**By submitting my online registration, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree with the Home Grown Kids Operating Policy and Statement of Faith and**

**I acknowledge that my family promises to fulfill all obligations under the Membership Agreement, including the Guidelines for Behavior and Video/Photography Policy.**

**HOME GROWN KIDS OPERATING POLICY**

The Board of Directors may revise the Operating Policy at any time. As revisions are made, membership will be given notification of any changes. Expect changes as Home Grown Kids grows in membership and maturity.

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).

Throughout this document, “member” is defined as one family unit including primary guardians and dependents.

**HOME GROWN KIDS STATEMENT OF FAITH**

It is a requirement for membership that all Home Grown Kids families agree to uphold Home Grown Kid’s Statement of Faith (SOF). If the main homeschooling parent indicates agreement with the SOF, then that holds her/him accountable for her husband's/his wife's involvement. You are encouraged to read over the SOF with your spouse and your children for their understanding.

Members may either agree with every part of the Statement of Faith and believe these statements are foundational to our group, OR may disagree in part or in whole with the Home Grown Kids Statement of Faith but agree not to promote any belief that conflicts with our Statement of Faith to any group member of any age. They must also agree not to attempt to change the Christian nature of the group. Any adult choosing this second option may not serve in a leadership capacity. Adults who do not abide by this requirement will be asked to leave the group. Children who promote beliefs that are contrary to our Statement of Faith or attempt to persuade other Home Grown Kids members to abandon their beliefs will be given ample warning followed by temporary suspension from group activities and, for repeat offenses, expulsion from the group.

HOME GROWN KIDS STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible is the inspired, only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. The Bible is our source and guide, instructing us in godly ways of living and revealing the love of God to the world. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
2. We believe there is only one God, who created all and is eternally existent in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus the Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (John 11:25; I Corinthians 15:4); His Ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11).
4. We believe in the necessity of salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit because of the sinfulness of human nature; and that people are justified on the ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God’s grace and through faith alone are we saved (John 3:16-19; John 5:24; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8- 10; Titus 3:5).
5. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto damnation (John 5:28-29).
6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28) and the importance of preserving that unity as we interact with one another. (Ephesians 4:29-32, Colossians 3:12-17). We will abide by Matthew 18:15-20 for conflict resolution.
7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:13-14; I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 5:18).
8. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25)
9. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders reflect the nature of God, (Genesis 1:26-27) His design for you, and rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God, as He created the person.

**HOME GROWN KIDS MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT AND GUIDELINES:**

To be a member in good standing of Home Grown Kids (“HGK”) the following requirements must be met:

**ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS:**

* Each member will be required to complete TWO Activity Requirements for the group during the membership year, ONE during June 1 – December 31 and ONE during January 1 – May 31. Home Grown Kids is a support group and the participation of each of our members is vital.
* If a member fails to complete one or both activity requirements during the current membership year, the member will be placed on probationary status and will be required to schedule the Activity Requirement(s) prior to membership renewal.
* Please see Activity Requirement Ideas document for more information.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

* Members agree to be witnesses for Christ by being courteous, wearing appropriate dress, and having an attitude of cooperation at all gatherings.
* Please note that we are not an umbrella school and therefore members will need to meet their county's homeschool requirements.
* Members agree to read and follow the Parent and Student Codes of Conduct as stated below in the Guidelines for Behavior.
* Members who wish to participate in an event agree to pay the appropriate fees in advance. HGK is unable to refund fees for field trips, classes, special events, etc.
* Only members and their immediate family are allowed to participate in HGK events.
* It is the responsibility of the planning member of an Activity Requirement to ensure all participants have paid required fees. The planning member is also responsible to contact nonpaid participants and request payment or withdrawal from the event.
* Each parent is responsible for their children during all HGK events or gatherings. Please respect other members by removing your child if he/she becomes disruptive. Each member is financially responsible for any damage to property caused by a member during any HGK event or activity.
* Parents may respectfully express their concerns about the group or the Leadership Team. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, rumor-driven, or divisive. Any disputes within our group should be dealt with quickly through prayer and resolution. If a problem cannot be resolved, please discuss the matter with the Board Co-Leaders.
* Anyone who does not agree with our Operating Policy and Membership Agreement and Guidelines is asked to seek a group which would better fit their needs. Please remember our group seeks to model the life of Christ and, in doing so, we will be unified as a part of the body of Christ.
* ALL HGK members agree to observe and respect the rules and policies of every establishment we visit (i.e., noise, shirt/shoes, etc.) so that we can represent God and HGK in a respectful manner and maintain good relationships with the places we visit for field trips and events.

**PROCEDURES FOR PROBATIONARY ACTIONS AND REMOVAL FROM GROUP:**

Home Grown Kids reserves the right to take whatever steps it deems necessary toward any individual or family in order to ensure the safety of HGK members and to protect HGK’s reputation and purpose. Such action includes, but is not limited to, removal from current membership of an individual/entire family or denial of future membership.

Failure of any individual to abide by these set standards will result in the following action:

* 1st Offense: Warning
* 2nd Offense: Restriction from meetings and all other activities for a period of 1 month (30 calendar days).
* 3rd Offense: Restriction from future group membership.

**HOME GROWN KIDS GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIOR**

**Parent Code of Conduct**

1. We understand that we are to supervise our children and their behavior at all times, and that we are financially responsible as a family for any damage to property caused by a member during any Home Grown Kids event or activity.
2. We understand that the person in charge of the activity, as well as any other parent at the activity, has the authority to address our child’s behavior.
3. We will dress modestly and appropriately at all events where we represent Home Grown Kids.
4. If we cannot attend a function, we will not expect a refund. We will contact the coordinator to let them know we will not be attending so they are not waiting on us.
5. I will not promote any idea that is contrary to the Statement of Faith of Home Grown Kids.
6. I understand that repeated offenses to these guidelines will result in disciplinary action, including exclusion from events.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Please read the following guidelines to each of your children and explain to them that they are expected to follow them during all Home Grown Kids events.

1. I will strive to use Christ-like speech at all events (kind, respectful, loving, patient, pleasant, honest, and encouraging).
2. I will dress modestly and appropriately at all events where I represent Home Grown Kids.
3. I will respect authority with my words and actions.
4. I will respect property.
5. I will participate in clean-up with a pleasant and cooperative attitude.
6. I will not engage in any public display of affection (hugging, kissing, etc.) with a member of the opposite sex at any HGK event or field trip.
7. I will not promote any idea that is contrary to the Statement of Faith of Home Grown Kids.
8. I understand that repeated offenses to these guidelines will result in disciplinary action, including exclusion from events.

**HOME GROWN KIDS VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY**

While participating in events sponsored by Home Grown Kids, it is possible that photographs or videos may be taken of attendees. In order to protect the privacy of our members, it is the policy of this group that any image taken at a HGK event, containing persons other than your immediate family, may only be used for the express purpose of personal viewing, HGK yearbook, or HGK website. Members may not use the images for social media (Facebook or other online sites), publishing, or email distribution without the express consent of all persons represented in the image.