



If You Were Wondering . . .

"What Is Grace Family Home School Group?"

Grace Family Home School Group is a long name for a rather lean organization. If you are new to GFHSG, you might be wondering what it is designed to do.

GFHSG is a confederation of families involved in homeschooling. We are unabashedly Christian, and invite all of the members to recommend others that would fit our philosophy of homeschooling. GFHSG maintains a contact list, holds kindergarten graduation and a student achievement night, organizes parties, produces a yearbook, and does a few other things for its affiliated families. The primary purpose of these services is to give homeschooling families access to other homeschooling families in our area so that we can share ideas and resources, and generally lend one another moral support.

If you are new to the homeschool "adventure", you will probably find some experienced GFHSGers who can give you advice. If you are wondering about a particular book or curriculum, you can probably find someone who has used it and can give you a review.

GFHSG is, by intention, an organization with a limited scope of operations. We do not lobby or engage in any direct political activity. We do not even attempt to provide many of the things needed for homeschooling. There are other organizations which adequately address these types of things, and GFHSG can point you to them.

How do all of the other GFHSG things happen? It starts with YOU. If you have something you would like to share with your fellow GFHSGers, you can do that through our website www.homeschool-life/fl/gfhsg. Perhaps you want to organize some kind of event, study group, trip, or whatever else you might dream up that would be of interest to homeschoolers. Just submit your request via the website by clicking on "Calendar" and then in the upper right hand corner click on the "Submit new event" link. Once your event is OK'd, it will show up on the calendar. If you have any takers, you've got your event. GFHSG wants to be a conduit for many different workgroups and events over the years. Some will be one-time events, while others will be recurring. They will happen because GFHSGers take action. That's how most GFHSG things occur.

One exception to the "liberty" described above: If you want to use the GFHSG name in conjunction with your event, please check with the advisors in advance. Ordinarily this is not an issue, since most groups and events don't use the name directly.

So if you think of GFHSG as a massive organization with high-powered officers, formal committees, big budgets, lots of scheduled events, and a top-to-bottom power structure, you have probably confused us with Tallahassee or Washington, D.C.! But if you think of GFHSG as a sort of consortium or network of families in the Tampa Bay area who share an interest in education with the ultimate in parental involvement, then you have the right idea about GFHSG.

This "light weight" design is no accident. First, the advisors are all volunteers; then, most importantly, the genius of homeschooling is parents with ample time to spend with their children. This is rare today. We don't want anything to get in the way of that goal, especially not GFHSG itself!

Your GFHSG Board of Advisors