



## GROUP POLICIES and COURTESY CONSIDERATIONS

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Welcome to the Christian Home Educators of Habersham, Inc.!

CHEH exists in order to support Christian homeschooling parents in their endeavor to educate their children. The heart of our group is to encourage one another through the homeschooling journey by providing information, helping to empower, and providing opportunities for fellowship and learning through field trips and other group activities. We are delighted you are a part of the CHEH family.

Please take time to familiarize yourself with the following group policies. These policies have been established in order to allow all our families to know what to expect in order to maximize fun and fellowship.

### **CHEH Membership**

Member families of CHEH have met the following minimum standards:

- filled out a membership application;
- agreed to and signed our Statement of Faith;
- paid annual membership dues (or were awarded a scholarship);
- signed a Waiver of Release of Liability;
- registered their Declaration of Intent to Homeschool with the state of Georgia (and may be asked to submit it to CHEH); and
- agreed to keep all other provisions of Georgia law as they pertain to homeschooling.

A member family of CHEH is further defined as the following:

A married couple consisting of one man and one woman in a lifelong commitment before God—and their child or children, step-child or step-children, grandchild or grandchildren, ward or wards, or foster child or foster children; or

A single parent, a relative custodian, a guardian, or a foster parent, not otherwise cohabiting in a meretricious relationship—and his or her child or children, step-child or step-children, grandchild or grandchildren, ward or wards, or foster child or foster children.

Each homeschooled child, that child's siblings, all of that child's parents and guardians who have met the eligibility requirements of CHEH are granted membership.

## **Publically Funded School-at-Home Programs**

The state of Georgia has over the last few years created a publically funded school-at-home program. This program has changed names several times, but has been known as Georgia Cyber Academy, Georgia Connections Academy, K-12, Georgia Virtual School, etc. Students enrolled full time in any free online publically funded school-at-home programs are not subject to the laws that govern home schooling families in Georgia. (Georgia Virtual School does allow homeschooling families to enroll their children in up to three classes, or less than 50% of their school day, and still be considered homeschooling.)

If you are not required to submit a Declaration of Intent to Homeschool your child with the state board of education, then you are not legally homeschooling. We encourage parents who have chosen these schools to join or develop support groups to meet the specific needs and concerns of public online students and their families.

## **Website Usage**

Our website can be found at [www.habershamhomeschoolers.org](http://www.habershamhomeschoolers.org). There is also an app available for a small fee from homeschool-life, our web hosting company.

Our website has two sides: a public site and a secure, password-protected, private site. The private site is designed as a tool to be used by CHEH members to stay informed about activities of the group, to connect to others for fellowship, as well as to offer communications about homeschooling in general. The private site is for exclusive use by CHEH members only; please do not share or give access to our private website to anyone outside CHEH or distribute passwords to anyone who is not a member of CHEH.

The online **calendar** is used as our sign up tool for events. All our events are posted on the calendar, and we urge our members to consult the website calendar often. In order to use the sign-up tool, simply click on the calendar and click on the event for which you wish to sign up. A pop-up window will open. You will be able to add your family to the sign up list, and often, you will be able to view which other families are also planning to attend. If the event has a fee, you will usually be able to complete the entire sign up, including payment right from the calendar.

The website contains a list of all member families in the group. This membership directory can be found under the link called **families**. This information is provided for the convenience of member families so they can contact each other for group or personal social purposes. We **do not allow** the use of the address or phone list for anyone outside the group. Please do not share this information with individuals, businesses or organizations. Please do not use the family contact information for your own business purposes. Please safeguard this information.

Our **forum** is place for members to connect for information, fellowship, encouragement, support and ideas.

The **classifieds** area of the website is the only area where we permit the selling or donation of goods or services. Classifieds are not moderated, and they expire after 60 days. As a courtesy to other members, please update your ad when an item sells. Only items or services for sale by members may be posted in the classifieds. If you are selling an item for a friend, then you must list your own contact information and act as the agent for that sale.

As a courtesy to our members, a **membership card** for your family may be printed from the website. These may be useful for those seeking “teacher discounts” at retail establishments, among other uses.

A **photo gallery** is also available. Members are encouraged to post pictures of group events in the photo gallery to share with other members. Please be careful to obtain parental permission from each parent before posting any pictures on social media, public news outlets, or any organization outside our private website. Some parents prefer to not have their children's pictures available to the general public.

If a parent has an issue with a particular picture of their child posted in our photo gallery, it is that parent's responsibility to contact a board member to have that picture removed from the gallery.

A list of helpful **links** is available on the website.

Group **Publications** including things like our By-Laws, group policies, Statement of Faith, etc. are also available for all group members to view.

**Neither Christian Home Educators of Habersham, Inc. (CHEH) nor any individual from CHEH assumes any risk or liability regarding anything posted on the website.**

### **Group Events**

Park Days or Recreation Days are held, usually twice a month, and are open to anyone interested in homeschooling. From time to time we may offer other events that are open to the public, such as our annual kick-off picnic (aka "Kicknic") or seminars with special speakers. Public events are listed on the public page, and these are great times for people to come meet us, ask questions, and inquire about membership.

Other events are considered private events. If a member family tutors or homeschools a child that is not their own, they may bring that child to a group event, provided that the member family is not tutoring or homeschooling more than five non-member-family children. A member family may bring other family members, such as grandparents and other extended family relations to functions, and are especially encouraged to do so when a child of the family is presenting a craft, project, performance or other similar activity.

We occasionally have moms-only events, teen/tween events, or other age-restricted events. We specify these restrictions for the pleasure and enjoyment of those attending such activities. Please be mindful of any such restrictions.

A member family may bring a guest or guest family who is seriously inquiring about the organization to one private event or activity of the organization per fiscal year. We ask the host family to contact a board member before inviting a guest family.

When attending group events, parents are responsible for their own children. If a parent is unable to attend to the needs of his or her children, then it is that parent's responsibility to ask another responsible party to supervise their children. CHEH is not responsible for individual children. No drop offs will be allowed.

### **Payments for Dues and Fieldtrips**

Yearly dues are in the amount of \$25, prorated to \$10 for those joining between January and May.

A limited number of scholarships are available for those experiencing financial hardship. Scholarship recipients are asked to attend a minimum of any two events in the fiscal year in order to be considered for a scholarship in subsequent years.

Payments for dues or activities may be made through PayPal to [director@habershamhomeschoolers.org](mailto:director@habershamhomeschoolers.org) or by check to CHEH, Inc. and mailed or given to the treasurer.

Refunds on prepaid events may be granted at the discretion of the Treasurer. The member family must notify the Treasurer of a refund request within 14 days of the event. Refunds may be provided if a) the refund of tickets does not affect the group standing on discounted tickets, b) we have to cancel the event, or c) the member family paid for the event but never signed up through the CHEH website. The treasurer will determine if a refund can be provided and what amount, less any costs, handling fees, or other expenses incurred to the purchase of the tickets or admission

### **Matters of Christian Liberty**

We recognize that Christian families may have widely different standards in matters of dress, alcohol consumption, language, etc. However, for the purposes of group gatherings, we would exhort our members to remember 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.”

**Dress code.** Please dress modestly and appropriately for the event being offered; guidelines may be offered on the calendar or the forum regarding any particular event.

**Tobacco usage.** We ask our members to please refrain from using tobacco products while participating in group functions.

**Alcohol or drug usage.** Members are prohibited from using alcohol or illicit drugs at group events.

**Language.** Foul or offensive language should not be used at group functions.