

DESERT HILLS CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLERS BY-LAWS

I. PURPOSE

- a. To represent and support the homeschool community in a manner that honors Jesus Christ.
- b. To keep the group informed of any pertinent homeschool current events such as seminars, conferences, and legal issues.
- c. To provide an atmosphere for exchange of teaching techniques, curriculum and standardized testing information.
- d. To maintain a pool of resources for members' use.
- e. To provide a forum for family socials, educational field trips, and group activities for our children.
- f. To promote public awareness of home education.

II. STATEMENT OF FAITH

- a. We believe the Bible is the Word of God; inspired and without error in its original manuscripts. It is our only source of authority in matters of faith, conduct and truth. (II Tim. 3:16-17)
- b. We believe there is one eternal God, personal and knowable, who manifests Himself in three distinct persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He is worthy of our worship, confidence and obedience. (Deut. 6:4, Rev 4:8, Gen. 28:15, Matt 10:29-31, I John 1-3, II Cor 13:14, II Sam 22:4, Rev 4:11, II Sam 22:2, II Tim 2:19, Rom 12:2)
- c. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, teachings, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Matt 1:18, II Cor 5:21, Heb 7:25, Acts 1:9-11)
- d. We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict the lost of sin, righteousness and judgment; place and seal the believer in the Body of Christ, and make real the productive things of Christ in the believer's life. We do not believe any particular or special gift is a necessary evidence of salvation or of being filled with the Holy Spirit; although we do believe in the gifting and exercise of all Biblical gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13, I Cor 12:4-11)
- e. We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit; perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully with the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
(Psalm 86:15; Romans 6:23)
- f. We believe every person is born with a sin nature, is spiritually dead and cannot please God until Christ gives him eternal life. We believe salvation from sin, death and hell is by God's grace. It must be received by faith apart from any human performance or merit. It is a free gift of God to anyone who personally places his confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. We believe a truly born-again person is secure in Christ. (Gen,6:5, II Chron 6:36,

John 8:7-9, Mark 1:7, John 10:27-9, Heb 9:28, Luke 20:35-8, Psalm 16:10, 86:1.
Eph 2:8-10, Titus 2:11, Acts 11:17, John 1:29, Gal 2:20)

III. OVERVIEW OF FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES

The leadership team evaluates the framework and policies annually, or as needed, appealing to the Lord for His direction and wisdom. The general framework may change and policies be added or improved as needs in the group warrant.

a. Membership requirements:

- i. Open to anyone who is interested in home education.
- ii. Payment of \$15.00 annual dues. Membership renewals after Nov. 1 will have an additional late fee of \$5.00.
- iii. Members are automatically added to the DHCH internet egroup for communication purposes.

b. Leadership

i. Requirements of Leader and Co-leader:

1. Has home schooled at least three years
2. Has been an active member of DHCH at least two years
3. Has signed statement of faith.
4. Committed to living in the Black Canyon City, New River, Desert Hills, Anthem area.
5. Will strive to maintain quality of leadership, the vision of the group and harmony among the leaders.

ii. Duties

1. Oversee the carrying out of the purpose statement
2. Oversee functioning of the group

c. Board Members

i. Requirements of board members:

1. Has signed statement of faith.

ii. Duties

1. Help in the carrying out of the purpose statement

IV. HOW THE GROUP FUNCTIONS

a. Finances

- i. The \$15.00 annual dues cover, but are not limited to, newsletter costs, printing of new member packets, dues notices, facility rent, scholarships, special speakers, purchase of library resources and registration for annual leadership conference.

- ii. Amount of dues and the coverage is set by the board of directors.

b. Benefits:

- i. Available to members who have paid their dues.
- ii. Newsletters, email group membership, membership directory, new members' resource packet, participation in field trips, standardized testing, seminars, virtual library privileges and additional activities that may arise.

c. Service opportunities:

- i. Members are encouraged to use their skills and talents to aid, encourage, and inspire others.
 1. Spreading the burden helps prevent a few from carrying the entire load.

2. This is a co-op group. "*If the members don't do it, it doesn't get done.*"

- ii. Members indicate their desired area of service at the fall fellowship meeting
- d. Semi-annual meetings
 - i. Open to the public at TBA locations.
- e. Other meetings
 - i. Discussion groups, workshops, seminars for parents centered on a specific topic relating to home education.
- f. Field trips
 - i. Field trips are initiated and planned by individual members
- g. Newsletter
 - i. The Editor/Librarian publishes a newsletter as needed
 - ii. This newsletter serves as the official minutes for DHCH
- h. Communications
 - i. Information is distributed via email primarily. Members need to check their email *at least* weekly for timely information.
 - ii. Information is also available on the group web site at www.dhch.org
- i. Virtual Library
 - i. The Editor/Librarian oversees the operation of the virtual library.
 - ii. Resources are held privately by individual members.
 - iii. List of materials can be found on the website and in new member packets.
- j. Public relations
 - i. On-going efforts are made to promote homeschooling in a positive light through articles in the local papers as well as participation in local events such as festivals, etc.
 - ii. A brochure including information on the group is available in the Black Canyon City and Cave Creek public libraries, and given to inquirers about the group.
- k. State Organizations
 - i. DHCH networks with and supports the efforts of AFHE (Arizona Families for Home Education at www.afhe.org) encouraging members to join.
- l. Legal information
 - i. Legal services are not provided by DHCH.
 - ii. Membership in HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Assoc) is encouraged. (www.hslda.org)
 - iii. A political liaison keeps members informed on matters of importance regarding home education in this state and the country.