

ELO FAQ's

What is ELO? - ELO is a separate group from your membership in the Christian Home Educators Community (CHEC) of Longview TX. Once membership in CHEC has been approved, you are then eligible to register for ELO (the registration is open for about 4-6 weeks during the summer). We meet regularly for the purpose of holding certain classes for our children. ELO is an acronym for "Extended Learning Opportunities".

Why do families participate in ELO? – The reasons vary from family to family, but some of the most given answers are: Making friends with other home schooling families; the ability to have class room experiences with lessons that are difficult to hold at home or that are just great learning opportunities to have as a group.

Who can join ELO? – To participate in ELO your family has to be a member of the Longview CHEC group. Although we prefer that you have home schooled your child or children for one semester (unless your oldest child is in Kindergarten), we will allow new to homeschooling families to join as well.

What classes are offered in ELO? – The classes vary from year to year. Previous classes have included: various science units, famous explorers and inventors, PE, art, history units, Presidents, sign language, writing, Spanish, Geography, finance, and Bible studies.

What age children can participate in ELO? – Generally ELO offers classes for children from Kindergarten to 12th grade. There are also classes from Nursery to Kindergarten for families that have older children participating in ELO.

When are the ELO Classes held? – The ELO classes are held on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (need to arrive by 8:15). Generally the classes meet consecutively for 3 weeks and then take one week off during the fall and spring semesters. Occasionally there are exceptions to this rule to work around the facility needs of our host church. This schedule gives us 9-10 ELO class days during the fall semester and 10-11 classes during the spring semester (usually a total of 20 classes).

Who teaches the ELO classes? – Parents of the families who participate in ELO teach the classes. In this way we can share our unique talents as well as sharing the load.

What is my responsibility if I am a part of ELO? – This is a big one. The primary home school instructor of the family is required to teach or help in a class for 3-3 ½ of the almost 4 hours of classes, and needs to be on the premises the whole time. Thus participating in the ELO program is a significant commitment. We generally assign 2 teachers to a class and may occasionally increase that to 3 if it is a demanding subject or a large class. In this manor the lesson planning and teaching does not fall on the shoulders of one person. It does take additional time and effort to plan quality lessons to

share with the class, and only you can decide if ELO is worth the extra work and responsibility involved. If you as a parent are not willing to contribute significantly of your time and talents, please do not enroll your family in ELO. Many moms who have more than one infant find it difficult to find the time to plan lessons during the week. Please do not assume that since you have a baby you can be placed in the nursery, there are just not enough slots in the nursery and there are too many needs elsewhere. Even the 2-4 year old classes require a fair amount of teacher preparation. It is also important to realize that your commitment to ELO is for a full academic year (fall and spring).

The previous paragraph was not written to try and discourage you from participating in ELO. We want you to realize the commitment and level of responsibility that is required and to count the cost before you start participating. If someone does not fulfill their commitment, then there is added work and stress placed on others in the group. Please take the time to talk with others who have been in ELO to gain a better understanding of the commitment required. You will find that most individuals really enjoyed the opportunity to share their talents and skills with other home schooling families, and even enjoyed meeting their commitments.

What does ELO cost? – The cost will vary depending on what classes your child will be taking. We work hard to keep costs down. Each family is responsible to pay a building use fee of \$60 per year along with the total class fees that range anywhere from \$10 to \$70 per child.

Where are the ELO classes held? – Currently the ELO classes are held at Fellowship Bible Church in Longview Texas.