



SUNSHINE STATE SECULAR HOMESCHOOLERS

Guidelines



Welcome to the Sunshine State Homeschoolers (SSH)! We are a secular, diverse, inclusive, and welcoming support group for those homeschooling in the Central Florida area and across the state. While we have pre-teen/teen only events, the group also has events that are for all ages and/or family oriented. Please be aware of the age requirements to participate in an activity. We organize a variety of social and educational meetups, events, and field trips, including our annual beginning and end of year parties as well as our annual TEEN DANCE (since 2015)!! Events take place in a variety of locations in Central Florida. Group membership indicates that you agree with the following guidelines, which may be modified or revised at any time.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at ssshomeschoolers@gmail.com or 407-300-4212.

While there is an annual cost for our members only site, membership to our general social media group is free. Joining our members only site provides priority registration and discounted prices to members.

Sunshine Happenings

SSH organizes a plethora of in person events, clubs, field trips, cooperative sessions, parties, senior graduations, dances, and more! Information specific to our fun are outlined below.

Events

Our annual themed group events include:

- NOT Back to School Party
- Field Day
- Pumpkin Party
- Snow Day
- Girls Day
- Puzzle Day
- Slime Party
- It's Still Summer End of Year Party

While some events are completely free, others have a cost associated with the event. Check each event for details.

Dances

SSH has organized TEEN Dances since 2015! Our 2021 Teen Dance was featured in the Orlando Sentinel! We have 3-4 TEEN dances each year, with tween dances for our younger homeschoolers. Annual Dances include:

- FALL Ball (Teen Dance)
- Winter Wonderland (Teen Dance)
- EPIC Teen Dance (Teen Dance)
- Endless Summer (Teen Dance)
- Let's Glow Crazy (Tween dance)
- Spring Tween

Check the event calendar for event details and registration.

Graduation

SSH has hosted a Senior Graduation & Celebration event annually since 2018. Graduation takes place in May of each year. Check the event calendar for specific details, information, and registration.

Clubs

Beta Club: Our award winning [Beta Club](#) was established in 2018. We accept new members, in grades 4-12, each fall. Beta Club members aim to volunteer at least 50 hours each academic year in their community. Volunteering can be done individually but also in conjunction with volunteer opportunities organized by our club, which take place predominantly in Orange, Seminole, and Volusia County. Annual membership fees are:

- Grades 4-5: \$25
- Grades 6-8: \$35
- Grades 9-12: \$40
- Returning Members: \$10

Math Club: We have partnered with the largest recreational math club in the nation for students in grades 3-5! Our math club is not a curriculum but an opportunity to have fun with math. Our Fall 2024 session will include a total of eight in person sessions, held in Orange County. The registration fee is \$80. Check the event calendar for registration opportunities.

Cooperatives

We have two cooperatives! *Sunshine Scholars* (Apopka area) and *Sunshine Community Cooperative* (Deltona area). Check our event calendar for registration opportunities.

Field Trips

SSH hosts at least one field trip each month. Costs vary based on the venue or location. Field trips can be added to the group calendar at any time. Check the event calendar for specific details, information, and registration.

Conduct & Expectations

- **Keep it Secular:** We are a secular and inclusive group. We have no religious or political affiliation and do not include events or discussion topics related to either. Instead, we focus on homeschooling!
- **Diversity & Inclusion:** SSH is committed to being a diverse and inclusive community. We do not tolerate any form of prejudice and have a strict policy prohibiting the use of hate speech, harassment, or any other form of bullying online and at our events or activities.
- **Respect & Consideration:** Members should always be respectful and considerate of other members. This includes trying to ensure that all our members feel included, respected, and accepted. Respect and consideration are also demonstrated by RSVPing to events you plan to attend, arriving on time, and notifying organizers of any changes. Respect and consideration of others also includes cleaning up after your family at events, not gossiping or spreading rumors about other members, avoiding drama, respecting the viewpoints of others and not pushing your views on others (political, religious, controversial and “hot topics”), not judging other members, and keeping conversations and behaviors at events acceptable for children to observe. Also, if you did not organize an event, you are not in charge of the event. Make sure to allow those who have taken the time to organize events to fully do so and do not overstep boundaries. Basically, treat others as you would like to be treated and help keep the group drama free.
- **Advertising & Spam:** No advertising posts or spam is permitted, including business posts, self-promotion, and/or events from other groups without prior permission. Do not private message members for solicitation purposes. Group members also may not conduct any business that would provide them with financial gain (such as hosting events to promote your business or service).
- **Responsibility:** Parents or adult guardians are solely responsible for their homeschoolers at meetups. Parents or adult guardians should be present at meetups with their homeschoolers (unless the meet-up is posted as a drop-off event such as those for older teens) and are responsible for their homeschooler(s) at all scheduled events. If there is a drop-off event for older teens, parents are solely responsible for their teens. At such events, parents should be accessible to their teens in case of an emergency, such as providing a cell phone to their teens. Parents should only allow their teens to attend a drop-off event if they are comfortable with doing so. If there is a safety or emergency, or homeschoolers are being excluded from an event, feel free to address homeschoolers that are not yours. Otherwise, please address issues with parents, not the homeschooler.
- **Respect Privacy:** Members may not share group information (or forward group posts) or member information (including pictures, screenshots) with other groups or individuals without admin permission. This includes links shared within the group, screenshots of group posts, and scheduled events/meetups.

- **Safety:** Members should be considerate of safety at all events. Protocols regarding safety include:
 - Ensuring that items that are prohibited by law to those under age 18 or 21 are not accessible at events.
 - Not attending events if you, your homeschooler, or a member of your household are sick (this is not limited to COVID-19).
 - Ensuring that actual weapons are not present at events, unless required for the event (such as archery).
 - If parents or legal guardians notice anything unusual, dangerous, threatening, etc. at a scheduled event please notify other members immediately.
 - If it becomes apparent that a member has engaged in illegal acts, convicted or otherwise, or other offenses that could pose a danger to others, they will be removed from the group immediately (such as felony arrests or convictions).
 - Do not inbox or private message members of the group you have not met in person.
- **Food at Events:** We aim to be accepting, appreciative, and considerate of others at all of our events. That includes events that involve food. When planning events that involve food, we try to take various food restrictions, regardless of the reason, and allergies that families may have into consideration.
 - At events, consider that allergen transfer can trigger an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions are not caused only from eating the food. At events, when eating please find an area to eat and do not permit your homeschooler to move around while eating. When finished eating, make sure hands are washed properly. This will help prevent, to the best of our ability, allergen transfer.
 - All families have the option to provide food for their own family due to diet restrictions and/or allergies without question. If families provide food for their family, they do not need to bring food to share at a group event as they also will not be eating such foods.
 - All food ingredients must be labeled as other common allergens include eggs, milk, soy, corn, wheat, nuts, and gluten.
 - While this is not an exhaustive list, below includes foods we avoid as they are included in common food restrictions and allergies.
 - No pork
 - No shellfish
 - No food containing nuts
 - Only include fish if it has fins and scales
 - Vegetarian options should be available
 - Avoid milk as a beverage
- **No Drama:** We have a strict zero-tolerance policy for drama (online or in person, parents or homeschoolers). To help keep our online space drama-free, please follow basic netiquette standards.
- **Active Participation:** Our goal is to maintain an active community that supports each other. Members cannot attempt to recruit others for another group online or in person, cannot use group information, events, field trips, etc. to aid another group or event, cannot duplicate, copy, or otherwise mimic any of our events for another group, themselves, or to make a profit. We do not support any group, individual, or organization

that attempts to duplicate, imitate, or otherwise steal the hard work of other homeschoolers. Members are expected to attend at least one in-person event each year and/or be an active contributor to our online community. Those who would like to get more actively involved in planning or chaperoning larger SSH events can request to do so after they have been an active member of SSH for 12 months.

- **Age Restricted Events:** We may have events that have an age restriction. Make sure to check the ages permitted at an event you are interested in and respect any age requirements listed (such as teen only meetups).
- **Photographs/Videos:** Members understand that photographs/videos may be taken at events by SSH and its representatives. Members agree to allow their photo, video, or film likeness to be used for legitimate purposes by SSH, such as but not limited to sharing on our website, social media group, and creation of promotional materials for SSH.
- **Organizing:** Any member of SSH can organize an activity for the group. Activities that incur no cost can be posted in both our general FB group and our member site. Activities that involve the exchange of funds must be posted on our member site. Members who intend to organize activities that require payment must first reach out to the admin to set up their organizer status in the member site, after which they can begin organizing. Events organized by members that require payment should not be made public, cross-posted, or offered to non SSH members without prior admin approval. Payments for events will be made via the member site and those organizing are responsible for any taxes, payment related fees, bank fees, or any other fees associated with the exchange of funds for an activity.
- **Registration/Refunds/Withdrawal:** All registration for SSH opportunities is a la cart. When registering for an activity, make sure to follow all instructions regarding paying for and attending the activity. Payments for group activities are nonrefundable. Based on the event, members may be able to offer their reserved spots to others if they are not able to attend.
- **Liability & Release:** The organizers, administrators, and members accept no responsibility or liability for any injury, harm, damage, losses, costs, or expenses that occur at or are associated with an event. Any advice given, online or in person, is only advice and should not be followed without serious thought and/or consulting a professional or physician. By joining SSH members, agree to our activity waiver, which applies to all events.