement with CHE. 2) If it is clearly determined that a student has been participating in sexual immorality (either evidenced by a pregnancy or confession), the student will be suspended from all closed CHE activities (activities that only CHE students may attend, i.e.: Co-op, Teen Nights, Spring Formal, etc.) for one year. After the one year suspension, the student and their parents may petition the Board for reinstatement to closed CHE activities. The Board will seek to determine at that time if the student has rejected a lifestyle of sexual immorality. If the student has not come to a point of rejecting that kind of lifestyle, he or she will not be allowed to participate in closed CHE activities. If a student has a second offense after being reinstated to CHE activities, they will be suspended permanently. 3) This policy is in effect for both girls and boys who are clearly involved in sexual immorality.

CHE Fees

Annual Dues - \$65 per family per year. This amount is due by June 30th each year unless other arrangements are made. If dues are not received by June 30th former members will have to reapply for CHE membership and Fall Co-Op will be closed for that family. Dues include access to the member's area of our webpage and one copy of our full color yearbook.

Cooperative Learning Day (Co-Op) - There is a \$5.00 registration fee per family to cover the cost of copies, etc. Then the cost is \$5.00 per child per class (to cover teaching materials, etc.) with a total family maximum of \$35.00 per semester. For example, it costs one child \$20 to take three classes (three classes (\$15) plus the registration fee (\$5), however if you have a family with four children it would cost \$35 per semester due to the maximum. The maximum cost is calculated each semester based on a family with two students participating in classes each hour. There are scholarships available with a written request.

Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators (CHE)

Application for Membership Overview

Please carefully read the following overview of the application process:

- The CHE Board considers applications for membership at its regular meetings. In order for an application to be considered it must be:
 - Completely filled in and signed
 - Accompanied by a check to CHE in the amount of current CHE dues (presently \$65 per year)
 - Accompanied by a separately mailed pastoral recommendation letter (see “Instructions for Pastoral Recommendation Letter” in application packet).
- Completed applications should be mailed to: C.H.E.
P.O. Box 19312
Jonesboro, AR 72403
- If you have any questions regarding CHE or the application process you may contact Scott May at JonesboroCHE@gmail.com
- If an applicant is denied membership their check for CHE dues will be returned.
- All applicants are contacted by the Board of Directors following consideration of their application.
- **Approval for CHE membership does NOT constitute participation in the Cooperative Learning Day (CO-OP). A link for Co-op sign-up will be sent to all members through the website email forum. This is done in July for the fall semester and December for the spring semester.**

For Board use only: Date received: ____ / ____ / ____
Approved _____ Denied: / ____ / ____

Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators Application for Membership

Personal Information:

Date: _____

Names (Husband & Wife): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Father's employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Mother's employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Children:	Name	Date of Birth	Grade Level Homeschooled (Y/N)
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What are your reasons for homeschooling? _____

Has any child listed above recently been suspended or expelled from attending a public or private school?

Yes No If yes, describe the terms of suspension (reason, duration, etc.) on a separate sheet.

References

Are you currently acquainted with any members of CHE? Yes No

If "Yes", please list their names and indicate how long you have known them:

Church Information:

Name and address of the church you currently attend:

Are you faithful in attendance at the church listed above?

Father: Yes No Mother: Yes No

Are you currently a member of the church listed above?

Father: Yes No Mother: Yes No

If no, list the name and address of the church where you are currently a member:

The CHE Board of Directors must receive a letter of recommendation from your Pastor or other church leader (see "Instructions for Pastoral Recommendation Letter"). On the line below list the name and title of the individual who will be forwarding your letter of recommendation?

Statement of Personal Salvation Experience: (Use an additional sheet if necessary)

Father: _____

Mother: _____

CHE Covenant

Having read and understood the Constitution & Policies of the Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators (CHE), I do hereby commit myself, upon approval for membership, to abide by and uphold them. Should I come to the place where I no longer meet the qualifications for membership or I can no longer abide by the policies of the group, I will voluntarily revoke my membership and notify the Board of Directors. ***The signature of each parent is required.***

Father: _____

Mother: _____

Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators

Instructions for Pastoral Recommendation Letter

Please print your name in the blank below and provide this sheet to your Pastor along with a stamped envelope addressed to:

**C.H.E.
P.O. Box 19312
Jonesboro, AR 72403**

****In the event that your church is without a Pastor a letter from another staff member or key church leader will be permissible.***

Dear Servant of the Lord,

The Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators (CHE) exists to support and encourage families who have chosen to educate their children at home from a distinctly Christian perspective. We do so in part by providing student activities, corporate educational opportunities and forums designed to encourage those facing the practical challenges of home education. Additionally, we seek to raise awareness of legal and political issues affecting home educators. Our hope is that as iron sharpens iron, we will sharpen one another for the task of raising and educating our children to live for the glory of God.

_____ have applied for membership in CHE.

(Applicants Names: Example - John & Jane Doe)

One of our requirements is a letter of recommendation from the Pastor of the church that they currently attend. Please take a few moments and assist them in this matter by answering the following questions on a piece of church letterhead and returning it to us in the envelope they have provided. If you have questions, please contact Scott May at 870-926-4400

Thank you!

CHE Board of Directors

1. How long have you known the applicants?
2. What evidence of faith in Christ do you see in their lives?
3. Are both Father and Mother active members of the church you serve?
4. How are they involved in the life of the church? (attendees only, teacher, deacon, etc.)
5. Are you aware of any reason why we should not allow them into CHE?
6. How may we contact you if we have further questions?