

Community Christian Homeschoolers

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Organization Information

Mission Statement

CCH is a support, information, and resource organization for Christian homeschoolers.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

CCH Philosophy

CCH is a “grassroots” volunteer organization for the purpose of providing homeschooling support, information, and resources to its members. The members of CCH need to be “like-minded” enough to work together to accomplish these purposes but have the freedom to determine materials and methods of homeschooling appropriate for their own families. Therefore, members are Bible-believing Christians who have similar reasons for homeschooling and are in compliance with the law.

Members are committed to active involvement in the organization and are primarily responsible for carrying out its activities. The organizational structure of CCH is designed to provide a

flexible framework within which members work together to meet each other's needs and have the freedom to be creative, try new ideas, or pursue interests beneficial to the group as a whole. The leaders of CCH function as facilitators and coordinators to enable the members to work together effectively.

Statement of Faith

We believe:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the only inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of God the Father, He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. That man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.
7. That all members must honor their God-given identity revealed in their biological sex by presenting as and living consistent with that sex.
8. That sexual immorality—any sexual activity outside the context of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman—is sinful before God and therefore inconsistent with the values and principles of the organization.

Purpose for Homeschooling

The purpose of CCH shall be to further the interests of home education of children by their parents in the areas of spiritual, academic, and character development, and to strengthen the family unit. This shall be done by all lawful means, including but not limited to mutual support, encouragement, and fellowship for homeschooling parents; positive fellowship for our homeschooled children; exchange of ideas, resources, and information important to

homeschooling; organizing activities such as field trips, parties, subgroups, classes, seminars, clubs; and disseminating legislative and other information affecting their rights of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children.

1. Spiritual

God has given us the responsibility to train our children. (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

We have the responsibility to instill our faith and beliefs in our children.

2. Academic

We can assure every subject is approached from a Christian standpoint.

Better quality of education through individualized instruction and more concentrated learning due to lower pupil-teacher ratio.

3. Character

We have a better opportunity to instill God's Word and Christian values in the hearts of our children.

We can build our children's self-esteem and help them gain emotional maturity.

We desire to decrease peer pressure that often results in negative character traits.

To provide positive socialization by integrating learning with everyday experiences.

4. Family

We strive to build a stronger family unit and to foster a strong family relationship to which our children can turn for love, support, and encouragement.

Goals

1. Mutual support, encouragement, and fellowship for homeschooling parents.
2. Positive fellowship for our homeschooled children.
3. Exchange of ideas, resources, and information important to homeschooling.
4. Organized activities such as field trips, co-ops, classes, and parties, etc.

Florida Homeschool Law

CCH members must comply with at least one of the following:

1. Meet the requirements to legally homeschool in Florida as enacted by Florida State Statute (sometimes referred to as registering with the county),
2. Be enrolled in a nonpublic, home based school (sometimes referred to as an umbrella school).
3. Be enrolled in PEP.
4. Homeschool with a private tutor.

NOTE: Students enrolled in programs such as full-time FLVS or e-school programs who are considered public school students are NOT eligible for membership in CCH.

For details regarding legally homeschooling in Florida, contact the Florida Parent Educators Association at www.fpea.com.

Families who do not meet these requirements are not eligible to be members of CCH.

Standard of Behavior Guidelines for Students:

All CCH students are expected to follow these behavior guidelines:

1. We follow all the rules for the facilities CCH visits (homes, churches, public buildings, field trips). We do not run, jump or climb where inappropriate (this is decided by the subgroup leader or the field trip coordinator). We leave the facility in better shape than we found it, if at all possible. We clean up our mess.
2. We respect the property of others. We do not destroy or touch anything that does not belong to us.
3. We speak quietly and respectfully with one another. We do not interrupt while someone is speaking.
4. Students should focus their attention on building solid friendships rather than romantic relationships. However, should romantic relationships form, CCH expects a high standard of conduct. Students are expected to refrain from all public displays of affection at CCH activities, including, but not limited to, hand holding, extended hugging or touching, flirtatious verbal interactions, and kissing. If someone appears to be breaking this guideline, any present adult is welcomed to speak to the student(s). If approached more than once, the offending student(s) will be sent home; extreme offenses possibly resulting in being sent home the first time.
5. We remember we share Christ with others by how we behave.

All CCH parents are expected to follow these behavior guidelines:

1. We oversee our children at all times and ensure they are adhering to student behavior guidelines.
2. We do not gossip, speak ill of, or put down other members or children. We do not engage in conversation that is not encouraging to one another or pleasing to God. We seek to promote unity and peace among our members. Sowing discord and/or using foul/crude/vulgar language will not be tolerated.
3. We do not bring our personal doctrinal or political beliefs into CCH classrooms, and we endeavor to avoid divisive conversations that stir up conflict.

4. We resolve conflict using the Matthew 18 model as described on page 13 of the Member Handbook.
5. We help CCH to function smoothly and efficiently by volunteering when possible in the following ways: teaching, planning a Mom's Night Out, coordinating field trips or parties, setting up, cleaning up, etc.

Tax-Exempt Nonprofit Organization

CCH is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and follows the requirements set forth by the IRS and the state of Florida.

Leadership

CCH is led by volunteer board officers and subgroup leaders. These leaders combine to serve on a Steering Committee to guide CCH and function as facilitators and coordinators to enable the members to work together effectively.

Release/Informed Consent

All events for Community Christian Homeschoolers, including, but not limited to, subgroup meetings, activities, field trips, park days, are planned and organized by volunteer members of our group. If you choose to participate in an event, you will be assuming all risks, if any, for your participants. Please consider the activities involved in each event and the suggested age level. If you feel that your child will not be able to safely handle any aspect of the event, you should remove your child from participating. Each participant must assume the risk of physical injury that could result from any of these events.

Membership Information

Membership Requirements

1. Homeschooling one or more children, five years of age or older, on or before February 1 of the current school year.
2. Agreement with the CCH Statement of Faith, Purpose of Homeschooling, Goals, and Standard of Behavior.
3. Compliance with Florida Homeschool Law.
4. Recommendation through an interview and, when applicable, recommendation by a family already established (one or more years) in CCH.
5. Approved Membership Application, as well as Membership Agreement, Waivers (when applicable), and Enrollment Form.

6. Compliance with the CCH Background Check Policy for all required parties.
7. Payment of annual dues as determined by the Board of Directors.

Membership and Participation

Members are encouraged to participate in either a subgroup that meets actively (not General Membership) or at least one large group activity (Spelling Bee, Literature Fair, group-wide field trip, etc.) in addition to the two Large Group Meetings (Fall Kick-off and End of the Year Celebration) during the year in order to enjoy the benefits of membership.

CCH membership includes immediate family members (including foster children and other family members living in the household) and grandparents.

Student participation in CCH events and activities is limited to CCH student members.

Membership begins the day that all forms and dues/fees are received and ends on June 30 of the upcoming (or current if enrolling in spring) academic year. Membership may be terminated earlier if a member no longer meets the requirements for membership.

All enrollment forms and dues must be submitted before a member may sign up for or participate in any CCH event. These events include subgroup meetings (including planning meetings), activities, field trips, or other CCH events.

Participation in CCH sponsored events is limited to CCH members only unless otherwise noted. Non-member adult guests are welcome to attend certain activities and events as posted throughout the year such as Mom's Night Out, Parent Book Clubs, and guest speaking opportunities open to the community.

At least one parent/guardian or grandparent is expected to remain on site with their participating student(s) during all CCH student events.

Student drop off is permitted with subgroup leader or coordinator approval if student participants are 12 years old or older. At least two unrelated CCH member adults must be present at all times for drop-off to be permitted.

Parents may occasionally arrange for another member parent to watch their children during an event should that parent not be able to attend due to another child being sick or an unexpected conflict. This should only be done on occasion, and not on a regular basis.

Parents and/or grandparents should be the primary responsible adult for students attending any CCH event. If parents or grandparents are unable to accompany their child to a CCH event, prior board approval is required before the student attends with another non-CCH member adult. This approval is not guaranteed and will only be made in extreme circumstances and should not be granted on a regular basis.

Communication

CCH primarily communicates with individual members via email. Members are expected to regularly check their email account and to keep their email addresses up-to-date on the CCH website. As needed, phone calls may also be used to help with CCH communication.

CCH communicates with all members via three primary methods:

1. CCH Newsletter, sent bi-weekly
2. CCH Members Only Facebook Group (secret group)
3. CCH Members Only Website area

The information communicated to membership is related to CCH and local homeschooling opportunities, legislative updates, and other items related to homeschooling.

CCH Newsletter

CCH sends a bi-weekly email newsletter to all members using MailChimp. The newsletter is the primary means of communication and includes important information about upcoming activities, events, and local opportunities. Members are expected to read the newsletter to be informed about upcoming events.

CCH Members Only Facebook Group

CCH utilizes Facebook to post reminders about upcoming events, legislative updates, and highlights from CCH group-wide events. CCH members may request to be added to the CCH Members Only Facebook Group. Information about how to join is available in all CCH email newsletters. Membership in this group is updated annually.

CCH Members Only Website (www.cchweb.org)

Upon completion of enrollment, new members may create a username and password for the Members Only area on the website. This area contains important information including the annual calendar, directory, activity information, and subgroup information.

If the username and/or password need to be reset, contact the Vice-President.

CCH Directory

The CCH Directory is distributed electronically and includes member names, addresses, and phone numbers. A copy is available in the Members Only area of the CCH website (www.cchweb.org). It is for personal use only. Members may not use the information for their business.

Opportunities

CCH-wide Events

Throughout the year, CCH hosts group-wide events including fall and spring large group meetings, field trips, Mom's Night Out, guest speakers, Park Days, and more. These events are open to all CCH members and some require additional signup and payments.

Large Group Meetings

CCH hosts two annual group wide meetings:

Fall Large Group Meeting (Fall Kickoff)

At this meeting, CCH welcomes new members and begins sign ups for activities in the upcoming year.

Spring Large Group Meeting (End of the Year Celebration)

At this meeting, CCH recognizes milestone year students, announces upcoming subgroups, and begins re-enrollment for the upcoming year.

Activities

CCH offers a variety of organized, large group academic and social events to enrich learning and promote fellowship throughout the year. Activities are open to all CCH members. Signups for activities begin in August at the Fall Kickoff. Families may choose to participate in just one activity or many.

To sign up to participate in an activity after Fall Kickoff, members must contact the activity coordinator and pay activity fees before the signup deadline. Late signups are not accepted.

Activity information is posted in the Members Area on the CCH website (www.cchweb.org), in the CCH Newsletter, and in the CCH Members Only Facebook group.

A list of activities, along with coordinator contact information, is available in the Members Only area of the CCH website at www.cchweb.org.

Field Trips

CCH offers several group-wide field trip opportunities each year. These events are announced at the Fall Kick-off and are posted in the Members Area on the CCH website (www.cchweb.org), in the CCH Newsletter, and in the CCH Members Only Facebook group.

Members must sign up and pay by the deadline to participate in CCH-wide field trips.

Subgroups

All CCH members are a part of a subgroup. Most subgroups bring together smaller groups of CCH families, allowing them to connect with other homeschoolers based on interest and children's ages. CCH subgroups meet at various times and locations throughout the month. Some subgroups meet for monthly field trips; others are more like a traditional co-op with set classes. Subgroup descriptions for the current year are available online at www.cchweb.org. Descriptions for the upcoming year are available in late spring.

Members who join a subgroup that meets actively should commit to participating in that group's meetings and activities as much as possible.

Members wishing to only participate in CCH-wide activities are a part of the General Membership Only subgroup.

Subgroups are coordinated by volunteer leaders with responsibilities of the group shared by all group members, as possible.

Members indicate subgroup preference(s) on their enrollment form. Subgroup placement is dependent upon available space in the subgroup and other considerations as determined by subgroup leaders with board approval.

The number of subgroups in which a CCH member family may participate may vary from year to year based on the subgroups offered. The CCH Board, seeking insight from subgroup leaders, will determine subgroup participation requirements each year.

Members may request to join one or more subgroups; however, families should carefully evaluate the commitment required for each group before choosing to join more than one group.

Members who are not placed in their first choice subgroup may be placed on a waiting list should a space become available in their first choice. If a space does become available, the subgroup leader will contact the CCH Vice-President for waiting list names. The member will be contacted by the subgroup leader to offer the available space and the subgroup leader will notify the Vice-President if the space is accepted.

Waiting lists begin when subgroup leaders decide to close their subgroup to additional members and close on October 31 for the current year. Waiting lists do not carry over from year to year, although subgroup leaders may refer to the prior year's list when making placement decisions for the upcoming year.

A member can request to be moved into another subgroup if they find they are unable to fulfill their responsibilities to that subgroup. Requests should be addressed only under extreme circumstances. All such member requests should be sent in writing to the Vice-President.

Dues and Fees

Membership Dues

Members pay annual dues to cover organizational costs and insurance fees. Organizational costs include expenses related to our Spring and Fall Large Group Meetings, supplies and building usage fees for CCH activities, and other administrative and organizational costs. Insurance fees are used to purchase coverage for the organization, participating members including adults and children, and volunteer leaders. Dues do not go towards subgroups as CCH subgroups are entirely self-funded. The CCH board determines dues every spring for the upcoming academic year and approves the budget in the summer.

Complete payment of dues is required at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment.

Subgroup Fees

Subgroups do not receive any funds from the general budget. Some subgroups require an additional fee to cover costs specific to the subgroup. Subgroup fees are used to cover the cost for copies, supplies, rent, and other expenses specific to that subgroup.

Each subgroup determines its fees (should there be any) and sets the deadline for group members to pay those fees.

Subgroup fees may be submitted to CCH by payment through the website.

See CCH Refund Policy for subgroup fee refund details.

Activity Fees

A small activity fee is required for each student participating in some CCH activities to cover the cost of prizes and supplies.

The due date for activity fees varies by activity. See the CCH newsletter, website, and Facebook page for due dates. Fees may be submitted to CCH by payment through the website.

Activity fees must be paid by the sign up deadline.

See CCH Refund Policy for activity fee refund details.

Field Trip Fees

Members must sign up and pay by the deadline to participate in CCH-wide field trips.

See CCH Refund Policy for activity fee refund details.

Refund Policy

If a refund is requested for any reason, the family requesting the refund must contact the CCH Treasurer by email to request the refund.

Membership Dues Refunds

If a family who has completed enrollment and paid their membership dues wishes to cancel their CCH membership for any reason, a refund of any fees paid (including subgroup and activity fees) for the upcoming academic year will be issued. The family must contact the CCH treasurer to request a refund on or before September 1.

Refunds for dues will not be issued after September 1.

Subgroup Fee Refunds

If a family who has signed up for a subgroup and paid the subgroup fee wishes to withdraw from that subgroup for any reason, a refund of any subgroup fees paid for the upcoming academic year will be issued. The family must contact the CCH treasurer to request a refund on or before September 1.

Refunds for subgroup fees will not be issued after September 1.

Activity Fee Refunds

Cancellations before activity sign up/payment deadline

If a family who has signed up and paid for an activity cancels before the deadline, a full refund of any fees paid will be issued.

Cancellations after activity sign up/payment deadline

If a family who has signed up and paid for an activity cancels after the deadline, a refund will not be issued. Once a deadline passes, the activity coordinator begins setting the budget and planning the event.

Field Trip Refunds

Cancellations before field trip sign up/payment deadline

If a family who has signed up and paid for a field trip cancels before the deadline, a full refund of any fees paid will be issued.

Cancellations after field trip sign up/payment deadline

If a family who has signed up and paid for a field trip cancels after the deadline, CCH may or may not be able to refund the fees, depending on the location requirements.

If the field trip location allows payment the day of the event based on the numbers that actually attend and CCH is not required to pay for open spots, then a refund will be issued.

If the field trip location requires a prepayment or set amount based on a count submitted prior to the day of the trip, a refund will not be issued because the spots must still be paid for. If another CCH family can take the available spaces, the family taking the open spots will pay the field trip fee for spots they take and a refund equal to the amount collected from the other family will be issued to the original family.

Other Refunds

Other refunds may be issued on a case-by-case basis.

Enrollment and Re-enrollment

New Member Enrollment

Enrollment for the upcoming academic year begins at the June Prospective Member Meeting and continues until the Fall Large Group Meeting. Applications may be submitted after the Fall Large Group Meeting, however, membership may be limited to only the General Membership Only subgroup.

Current Member Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment opens for current members beginning in late spring.

Members who submit re-enrollment forms after September 1 may be limited to participation in the General Membership Only subgroup.

If a member chooses not to re-enroll for the next year, they must reapply for membership if they choose to join CCH a following year.

Questions and Conflict Resolution

Members should contact their subgroup leader if they have a question. The subgroup leader can help resolve the issue or contact a board member for additional guidance.

If a member has a conflict with another member, the member involved should attempt to resolve any issues directly with the other member(s) following the biblical example set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. If a resolution cannot be met, the member should contact the subgroup leader to help resolve the issue. Should further assistance be required, the Board may become involved in seeking resolution. All efforts should be made to minimize the involvement of unrelated parties.

Child Protection Policy

CCH seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the children who participate in our programs and activities. The following is our policy put in effect to protect the children of CCH from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also protecting our volunteers from false accusations.

Child Protection Training for Abuse Prevention

All CCH Board members, subgroup leaders, activity, and club leaders will be required to complete an annual Child Protection Training for Abuse Prevention.

Two Adult Rule

- Two unrelated adult volunteers must be supervising the nursery at all times.
- Two unrelated adult volunteers must be in attendance at all times when students are being supervised at CCH subgroups, activities, and other events.

Additional safeguards:

- No member should be alone in the bathroom with an unrelated young child. If assisting children to the bathroom, at least two children should go with the supervising adult.
- Young children should only be assisted by their own parent(s) in a bathroom stall or with diaper changes.
- Digital communication from an adult to a student should either include the entire class or the student and parent. Adults should not communicate one-on-one via digital methods including, but not limited to, text, email, or other messaging apps, with any non-related student.