

Welcome to **CHOICE**



Christian Homeschool Organization - *Interact, Connect, Encourage*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement	3
Vision Statement	3
Commitment	3
Statement of Faith	4
Bylaws	5
Code of Conduct	9
Dress Code	10
CHOICE Membership	10
Co-op Memberships	14
Partner Organizations	15

## Mission Statement

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide support, information, and encouragement to Christian homeschooling families.

## Vision Statement

OWN: Our vision is for our members to take ownership of their group and serve the group with love and grace. CHOICE is a ‘member-led’ organization. We rely on every member to be committed to using their unique gifts and abilities within the group. With every member doing their part, the load will be lighter for all.

CONNECT: Our vision is to connect our members by offering field trips, informational meetings, social activities, family events, and a variety of co-op classes. We encourage all of our members to use these opportunities to obtain information and stay connected.

INTERACT: Our vision is for all members to build strong relationships with other families in our group through face-to-face and virtual interactions. Our goal is for all our members to support, inspire, and care for one another.

ENCOURAGE: Our vision is for all members to encourage each other to grow in God’s wisdom and to help one another to build strong friendships within the group, as well as strong family relationships at home.

## Commitment

We believe that “community requires commitment”. We want our members to encourage and support one another, forgive each other, and speak the truth in love. We need to admit our weaknesses, share our strengths, and be both courteous and respectful to others in our community.

We believe that all members should commit to finding ways to contribute to the success of the group. Please see a board member for a list of ways you can contribute to the group.

James 3:18 says, “You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

## Statement of Faith

### WE BELIEVE:

- The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. *II Timothy 3:15-17*
- There is only one true God—revealed in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*
- The literal account of Creation, that God created everything and that in His own image and likeness, He created man. *Genesis 1*
- All people are sinners and in need of salvation. *Romans 3:23*
- We are saved by grace through faith, which is a gift of God, not of our own works. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- The Lord Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, suffered and died on the cross, rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven. *Luke 1:31-35*
- In the hope and reality of Jesus Christ's return. *John 14:3*
- That God loved the world enough to send His only Son to earth to die for us. *John 3:16*
- Those who confess Jesus is Lord and believe in their hearts that He rose from the dead will be saved. *Romans 10:9-10*

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth. *3 John 4*

**Bylaws for  
Christian Homeschool Organization Interact Connect Encourage**

**Article 1 – Name, Purpose, Location**

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be Christian Homeschool Organization Interact Connect Encourage, hereafter known as CHOICE.

Section 2 – CHOICE is organized exclusively for educational, religious, and charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The mission of CHOICE is to provide support, information, and encouragement to Christian homeschooling families.

Section 3 – The principle office location of CHOICE shall be located in Anderson County in the State of South Carolina. The organization may have any number of offices at such places as the Board may determine.

**Article 2 - Membership**

Section 1 – The qualifications for membership in this organization are:

- Complete and submit the CHOICE application for membership.
- Receive approval of membership by the Membership Committee, which shall consist of at least one board member and at least one other member.
- Pay all fees.
- Fulfill background check requirements.

Section 2 - Membership to the organization is fee-based, requiring dues.

Section 3 - In order to have opportunities in the decision making of CHOICE, members are encouraged to attend Member Meetings.

Section 4 – In order to remain a member, renewal paperwork and fees must be submitted annually.

Section 5 – CHOICE reserves the right to refuse or terminate membership without explanation. The Board reserves the right to remove a family who violates the CHOICE Statement of Faith, Code of Conduct, or any policy in these bylaws (either by word or deed). The member family may also at any time choose to terminate their CHOICE membership by providing notice to the Board. A refund of fees should not be expected but may be requested, and if warranted, will be determined by the Board.

### **Article 3 – Meetings**

Section 1 – The date of the regular annual meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors who will also set the time and place.

Section 2 – Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such place and time as shall be designated by the standing resolution of the Board. Regular meetings of the organization shall be held at various locations.

Section 3 – Special meetings may be called by any Board member.

Section 4 – Notice of all meetings shall be provided to each member by email, at least one week prior to the meeting. On occasion, less notice may be given due to a special circumstance.

### **Article 4 – Board of Directors**

Section 1 – The business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors comprised of at least three, and no fewer than three, Board Members. The Board is responsible for maintaining the overall policy and direction of the organization. The Board shall delegate the responsibility of day-to-day operations to appropriate members or committees. Board members shall receive no compensation (other than reasonable expenses) for their service on the Board.

Section 2 – The Board shall meet at least one time per year at an agreed-upon time and location.

Section 3 – All Board Members shall serve for a one-year term and can be eligible for re-election.

Section 4 – At the end of the term, all board positions should be made public at least one week prior to elections. Active members (those present who have attended fifty percent or more of the Member Meetings in the last twelve months) and Board members shall vote to fill the positions.

Section 5 – Any Board Member may be removed from office by the vote of the remaining Board Members and any members present at the meeting who have attended fifty percent or more of the Member Meetings within the last twelve months.

Section 6 – Any Board member may resign by giving reasonable notice to the organization.

Section 7 – In the event of a vacancy on the Board (including situations where the number of Board members has been deemed necessary to increase), the Board Members and active members shall vote to fill the vacancy.

Section 8 – A quorum must be attended by at least two-thirds of the Board Members before business can be transacted or motions made or passed.

## **Article 5 – Officers**

Section 1 - CHOICE President - The CHOICE President shall be responsible for membership requirements and approvals, including appointing a Membership Committee. The CHOICE President shall assist members in planning and announcing social activities, as well as encouraging members to plan social activities. The CHOICE President shall also be responsible for the maintenance of the CHOICE website, either personally or by delegating the maintenance of the website.

Section 2 - ETC Director - The ETC Director shall coordinate the ETC classes and teachers, determine the class schedule, maintain the ETC physical resources, and be the liaison for the ETC venue. The ETC Director shall also be responsible for updating parts of the website related to ETC.

Section 3 - ECHO Director - The ECHO Director shall coordinate the ECHO classes and teachers, determine the class schedule, maintain the ECHO physical resources, and be the liaison for the ECHO venue. The ECHO Director shall also be responsible for updating parts of the website related to ECHO.

Section 4 - Treasurer - The Treasurer shall maintain all financial records, make a report at each Board Meeting, assist in the preparation of the budget, and make financial information available to Board Members and CHOICE Members. The Treasurer shall also file all regulatory paperwork required as a nonprofit and help develop fundraising plans, when particular needs arise.

Section 5 - Secretary - The Secretary shall take minutes at both Board and Member Meetings and shall email them to all CHOICE Members as well as upload the minutes to the CHOICE website.

Section 6 - All Board Members - All Board members shall be responsible for planning and presiding over both Board Meetings and Member Meetings, as needed. All Board Members shall also be responsible for vetting new members of CHOICE in tandem with another CHOICE member.

## **Article 6 – Committees**

Section 1 – The Board may create committees as needed, such as fundraising or for individual events.

Section 2 – NO committee shall have any power to fill vacancies on the Board; adopt, amend or repeal the by-laws; amend or repeal any resolution of the Board; or, act on matters committed by the by-laws or resolution of the Board to another committee of the Board.

### **Article 7 - IRC 501(c)3 Tax Exemption Provisions**

A. Upon the dissolution of CHOICE, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose.

B. CHOICE is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of CHOICE shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.

C. No substantial part of the activities of CHOICE shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### **Article 8 – Amendments**

Section 1 – These bylaws may be amended when deemed necessary by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors and active members (those present at the meeting who have attended over fifty percent of the Member Meetings in the last twelve months). Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Board of Directors and sent along with regular Board Meeting notices.



## CHOICE Code of Conduct

As members of CHOICE, we represent the home educating community and, most importantly, our Lord Jesus Christ, to those around us. In recognition of this fact, we should behave in a manner consistent with the instruction presented in God's Word.

While we all hope to have a conflict-free co-op, we know that disagreements do arise. Please refrain from gossip and trying to get others on your side; sometimes taking a few moments to calm down is all it takes. If the conflict continues, please deal with it in a Biblical manner according to Matthew 18:15-17. Please contact our President or someone else on the Board if you need someone to talk to.

In deference to the parent, it is often uncomfortable for the adult in charge of an event to discipline someone else's child. With this in mind, we present the following guidelines. Please teach your child(ren) the appropriate behavior and attitudes for compliance as well as telling them the adult in charge of the activity has been delegated by the CHOICE group (and you) to speak to them about inappropriate behavior:

1. Have respect for authority figures, whether that is the person in charge of a field trip, a tour guide, leader at ETC, etc... *1 Peter 2: 13-17*
2. Have an attitude of compassion for the differences, needs, or disabilities of others. *Matt. 7:12*
3. Act and speak in a manner worthy of the God who calls you. Immodest clothing, unkind remarks, profanity, drugs, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, weapons of all kinds, coarse jokes, conversations involving occult or sexual situations or other language unbecoming of a Christian is unacceptable at CHOICE functions. *Philippians 4:8*
4. If you know something may be offensive to someone else, please refrain from it. Respect the property and landscape of those we are visiting. *1 Corinthians 8:7-13*
5. When attending educational activities such as field trips or co-op classes, come prepared to listen attentively with an attitude of learning. Headphones, electronics, and other distracting articles or behavior should be avoided. *James 3:13*
6. Wholesome friendships are encouraged between boys and girls. However, students should look upon one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and refrain from demonstrating overt personal affection at CHOICE functions. *Bible verse?*

## CHOICE Dress Code

"Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh." *Romans 13:14*

We do wish to remind everyone that we are a Christian organization and we represent Jesus in everything we do, including the clothes we choose to wear. Also, we do not want anyone to be a distraction or a stumbling block to those around us. We ask that all adults and children keep this in mind when dressing for a CHOICE function and CHOOSE to dress modestly. Modesty can mean many things to many people, so we ask that if you are in doubt of a piece of clothing that you refrain from wearing that piece of clothing. We are leaving the parents in charge of the clothing they choose for themselves and their children and we are trusting you to respect others and make wise choices in this area.

## **CHOICE Membership**

### Care Team

Had a baby? A hospitalization? A death in the immediate family? Or do you know someone in our group that is experiencing one of these? We would like to help! As a support group, it is important to us that our families feel support in these areas as well as their homeschooling journey. We would like to know so we can pray for you and mail a card to your family, whether it is congrats, get well, or sympathy. You may submit a request on behalf of another family in our group. We would love to bless our families that are experiencing these circumstances.

### Daddy Daughter Dance

Our Daddy Daughter Dance is one of the best events of the year! Our families love this event. There is a committee who volunteers to put the dance on. We usually have the dance at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Anderson. There is dinner, dancing, and sometimes crafts or games. We are very thankful to all of the moms who help make this event so wonderful.

### Field Day

Our Field Day is held the week of our last week of ETC classes in the spring. It is held at Whitefield Baptist Church. Sometimes we have teams that compete against each other in lots of games and activities, and sometimes we split the kids up by ages and plan games for each age group. We have some sidewalk games for the littles to participate in. We have lots of fun and hope you can join us!

## Field Trips

The members of CHOICE try to come up with some fun and interesting field trip ideas each year. We like to plan these at the first meeting of the school year. If you choose to help with field trips when you register to join CHOICE, we ask that you come up with an idea for a field trip and help set it up. Our Events Coordinator or other leadership team members can help you if you have any questions.

## Lending Library

CHOICE has a cabinet full of curriculum, books, and other resources that you can borrow to take home to use or that you can use to teach a class at one of our co-ops. It is located at Whitefield Baptist Church. You are welcome to look through it at any of our events we have at the church.

## Mom's Night Out

Mom's Night Out is an evening where we moms get together without children (exception of nursing babies) to talk and fellowship. We look forward to spending time together and meaningful conversation with all of you!

## Mother Son Event

The Mother Son Event is something new every year! Here is what we have done so far: Cavalier football game, bowling, Top Golf, and going out for milkshakes.

## Skate Nights

Sometimes we get together to go skating! We go on Monday nights from 6-9 at Skateland USA on Clemson Blvd in Anderson. This is their Christian skate night so the skating rink has their own list of Christian songs that they play, and this is open to the public. Every so often we will decide to have a certain fun theme to our skate night.

## Yearbook

CHOICE puts together its own yearbook! The pages include pictures from CHOICE events as well as the things you do at home as a family. We love to create a book of lasting memories that our families can keep for years to come.

## Kindergarten Graduation

Each year is different. Here are some ideas of what a kindergarten graduation could look like:

- All the graduates' families can decide on a location, a theme, the order of the ceremony, and if there will be food. Some ideas are:
  - Graduate Tables
    - Each family could set up a table to show the accomplishments of each child from the school year. It could be school work, art work, a project, etc.
  - Photographer
    - If requested, you can have a photographer that takes lots of pictures so that you can enjoy your day with your child.
  - Family and Friends
    - Invite family and friends to help celebrate the graduation. It would be nice as well to have some families who have children who will be participating the following year so they can help run things while the parents enjoy their day.
  - Church representative
    - Make sure you have someone either in the group or someone from the church who knows how to turn things on like the lights, air conditioning, sound board, and video screens.
- On the day of the ceremony:
  - Everyone shows up early to help decorate and to have a short rehearsal
  - Have printed programs to give to attendees.
  - The order of ceremony could be as follows:
    - Processional
    - Invocation
    - Special Speaker
    - Presentation of Diplomas
    - Special Time: You could have a parent read a book to the children, you could give out special awards to the children, or you could have the children sing a song or recite a Bible verse.
    - Benediction
    - Recessional
  - Reception
    - The reception can be lunch, snacks, or just cake and ice cream. Spend some time together celebrating the graduation. Take pictures by a photo backdrop and let the kids be with their families.

## High School Graduation

All the graduates' families decide on a location, a color scheme, the order of the ceremony, and if there will be food. Some ideas are:

- Graduate Tables
  - Each family could set up a table to show the accomplishments of each student. It could be school work, art work, projects, photos, awards, etc.
- Photographer
  - If requested, you can have a photographer that takes lots of pictures so that you can enjoy your day with your senior.
- Family and Friends
  - Invite family and friends to help celebrate the graduation. It would be nice as well to have some families who have children who will be participating the following year so they can help run things while the parents enjoy their day. This also allows those families to see how the graduation is run so they know what to do the following year.
- Church representative
  - Make sure you have someone either in the group or someone from the church who knows how to turn things on like the lights, air conditioning, sound board, and video screens. If it is someone from the church who is not in our group, maybe consider taking up a love offering from the families to give them as a thank you for helping out.
- Before the ceremony:
  - Everyone shows up on a decided time to help decorate and to have a short rehearsal.
  - Have printed programs to give to attendees.
- The order of ceremony could be:
  - Processional
  - Welcome – Master of Ceremony
  - Invocation
  - Valedictorian or Special Speaker
  - Salutatorian or Junior Class Presentation
  - Commencement Speaker
  - Presentation of Diplomas
  - Benediction
  - Recessional
- Reception
  - The reception can be lunch, snacks, or just cake and ice cream.

## Prom

The following is a list of what we expect from our students and their guests.

- Students and their guests must engage in appropriate forms of dancing.
- No tobacco products are allowed.
- Offensive language is not acceptable and students will be asked to leave.
- Dance attire and accessories must be clean, neat, and follow the prom dress code.
- Any disruption of prom such as fighting, profanity, willful disobedience of an adult chaperon, or anything which could be defined as unruly behavior will result in the student's parents being called.
- YOU will be held responsible for your guest and for making them aware of the unacceptable behavior.
- Guests MUST be in the 9th grade or above and no older than age 20. There are NO exceptions to this rule.

Students in violation of any of these rules will face the following consequence:

- Parents of students will be contacted to pick up their child and guests will be asked to leave the prom.

### Dress Code

- "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh." *Romans 13:14*
- We are not trying to inhibit your style, but rather help you make good choices.
- Prom should be a fun and memorable experience for everyone.
- We want everyone to be comfortable and safe with modesty in mind.
- We want to honor the Lord in all we do.
- If there are any questions regarding the dress code, please speak with a person on the Prom Committee.
- Please make good decisions!!

## **CHOICE Co-op Memberships**

### ECHO Co-op: Enriching CHOICE Homeschool Opportunities

ECHO offers co-op classes and social enrichment for CHOICE members. ECHO is a group of CHOICE families who come together to devote our time to ensure our children experience all the benefits of a good education. We enjoy a variety of low-cost classes that are taught by "groups" of parents.

ECHO offers great opportunities for children to interact and develop friendships and social skills in a safe, Christian environment. To register your children for ECHO classes, you must first be a member of CHOICE.

ECHO meets at Whitefield Baptist Church in Belton on Thursdays, and the classes and times change each semester based on need and parental involvement. There is a separate application process and fee structure for ECHO membership. Please see the ECHO Handbook for more information.

### ETC Co-op: Enrichment Through CHOICE

ETC offers co-op classes and social enrichment for CHOICE members. Enrichment Through CHOICE is a group of CHOICE families who come together to devote our time to ensure our children experience all the benefits of a good education. We enjoy a variety of low-cost classes that are offered for all ages from birth through 12th grade, taught by parents.

ETC offers great opportunities for children to interact and develop friendships and social skills in a safe, Christian environment. To register your children for ETC classes, you must first be a member of CHOICE.

ETC meets at a church in Anderson or the surrounding area on Mondays. The classes and times change each semester based on need and parental involvement. There is a separate application process and fee structure for ETC classes. Please see the ETC Handbook for more information.

### **Partner Organizations**

HSLDA: [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Home School Legal Defense Association is a nonprofit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms. Through annual memberships, HSLDA is tens of thousands of families united in service together, providing a strong voice when and where needed.

After a family joins HSLDA, there are no further charges of any kind for defending them in court. HSLDA pays in full all attorney fees, expert witness costs, travel expenses, and all other court costs permissible by state law for us to pay.

Through CHOICE, you can receive a \$15 discount on membership. A one-year membership is

\$115 with the CHOICE discount number. (There is an option to make monthly payments for a one-year membership. Please visit [www.scchoice.org](http://www.scchoice.org) and click on the HSLDA link for more information and to sign up. For more information go to [HSLDA.org](http://HSLDA.org) then click “Join,” then “Special membership offers.”

SCHEA: [www.SCHEA.net](http://www.SCHEA.net)

SCHEA was formed in 1987 to support home educators in South Carolina and to perform a lead role to create legal protection for home education in South Carolina. SCHEA, working with many other concerned individuals and organizations, was instrumental in convincing the state legislature to create the first South Carolina law requiring recognition of homeschooling in 1988.

Today, committed volunteer home school families from across the state continue to work through SCHEA to create opportunities and support to the home school community and promote an accurate and favorable image of home education in South Carolina.

To become a member please visit [www.SCHEA.net](http://www.SCHEA.net) to fill out the application and find out all the wonderful benefits available to members. You may apply online to become a member.