

NearHim Home Educators

“Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up.”

1 Thess. 5:11

www.nearhim.com

NHE History and General Information

NHE began in August of 1994, when fifteen homeschool families gathered together for the first meeting and formed Northland Home Educators, a ministry of Northland, A Church Distributed. NHE, keeping its original initials, became NearHim Home Educators Inc., a non-profit corporation in 2004. NHE maintains a close relationship with Northland, A Church Distributed.

NHE is a homeschool support group serving the greater Orlando area. We provide encouragement and teaching ideas for parents and academic and social opportunities for students. We support one another in homeschooling our children through various philosophies and methods.

The students in NHE range from preschool to twelfth grade. NHE Parent Enrichment Gatherings occur every month from August to May in a variety of forms—workshops/events with speakers, parents’ or moms’ night out events, and in-home gatherings where we discuss homeschooling topics. We also sponsor a conference called Books and Beyond when it meets. The goal of these events is to equip parents with practical ideas and to encourage and mentor one another as we homeschool our children. We also have a private members Facebook group.

For students, we host Park Days, field trips of various kinds, skate nights, service projects, annual teen dance, graduation, yearbook, and an organized co op (see separate link for detailed information).

NearHim Home Educators is run completely by parent volunteers; therefore, the specific programs offered may vary slightly from year to year. We welcome new ideas from members for activities and events.

Most events require membership, but there are some each month that are open to the public. An annual calendar of monthly gatherings, special events, and open field trips are available on the website, www.nearhim.com. You can also connect with us on our public Facebook page by searching NearHim Home Educators.

Membership

Click [JOIN](#) at the top right-hand corner of the homepage for the membership application.

- ❖ We ask new members to agree with our statement of faith and the leadership structure found below.
- ❖ Members agree to serve the group in a supporting service task. You can find the list of possible ideas under the membership forms tab on the home page of the website. It is called Service Task List. This task is optional; however, those who do a task receive reduced renewal rates.
- ❖ We ask members to fill out an online medical release form. You can find it on the home page of the website under the Membership Forms tab.
- ❖ There is a fee for membership as follows:
 - Joining May 1 to December 31: \$65 for membership that lasts from start date to June 30 of the following year to cover the entire school year
 - Joining January 1 to April 30: \$20 for membership that lasts from start date to June 30 of the current year to cover the last half of the school year
 - Returning members who have completed a service task renew at a reduced rate of \$45 from May 1 to June 30.
- ❖ Membership questions may be directed to the NHE Membership Coordinator at membershipnhe@gmail.com. She will contact you and provide a phone number, if needed.

Statement of Faith

NHE is not officially affiliated with any church; however, we are a Christian group. Our statement of faith, mission, and purpose are foundational to our group.

Statement of Faith: We believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; and in the Holy Spirit. We believe Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe Jesus was crucified to pay the debt for our sins, then rose again on the

third day, and became the Mediator between God and man. We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God.

Mission Statement: As a Christian group, we desire to help families grow in maturity in Christ, and more specifically, to assist families whom God has called to teach their children at home and to do so in a manner which honors God (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Purpose: The purpose of our group is to support and to encourage one another in the task of educating our children at home, by praying for one another (James 5:16) and bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

NHE Leadership Structure

Board Members: The NHE membership is governed and directed by a board of eight members who work diligently to be sure that the group runs effectively and efficiently. Board members must have served among the membership in a supporting capacity for at least one year prior to being nominated for a board position. Board members may serve three consecutive years on the board, at which time they must step down for one year. When a board member steps down from a board position, she and the other board members prayerfully consider other members for the position and discuss those nominations with additional prayer and consideration. The board will vote on the nominated board member. The decision to bring the nominated member to the board must be unanimous. The self-perpetuation will help make smooth transitions and provide continuity between leaders. The board consists of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Member Services Administrator, a Special Events Administrator, a Meeting Administrator, and a Co-op Liaison.

Board members agree:

- with the statement of faith, the mission statement and the purpose of NHE;
- to be accountable to the board and to the NHE membership;
- to work together to serve the membership;
- to make decisions about the direction of the group;
- to serve as mentors to the members; and
- to pray for the membership.