

# Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op Handbook



## **Welcome**

Welcome to Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Cooperative. This Handbook is a tool to help families learn what our Co-op's policies are. We find that having the framework of our Co-op will help it to function smoothly.

## **Statement of Faith**

Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. It is the final authority for faith and life and should be interpreted according to its normal, grammatical-historical meaning.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each coeternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

We believe the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth and is the source of all provision. All things are to be done for His glory. The Father is seeking true worshipers whom He keeps forever in His care.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men through His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. He enables believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures. Through the Holy Spirit, believers are further enabled to perform gifts that edify the Church. Sign gifts of the early Church were temporary as a primary means of edification.

We believe that the Bible reveals divinely determined periods of stewardship which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. In accordance with this teaching, distinctions between the Church and the ethnic people of Israel are established. We therefore reject any teaching

that places the Church as a replacement for Israel in God's plans and promises.

We believe the Lord Jesus will return from heaven any moment to raise the Church saints and present them to the Father. Jesus has delivered us from the wrath to come which is to be poured out on the earth. The Lord Jesus Christ will return to sit on the throne of David, in Jerusalem, for one thousand years.

We believe that because of Adam's disobedience, every person inherits a nature inclined toward sin and will sin if capable of moral action. Sin causes a schism with God and incurs His judgment. Any man, woman, or child can be saved through a personal faith response to the Holy Spirit's drawing through the Gospel.

We believe that the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

We believe that the Church is solely made up of born-again persons and that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free of any external authority or control. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age.

We believe that all Christians should live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded by God. A believer's separation should not be practiced in ways that prevent them from being a witness of Christ to all people. Christ was and is, a friend of sinners!

We believe in the future, bodily resurrection of all people, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Upon the death of a born-again believer, the soul of that believer enters the presence of the Lord Jesus where he will forever be with the Lord. Upon the death of one who has not been born-again, that soul will enter conscious torment for all eternity.

We believe that Satan is a disobedient angel, the author of sin, and the cause of the Fall of Man. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man and will be punished in the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject Darwinian evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin.

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities but all are answerable to God Who has established responsibilities and boundaries for each institution.

We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage. Furthermore, no marriage is legitimate aside from the joining of one biological man and one biological woman. Any deviation from this is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex.

We believe that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders of the church.

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. However, divorced or remarried persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service.

We believe that human life begins at conception. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us.

We believe that every Christian is a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him. We believe that God has desired that every Christian should give offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel.

We believe that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible.

## **Hot Springs Christian Co-op Mission Statement**

The Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op was founded for the purpose of encouraging and assisting Christian families to home educate with a Biblical worldview according to God's Word. This is a ministry. This includes those who are already homeschooling, those who plan to homeschool, and those who are wisely concerned about the government schools and those who are seeking a Christian alternative. The Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God, and the source of all truth. Our discussions will be based upon this irrefutable fact. My prayer is that our Co-op will glorify God and encourage local families for such a time as this. Our Cooperative is a supplemental homeschooling ministry.

3 John 1:4

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

## **HSLDA**

We recommend a membership to the Homeschool Legal Defence Association. **Our Co-op discount code is: 304871**

### [HSLDA - Making homeschooling possible](#)

"We believe every child is unique, that children should learn in ways that meet their needs, and that you want the best for your child. Homeschooling gives you the freedom to personalize their education so they can realize their potential.

HSLDA passionately advocates for the freedom to homeschool and offers support for every stage of your homeschool journey."

"We protect your right to homeschool in court, advocate for homeschool freedom in state legislatures, and work to advance homeschooling in the public arena."

"Our highly trained consultants offer personalized guidance and answers for every stage of homeschooling—including getting started, learning disabilities, and high school."

"Through the combined efforts of our community we make it possible for all families to experience the joys of homeschool freedom."

## **Homeschool Lending Library**

We are excited to build a Homeschool Library for our families. Please make sure to check out the curriculum available. Our Library is run with the honor code. We ask that you write down what you check out and return it next year. Donations are appreciated. We hope this blesses many families.

## **FAIRSD**

fairsd.org

“FAIRSD is dedicated to advancing, protecting and securing Alternative Instruction rights in South Dakota. Sign up for our email bulletins to stay on top of issues that might affect your rights. We rely on families like you to help us get the word out. It's an easy way to be active in securing and maintaining our freedoms.”

## **SD Koinonia Academy PSP**

<http://www.koinoniaacademypsp.com/south-dakota-home.html#/>

Our local friends at Koinonia are here to help.

“The mission of SD Koinonia Academy PSP is to assist South Dakota families achieve their goals to educate their children at home with confidence, free from outside mandates. We do this by providing annual enrollment, thorough record keeping, official transcripts, and readily available mentorship through a structured support system while maintaining the parents' independence as the owner of their family's education. Existing specifically to meet the needs of South Dakota home educating families we guide and assist each family's unique educational program under the umbrella of enrollment. Alleviating many fears of government encroachment, inadequacy in teaching skills, and the overwhelm involved in the comparison trap.”

## **Limitations**

Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op is here to encourage and support homeschooling families. We are not a school and fully expect parents to be the lead in their homeschooling journey.

## **Core Values**

1. We are passionate and committed to CHRIST Jesus, His Word, His ways and His Church.
2. We are committed to helping parents to be the spiritual leaders in their Home.
3. Our intention is to Disciple Families to integrate Biblical Truth in their Homeschool.
4. We Teach educational coursework through a Biblical worldview.

## **Philosophy of Education**

Our goal of Christian education is to apply the Lordship of Jesus Christ to all of our lives. We believe the Bible is the Inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God. Our intent is to do everything according to this foundation. All members of the Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op Ministry are personally committed to Jesus Christ and try to integrate Biblical Truth into each subject that is taught.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## **General Information**

Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op is a ministry in partnership with Homestead Bible Church here in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Website: [homesteadbiblechurch.com/homeshool](http://homesteadbiblechurch.com/homeshool)

Address: 27317 Wind Cave Road Hot Springs, SD

Overseeing Pastor: Dan Driesenga

Phone: 605-515-2151

Director: Sarah Kipp

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/898388361465766/>

Appointments can be made with our staff by calling Sarah Kipp @ (530)613-2472

## **Admissions Procedure**

Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op desires to have families who are committed to spiritual growth.

1. To be considered for the admission, at least one parent must be a Christian that believes in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.
1. One Parent and the children must attend a family interview or Orientation with the Director.
2. Non-refundable enrollment fee must be paid in full upon acceptance. Enrollment is charged per student each year and must be paid in full to be present for classes. This fee is for facilities use.
3. Families must agree to all policies of the Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op Ministry.
4. Parents must provide ultimate supervision during co-op hours. Parents are required to stay on campus if their child is present.
5. Parents are responsible for purchasing curriculum and have it available for the first day of co-op.

## **Eligibility to Enroll**

We believe the Bible mandates that the primary responsibility of each child's education rests with their parents. We view the Co-ops role as one of partnership with the parents in this endeavor. To create and maintain a productive partnership, it is important that parents agree with our philosophies and mission of this ministry.

## **Clean Up Policy**

Please help clean up before you leave each week after the co-op. Clean up includes wiping down tables, vacuuming, cleaning the white boards, making sure no trash or food is left on the ground in or out of the building, returning materials to their proper place, making sure bathrooms are decent, and turning lights off. We want to respect any place we meet so one of our goals is to look like we were never there, like it was before we were there.

## **Student Responsibilities/Code of Conduct**

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared. Bring supplies, books, and homework.
3. Be quiet in the halls between classes—absolutely no yelling or running.
4. Be respectful of others and their property.
5. Modest and respectful dress—please refer to dress code.
7. No using bad or crude language.
8. No phone or ipad use during class.
9. Work together and encourage one another in words and actions.
10. No bullying at all.

**Remember that we are guests in the building.**

## **Parent Responsibilities**

1. Please make sure to fill out all paperwork and pay before classes start.
2. Arrive ten minutes early. We will start our assembly with Chapel and prayer before breaking up into classes.
3. If you cannot attend on the day you are scheduled to volunteer, it is your responsibility to call the director as soon as possible to have a floater take your place. If you are a teacher's aide, also call the teacher with whom you work.
4. Remain on site AT ALL TIMES.
5. All classrooms need to be tidy and in order before the next class begins and when it ends (this makes the first part easier).
6. Children are not permitted to play outside without parents present.

## **Parental Involvement**

As a cooperative we all have volunteer positions to make things work smoothly. We are the body of CHRIST working together to bring GOD'S love to the world. Each parent will be required to participate in being a teacher or teacher aide.

If you are a second year family you are eligible to volunteer to teach a class. Please contact Sarah Kipp for a list of jobs to choose from.

### **Illness Policy**

If keeping a sick child home, remember that well children may only attend classes if their parent is on site. This means children will not be accompanied by another family, neighbor or friend (see Overview section).

People with the following symptoms should not attend:

1. Fever (within the last twenty-four hours)
2. Colored mucus (yellow or green snotty nose)
3. Diarrhea, vomiting or nausea
4. Eye drainage
5. Virus or infection (known to be contagious)
6. Rashes (including bleeding diaper rashes)
7. Head lice

This is for the protection of the children and families involved, so we can continue to provide the highest quality program for all children. Please be considerate of others regarding your child(ren) and illnesses.

### **Medical**

Please let us know of food allergies and or medical conditions. Each family must have an emergency contact.

### **Absentees**

Each family is allowed two co-op days(two weeks) of absence. If you are teaching it will be your responsibility to inform leadership and your Teachers Assistant parent. The class instructor has made a commitment and has spent time, money and resources preparing for each student. We ask that you please notify their instructor of their absence. Adult absences must be reported ASAP to a member of the Leadership Team.

## **Conflict Resolution**

If during the course of the School year you disagree with the philosophy, Standards or administration of our co-op, you should make every effort to work with administration for a solution. Our pastoral leadership will be available for problem solving and council if the need arises. If a harmonious solution cannot be reached, the student/family may be asked to leave the co-op. We pray that this need never arises.

## **Church Requirements**

The Church and the Pastoral leadership, is the authority and covering of this ministry. We humbly ask that the church and Leadership Team make themselves available for a monthly meeting. The Church is to assist in the development of the Co-op as the Lord leads them to do. We, the co-op and the families of the co-op, are accountable to our hosting church.

## **Withdraw Procedures**

If you at any time feel as though this co-op is not a good fit for your family, you will need to write a withdraw letter to our director at

[hotspringschristiancoop@gmail.com](mailto:hotspringschristiancoop@gmail.com)

This will ensure there is no miscommunication.

## **Parent Support**

1. Parent Meetings to be announced.
2. Used Curriculum Exchange.
3. Field Trips.
4. Park Days

## **Dress Code**

As Christians, it is our fervent desire to please the Lord and be a good witness in our daily life. This includes how we present ourselves. "Dress must be appropriate, modest and clean. Clean is self-explanatory, except that clean at a campout obviously is different from clean at a professional office field trip. Appropriate dress means that printing on attire should not contain offensive graphics or words. This includes advertisements for liquor, offensive rock and roll group pictures or lyrics, graphics containing

skulls, death culture or “gothic” themes, or any kind of suggestive or threatening work. Modest means not revealing. Low necklines, bare midriffs, unusually tight clothing, miniskirts, and short shorts are not acceptable any time. No two-piece swimsuits that expose the midriff. Shirts should be worn over swimsuits while not swimming. It is better to err on the side of modesty rather than on the side of impropriety.”

### **Field Trips**

Hot Springs Christian Homeschool Co-op is a membership organization, offering fellowship and support to homeschool families. As a group, we realize that each family’s behavior expectations differ, yet we agree to train our children in public in a way which reflects Godly character. Meeting in public offers an opportunity to be a good witness to our community. The guidelines which follow are intended to help our group’s gatherings be pleasantly organized, and effectively meet the goals of education and fellowship. When we visit, it is our responsibility to learn the establishment’s rules and comply with them. This application of self-government will encourage a respectful attitude towards our hosts and each other. Although parents are responsible for their own children’s safety and behavior, all adults attending and guiding the event are considered to be in authority. Correction of a child’s behavior, other than those children for whom you are directly in charge, is best referred to the parent. A gentle reminder is usually appreciated by the parent.

Guidelines:

1. Please contact the field trip organizer if you need to cancel your RSVP. This allows others to attend.
2. Be punctual. Wait patiently in the designated area until the organizer/guide is ready to proceed.
3. Parents are responsible for their children’s behavior and safety for the duration of the event. This responsibility may be delegated to another adult if the group is divided.
4. Children must have permission from our host before entering, climbing on or handling the host’s property.
5. Children and parents must listen when someone is talking.

6. Dress must be appropriate, modest and clean. Clean is self-explanatory, except that cleaning at a campout obviously is different from cleaning at a professional office field trip. Appropriate dress means that printing on attire should not contain offensive graphics or words. This includes advertisements for liquor, offensive rock and roll group pictures or lyrics, graphics containing skulls, death culture or “gothic” themes, or any kind of suggestive or threatening work. Modest means not revealing. Low necklines, bare midriffs, unusually tight clothing, miniskirts, and short shorts are not acceptable any time. No two-piece swimsuits that expose the midriff. Shirts should be worn over swimsuits while not swimming. It is better to err on the side of modesty rather than on the side of impropriety.
7. Younger children may not be welcome at events designed for older students. Please use discernment in these instances. If necessary, consider sharing the care of young ones with other parents while you supervise their older ones.
8. No attendees may be loud, rude, harmful, or distracting to the others in the group.
9. Parents in attendance should watch for disruptive behavior and handle the situation without interrupting the host’s presentation.
10. If you wish to bring a guest it must be approved by the Director and the Field Trip planner.

### **Material Supply Cart**

If you are able, to help maintain low costs, please everyone bring one of the items below so our teachers have enough supplies without having to purchase them on their own budget.

1. Crayons
2. Colored Pencils
3. Pencils
4. Construction Paper
5. Print Paper
6. Scissors
7. Glue sticks
8. Glue

