



# Stafford Homeschool Collective

## Member Policy, Procedures, and Handbook

**Our Mission:** To provide Stafford County (VA) area homeschoolers, secular and inclusive opportunities through enrichment classes, a learning co-operative, and community activities.

### Part 1: Collective Guiding Principles

#### 1.1 Our Philosophy

We are a community, and our success depends on the active participation and commitment of every family. We acknowledge that the quality of the program we provide for our children depends upon our collective level of commitment to and investment in the group. We are not a replacement for family instruction, but a complimentary program that provides engaging group learning experiences that can be challenging to recreate at home.

#### 1.2 Inclusivity and Safe Space Commitment

We believe it is most important for children to hear about worldviews directly from their parents/guardians. Our classes and activities are worldview-secular and do not promote or criticize any religion or lack of religion. We celebrate our differences and are committed to being a safe and welcoming place for families, including Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), people of any or no religion, and LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

- **Anti-Discrimination:** We do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, disability, or economic status.

- **Anti-Bullying:** We strictly prohibit bullying, harassment, hate speech, and violence of any kind (verbal or physical). All members are expected to be considerate and respectful.
- **Physical Violence:** Corporal punishment (spanking, slapping, hitting, etc.) and extreme swearing are strictly prohibited within SHC, including toward your own children.

## **Part 2: Collective Operational Policies and Procedures**

### **2.1 Communication**

- The Collective's primary method for official communication is the BAND App. All families must join the Co-Op BAND Channel that meets their needs (Community, Classes and/or Co-op).
- For direct inquiries to leadership, please email the Board at [staffordhomeschoolcollective@gmail.com](mailto:staffordhomeschoolcollective@gmail.com).
- If any Collective classes or events are cancelled due to inclement weather or other foreseen reasons, families will be notified via BAND, SHC Facebook page, and/or email.

### **2.2 Illness Policy**

To prevent the spread of illness, students and families should remain home from Collective classes or events if exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Fever over 100.4°F (must be fever-free for 48 hours without medication)
- Vomiting or diarrhea (must be without symptoms for 72 hours)
- Unexplained rash, lice, conjunctivitis (pink eye), or other contagious condition
- Positive test for a contagious illness (e.g., flu, COVID-19). Please follow current CDC guidelines for return.

*If one family member is sick, we kindly ask you to consider keeping the whole family home until well.*

*We would appreciate notification if your family is not following the AAP vaccination schedule.*

### **2.3 Safety and Emergency Procedures**

- **Weapons Policy:** Weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited on the premises.
- **Substances:** Drugs, alcohol and smoking/vaping are not permitted at any SHC event.

### **2.4 Conflict Resolution**

1. **Direct Discussion:** If a conflict arises between members, please first attempt to resolve it through a respectful, private conversation.
2. **Mediation:** If a resolution cannot be reached, contact a Board Member to request mediation. The mediator will facilitate a discussion to find a solution.
3. **Board Decision:** If mediation fails, the issue may be brought before the full Board for a binding, final decision.

### **2.5 Food and Allergy Policy**

- We are a Nut-Free cooperative. Please do not bring products containing *peanuts* or *tree nuts* onto the premises. Please wash hands upon arrival if any of those items were eaten on the way to an SHC event or class.
- Families should clearly label any snacks, lunches, and water bottles.
- Eating is permitted only in designated areas.

## Part 3: Collective Governance

### 3.1 Leadership

Stafford Homeschool Collective is led by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the cooperative, enforcing policies, and making final decisions regarding its operation.

By signing below, you agree to the above policies in this handbook.

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Student Name(s)

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date