

Christian Home Educators of South Central Oklahoma

CHESCO By-Laws

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

CHESCO is a non-profit, volunteer Christian co-operative organization of homeschooling families in the south central Oklahoma area whose mission is to provide encouragement, enrichment, support, fellowship, guidance, resources, training, and public awareness for families who have chosen to accept the responsibility and privilege of home centered education.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership Statement of Faith

While we all come from different backgrounds and walks of life, we agree on these central truths:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, infallible and the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the virgin birth and sinless life, literal death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that mankind is lost without hope and doomed to eternal destruction without salvation, and that salvation is obtained only by grace through faith in the shedding of Jesus Christ's blood for the atonement and remission of our sins.

B. Officer Statement of Faith:

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2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the virgin birth and sinless life, literal death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that mankind is lost without hope and doomed to eternal destruction without salvation, and that salvation is obtained only by grace through faith in the shedding of Jesus Christ's blood for the atonement and remission of our sins.
5. We believe that salvation is a gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
6. We believe Christ has already done everything necessary by his death to remove our sins and make us holy from God's point of view.
7. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convince men, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
8. We believe the institution of marriage is defined by God's Word as one male and one female in the form in which God created them. See Note.

C. Membership Requirements

To advance the vigor and purpose of the organization, we have the following membership requirements for all participating families:

1. Members must be actively engaged in home education.
2. Dues must be paid annually.
3. Each member will provide one service to the group annually (i.e., coordinating of fieldtrip, teaching co-op class, planning of mothers' night out events, etc.)
4. Participants will sign a "Membership Statement of Faith and Conduct Guidelines."

5. All members will abide by the membership code of conduct and make sure their children do so when at CHESCO sponsored events. (Refer to Code of Conduct in CHESCO Policy Manual.)

ARTICLE III: LEADERSHIP

A. Leadership is comprised of a Board of Officers and Coordinator positions.

B. Requirements of Leadership:

1. as an Officer-
 - a. Has home schooled at least three years.
 - b. Has been an active member of CHESCO at least two years.
 - c. Has been elected by simple majority (51% of cast ballots).
2. as a Coordinator-
 - a. Has home schooled at least two years.
 - b. Has been an active member of CHESCO at least one year.
 - c. Has been appointed by the Board of Officers
3. Both Officer and Coordinator-
 - a. Have signed the statement of faith and conduct guidelines.
 - b. Strive to maintain quality of leadership, the vision of the group, harmony among the leaders, Christian principles, and agreement with basic Biblical precepts found in our Statement of Faith.

C. Manner of Election:

1. Nomination process will begin each March.

2. Members of CHESCO may recommend candidates (others or themselves).
3. Nominations are submitted confidentially to the acting president.
4. If no one offers recommendations, the current Board will seek candidates.
5. Candidates must be in compliance with the qualifications listed in Article IV:B.
6. Each nominee will be contacted for his/her willingness to be listed on the ballot and perform duties of the position if elected.
7. Nominations will be posted a minimum of one week before the election.
8. Election of new officers will be determined by simple majority (51%).
9. Elections are held at the spring meeting.

D. Term of Service and Transition:

1. Normal term for CHESCO Board of Directors and Coordinators: July 1 through June 30 of following year.
2. The Board of Officers is subject to re-election annually.

E. Vacancies:

In the event that an officer is unable to complete the normal term or becomes unfit or ineligible for office, the Board may reorganize the remaining officers subject to training and must hold an election to fill any vacancies if more than three months remain in the operational year. If less than three months remain in the operational year, the Board may choose to not fill any vacant positions.

If two-thirds of the voting members of CHESCO are dissatisfied with any or all of the officers, they can call a special meeting for a vote of "No Confidence." Such a vote may be held with or without the presence of the officers, but at least two-thirds of the voting membership must be present. Those present

shall choose a chairman and two election monitors from among the assembly. The vote against each officer in question must carry by at least two-thirds of the entire voting membership of CHESCO. Any officers removed by this vote are to be replaced as soon as possible and no later than one month by eligible candidates who meet the qualifications listed Article IV: B. Their terms will be effective immediately upon election through the end of the operational year, subject to re-election.

F. Responsibilities of the Board of Officers:

1. The Board must work together to uphold the CHESCO Bylaws and to establish group policies not specified in the Bylaws. Each officer (excluding the President Ex Officio) has an equal vote on issues. When a vote among the Board members is required, at least four officers must be present; a minimum of three votes is required to decide any issue. Each officer is accountable to the entire Board for upholding the responsibilities defined in these Bylaws.
2. The Board must oversee the administration of any current/future enrichment programs.
3. Amount of dues and budget are set by the Board of Officers

G. Responsibilities of Individual Officers:

- a) PRESIDENT: Presides over all business meetings (See Article V); handles complaints; oversees internal workings and needs of the homeschool group.
- b) VICE PRESIDENT: Presides over all business meetings in absence of President. Secures and oversees coordinators for all services and activities; encourages member participation; and assists Treasurer in verifying membership status. When the President cannot continue his/her term for any reason, then the Vice President has the first right of refusal to take the President position.

c) TREASURER: Presides at business meetings in absence of President, Vice President, and Secretary. Works with the Vice President in maintaining current membership records. Receives dues, disburses payments, and provides an accounting of this activity at each business meeting.

d) SECRETARY: Presides at business meetings in absence of President and Vice President. Takes notes at all business meetings; maintains an archive of past minutes and written policies. When the Treasurer cannot continue her term for any reason, then the Secretary has the first right of refusal to take the Treasurer position.

e) MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Presides at business meetings in absence of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Refers prospective homeschoolers to appropriate resources. Facilitates introductions of new members to the larger group.

f) PRESIDENT EX OFFICIO: Serves the Board in an advisory role only; as feasible, will be available for meetings and to help as requested by the Board.

h) COORDINATOR POSITIONS: Coordinates and oversees activities related to their specific area. Guidelines of each area (i.e., Field Trips, Hospitality, Academic, etc.) are lined out in the CHESCO Policy Manual.

H. Compensation:

Officers shall not be paid for their labor but should be reimbursed for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred in fulfilling their responsibilities. Officers are eligible for free membership into CHESCO for the year they serve.

ARTICLE IV: BUSINESS MEETINGS

CHESCO shall meet for business at least twice a year, once for a fall back-to-school meeting and once for a spring election meeting. Members should make every effort to attend these meetings in order to facilitate the purposes of

CHESCO. The business meetings are open to all members. Non-members are permitted to visit these meetings without joining CHESCO.

Special business meetings may be called by the Board or by a third of the voting membership. If the meeting is called by the voting membership, a special business meeting request with the signatures of one third of the membership should be submitted to the Treasurer for verification of membership status, with one member designated as the representative of the petitioning members. A request for a special business meeting should be submitted to any Board member and should include the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting.

The Board will take the responsibility of notifying members of a special business meeting.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by first proposing and discussing the changes in a business meeting, then publishing the proposed changes by email at least one week prior to the next business meeting. The changes are to be discussed at the meeting and then tabled or voted on. When voted on, each proposal must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the voting membership.

ARTICLE VI: HOW THE GROUP FUNCTIONS

A. Benefits:

1. Available to members who have paid their dues and provide at least one service during the year.
2. Membership directory and policy manual, participation in field trips and additional activities CHESCO provides, and qualification for group rates and discounts for activities.

B. Service Opportunities:

See CHESCO's Policy Manual for details regarding service opportunities that fulfill CHESCO's requirement of each member providing one service per year.

C. Meetings:

1. Open to the public.
2. In order to maintain a good relationship with the meeting facility, we have set up conduct guidelines for children and their parents. It is the philosophy of this group that parents are responsible for their children.

(Revised on April 2012 by the CHESCO Board of Officers)

Note: Genesis 1:27-28