

Yahoo Forum Comparison

A lot of groups have switched over from the free services such as Yahoo groups and MSN. The number one reason cited by these homeschool group leaders and their families to switch over is that the Homeschool-Life.com founders and developers are Christian. That being said, you will not find any offensive pop-ups or advertisement in your group web site and by using our service your group would be supporting a Christian company. Second, we are by homeschoolers and for homeschoolers. By using our service, your families would be in an environment strictly for homeschool families. We have designed every aspect of Homeschool-Life.com to fit the needs of homeschool families and their leaders. Third, group leaders want to get organized and communicate. Homeschool-Life.com was designed to help support group leaders and ease their burden of administrating the group. We offer all the tools necessary to do this and show you how to do it. Fourth, our service is very easy to use and navigate. Every group leader that we have heard from tells us how easy it is to use and administrate. They have told us what a blessing their new group web site has been to them and their families and what a huge time saver and how efficient it is to administrate the group and its activities. Fifth, we are a feature rich service, as you can see below in our “a group website has much to offer...”. Sixth, since we are by Homeschoolers and for Homeschoolers, you will receive personalized service and extra special attention to your needs. If you have questions, call our friendly helpline and get immediate, familiar service with someone you can trust. We do not sell your information to 3rd parties and we respect the privacy of each of your families. Seventh, you will not only have access to your own secure group web site, but you will also belong to and get your questions answered in our newly developed web site dedicated to support group leaders. Join hundreds of Christian group leaders from all different sizes of groups, all over the U.S. and share information, ask questions and get answers, post ideas on how to improve the site, encourage one another, etc. Last but not least, we are affordably priced. The cost is only \$5 per family, per year! (That’s only 10 cents per family, per month with 2 months free) We have everything setup and ready to go for you to begin your web site today. All the tools are ready to go and fully developed. Starting a Yahoo site now, only to find out later you should have started a Homeschool-Life.com is a waste of time and resources. Do it right the first time around and setup a Homeschool-Life.com group web site today!!

- **Recently a homeschool group from Texas (200 families) decided to use Homeschool-Life.com. Here is what they said:**

Forum: We know this will get a lot of use as members ask questions and toss around ideas on a wide range of topics (called “threads” in forum lingo). An online forum is similar to an email loop, but it has some advantages:

	<u>Loop</u>	<u>Forum</u>
Post a message by email without being online	YES	NO
Start a new topic at any time	YES	YES
Option to receive individual emails	YES	YES
Option to receive daily digest email	YES	YES
Option to receive no forum emails (view all online)	YES	YES
Option to receive emails only from YOUR threads	NO	YES
Option to assign threads to a category	NO	YES
Go directly to the online thread from the email	NO	YES
Entire thread shown in each email	NO	YES
Browse threads by category	NO	YES
Search threads by keyword	NO	YES
Search in only one category	NO	YES
Sort results by date posted or alphabetically	NO	YES

As you can see, the Forum offers a lot of flexibility for easy, subject-specific communication among our members. Come to the Forum, and let’s talk!

With Homeschool-Life.com you are in good hands:

- Full featured,
- Developed, owned and supported by Christian businessmen
- By Homeschoolers and For Homechoolers
- Groups leader become highly organized and save a lot of time. Increase the communication amongst your families
- Easy to use and easy to maintain
- Feature rich services not found anywhere else on the web, especially in the free services
- Personalized service, immediate attention
- Free support group leaders resource web site just for joining with our service. A most recent question to the site was:

“We will be having our 1st graduate of our group since our group started 6 years ago. There is just one young lady that will be graduating. She is going on to college and has been accepted already! We would like to do a graduation for her, and quite frankly we are unsure even where to start. We are a Christian group, have 41 families and around 140 children. I am hoping to not reinvent the wheel here. Do any of you have any ideas??? Have you done something that you liked??? Is there something that did not work for you??? Thank you for any thought or ideas you have!!!!”

- Affordably priced. Most groups work the cost of the web site right into their annual dues.

Here is a just a short list of the services we offer. You will not find these by “homeschooler and for homeschooler” services elsewhere.

A group website has much to offer....

- Calendar Events (attach Word, Excel or PDF files to any event, complete with driving directions, events change at the last minute – not a problem!)
- Signup Feature for Calendar of Events (scheduling a field trip has never been so easy when each family can sign up online, receive confirmations by email of event details or any last minute changes, accept on-line payments via PayPal, signup coordinators can manage the on-line signups with a click of the mouse, full reports of who signed up)
- Newsletters (archived so you never miss an issue, your newsletter editor will be able to post newsletters online instead of mailing them, saving countless hours and money. Post newsletters from neighboring groups)
- Classified Ads (submitted & updated by individual families so no additional work on the part of the group leaders, automatically purges classified items after 60 days)
- Photo Gallery (unlimited group pictures, field trips, speakers, events, etc.)
- Secure and Personal Family Web Pages (each family is given the ability to build their own personal web site, unlimited pictures, links and custom pages. Use as a teaching tool for your children’s curriculum on how to design web sites)
- Weekly Email Reminders (each family receives an automated email every week telling them what has changed on the group web site in the past week)
- Links to useful sites, categorize them and make available a wealth of information to your families
- On-Line Family Directory for those signed up as members
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
- Open Forum to speak to each other (General, Teen, Group Leaders)
- Contact Information for the group leaders
- Email Tool (effortlessly email your entire group or sections of your group with our email tool)
- Email Automation (send emails and reminders on an automated basis, when you want - - just schedule it!)
- Custom Pages (prayer requests, lost & found, basketball schedules, look what’s coming up, feature articles, meeting minutes, book lists, track legislation, statement of faith, unlimited pages)

- Public Pages (post public information about your group yet keep the rest of the group web site secure, attach Word documents, unlimited pages)
- Multiple Administrators (share the responsibility of updating your group web site with other families, decide who updates and what sections of the site they update. This is a great way to enable additional opportunities for service)
- Easy to Use! Homeschool-Life.com™ walks you through, step-by-step, in setting up your group web site. Have a question! We are just an email away.

A Homeschool-Life.com™ group web site will help your group by...

- Allowing group leaders to spend fewer hours in organizing group information and less time with emailing, re-emailing and on the phone coordinating activities
- Posting reminders that are readily available by logging in to the group Web site
- Communicating via an automated weekly email that every family receives which tells them what has changed on your group site in the past week and what's coming up
- Eliminating emailing newsletters that get snagged by spam filters. Downloading newsletters and files from your group web site is easy
- Eliminating problems with families that have small limits on their email boxes. They need not worry as Homeschool-Life.com™ offers unlimited downloads with no size restrictions.
- Offering the ability for more people to update information. Multiple administrators lessen the load of maintaining a web site and they can be non-technical people as it is so easy to use. This is a great opportunity for service and for those webmasters spending countless hours maintaining their own group web site and would really like a break
- Eliminating problems with opening attachments
- Increasing communication between families and from group leaders to the group
- Eliminating the spread of viruses as the Homeschool-Life.com™ email tool is virus free
- Its ease of use as no special software is needed and no technical knowledge needed to administrate or view the group web site. All that is needed is an Internet connection!