

By -Laws for SHIELD Christian Co-Op

Article 1: Purpose

SHIELD Christian Co-Op exists to connect homeschooling families and assist them in their homeschooling journey in an affordable, encouraging, Christlike manner. We endeavor to serve our fellow homeschoolers, in the greater Houston area, through our educational enrichment program and by providing many opportunities for social interaction for students and parents.

Article 2: Statement of Faith

Our Statement of Faith acknowledges that we are a non-denominational Christian Co-op that believes in the divine scripture of God's Word (Holy Bible) for the final authority. It is intended to give a basic statement which all Christians can accept and in no way replaces your church's Statement of Faith.

Section 1: THE HOLY BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. (*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*)

Section 2: THE TRINITY

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (*Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

Section 3: MAN & SIN

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates man from God. (*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2*)

Section 4: SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works—only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (*Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1*)

Section 5: SPIRITUAL UNITY

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in Jesus Christ. (*Ephesians 4:1-6; Romans 12:5*)

Section 6: THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. (*Genesis 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16*)

Article 3: Membership and Fees

Membership to SHIELD Christian Co-op is fee based, requiring dues. Annual dues are set yearly by the board and must be paid by the beginning of the SHIELD fiscal year, July 31st.

There are two levels of membership: Social and Friday School members.

- Friday School members are invited to attend all SHIELD events/activities and Friday School in the spring and fall.
- Social members are invited to attend all SHIELD events and activities excluding Friday School.

In addition to the annual membership fee, Friday School members must also pay class and supply fees for Friday School.

All members (Social and Friday School) are required to sign the following documents before becoming active members:

- SHIELD Statement of Faith
- SHIELD Waiver of Liability
- SHIELD Code of Conduct/Dress Code Agreement
- SHIELD Photo Release Form
- SHIELD Social Member Planning Group Options

Social members are required to attend (2) social events per semester and assist in planning (1) activity/event per semester (options will be provided as to which planning group suits your abilities to best serve SHIELD kids).

We understand that SHIELD may not be the best fit for every family and we reserve the right to revoke membership for any reason at any time. These reasons may or may not be disclosed to the member and may include, but are not limited to Code of Conduct violations, disharmonious behavior, and/or failure to pay membership dues or other fees, etc. Membership may also be terminated if a member no longer meets the membership qualifications.

Article 4: Board of Directors

Section 1

All business of SHIELD shall be managed by a Board of Directors which should be comprised of no fewer than three (3) members. The Board is responsible for maintaining the overall policy and direction of the organization. The Board shall delegate responsibility of day-to-day operation to the individual Board members according to their role and to the appropriate support team members. Board members are volunteers; therefore, they do not receive compensation in the form of a salary for their service. However, the Board members may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

Section 2

The Board is required to meet at least once a month throughout the year and every other week during the time that Friday School is in session. The location and time of each meeting is to be agreed upon by the entire Board. The President must give adequate notice before calling a meeting.

Section 3

Before business is conducted or motions are made and passed, a quorum consisting of more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Board members must be in attendance.

Section 4

All Board positions are filled by vote from the existing Board. Any Board member may be removed from office, once just cause has been found, by the other Board members during a meeting where it was put to vote. In the event of a vacancy, the remaining Board members may fill that vacancy either by splitting the role between themselves or by voting in another member that they feel is well suited for the position.

Section 5

Any Board member reserves the right to resign, but only after ample notification is given for the board to find a replacement. There will be a term limit of three (3) school years which runs June 1 – May 31. A Board member may be voted onto the Board up to one (1) semester before beginning their term. Before a person may apply for a Board position, they must have attended Friday School for one (1) semester. To continue on the Board, each Board member will have to continue attending Friday School. When the three (3) year term is reached, the Board member is required to take a minimum of a one (1) year break from any Board position.

Article 5: Support Team

Section 1

The support team of SHIELD will be appointed by the board members through a vote. These support team members shall consist of, but not be limited to, Teen group coordinator, Tween boys/girls coordinator, and Field Trip coordinator.

Section 2

These officers are volunteers and shall not be compensated through means of a salary for their service to SHIELD.

Section 3

The Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any support team member after a vote during any regular meeting.

Article 6: Amendments

These By-Laws of SHIELD Christian CoOp may be amended when it is deemed necessary by the majority of the Board. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the President and voted on by the entire Board during any regular board meeting.