

DHCH YAHOO GROUP

The Yahoo group is a convenient way for DHCH members to share information and notify other members of upcoming events, meetings, activities, field trips, etc. If you change your e-mail address, don't forget to update it on Yahoo Groups. Bouncing e-mails may cause you to miss an important message. In addition to Messages, the group web page contains Files, Photos, Links, Polls, Calendar, and Database. Please take a moment to add your current contact info to the database. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dhcs>. (You will need to log in with a Yahoo ID.*)

***Have Trouble Logging in?** To gain full access to the group's web features, Yahoo requires members to use a Yahoo ID. If you are receiving DHCH emails but you are not recognized upon visiting the Yahoo group site, you will need to get a Yahoo ID. Go to the Yahoo Groups Membership Wizard: <http://groups.yahoo.com/memwiz>. If you are not yet a registered Yahoo member, you can sign up for a free account to get a Yahoo ID. You will need to associate your Yahoo ID with the email address that you use for the group. Make sure the email address where you are receiving messages from the group appears in the Membership Wizard. If it does not appear, add it via the link provided. A verification email will be sent to that address. After your email address is verified, return to the Membership Wizard and continue with the steps to gain web access to all your groups. Upon completing these steps, you should be recognized upon returning to the DHCH group site and you will be able to access the group web features.

Messages - Any member can post a message to the group by e-mailing dhcs@yahoogroups.com. In addition to sending and receiving group e-mails from your own inbox, you can post and read messages at the Yahoo site. To read the messages, click on "Messages." To post a message, click on "Post" at the left side of the Yahoo group page. FYI – When responding to a post, hitting the reply button will send it to the whole group. If you think your message will benefit more than a few members, then post it to the group. But if your message is intended for a particular person, send it directly to that person and not to the group. (To facilitate personal replies from others, please remember to include your e-mail address below your signature.)

Database - Please add your contact info to the Member Database and update it as necessary. To view and/or update the database, click on "Database" at the left side of the Yahoo group page.

Files - The "Files" section contains forms and documents such as copies of these informational pages and an extra membership card to print out. To access the files, click on "Files" at the left side of the Yahoo group page. Members will be notified when new files are added.

Photos - Members can post their photos of group events and field trips to share with everyone. To post photos, click on "Photos" at the left side of the Yahoo group page. Click on "Create Album," then "Add Photo" to upload photos from your computer.

Links - Click on "Links" at the left side of the Yahoo group page for a list of useful links.

Polls - Polls are occasionally sent out to the group. To access a poll, click on "Polls" at the left side of the Yahoo group page. Members will be notified when a poll is created.

Calendar - The calendar shows all continuing activities and upcoming events related to the group. To see the calendar, click on "Calendar" at the left side of the Yahoo group page. You can view the calendar by day, week, month, year, or event lists. It is usually best to click on "Month" to see everything that is happening each month at a glance.

Reminders - Reminders of upcoming events will be sent directly to your email.

Group Guidelines - Be sure that you read and understand the following guidelines. While we don't anticipate any problems, the DHCH leadership reserves the right to remove any member from the group if for some reason conflict or issues arise that cannot be resolved.

DHCH YAHOO GROUP GUIDELINES

General Posting/Message Information: Please utilize the subject line, identifying the content of the post. Don't forget to identify yourself by name at the end of each message and provide your e-mail address below your signature.

DHCH Members: This Yahoo group is a service for DHCH members who are either currently homeschooling or planning on teaching their children at home in the near future. Membership to this Yahoo group is restricted to DHCH members only. The DHCH Yahoo group is intended to encourage fellowship among DHCH members. We are striving for a sense of community and camaraderie. Please don't join the group just so you can promote a business or organization of your own or someone else's with no intention of actually taking part in DHCH activities.

Events, Activities, and Resources: The primary purpose of the DHCH Yahoo group is to keep DHCH members informed about group events such as meetings, special activities, guest speakers, field trips, etc. We also share ideas and resources, and discuss other topics related to home education.

Related Posts: DHCH may endorse and promote events from related organizations that we believe are pro-life, pro-family, and pro-homeschooling. We also appreciate being notified of potential threats to parental rights and homeschool freedoms.

Off-topic Posts: In order to support each other, posts relating to members' home-based businesses are allowed, but are limited to the first of the month to avoid the appearance of spam. Since we're a Christian group, prayer requests are also allowed, preferably listing "Prayer Request" on the subject line.

Diverse Individuals: Keep in mind that even though we're all associated for a common purpose, not everyone on the list may share the exact same religious or political viewpoint. Even conservative Christians can have their differences. Therefore, please understand that the personal opinions expressed in these emails may not represent everyone's views. Be considerate of others while using your God-given discernment and wisdom for your family. If you don't agree with a post or aren't interested in something being offered, just hit the delete button.

Caveat Emptor: The DHCH leaders/moderators do not necessarily endorse the businesses, organizations, or activities mentioned in an e-mail. Individual experiences may vary and conditions are always subject to change. Please research any events, companies, or services before utilizing them.

Busy Families: When posting messages, please remember that the time of every member is valuable. If you have multiple posts/thoughts/information, try to condense them all into one post. If you would like to sell, give away, and/or need an item, please include your contact information for those interested to get in touch with you. Don't have them respond on the group message board. If a post asks for a reply, please be as prompt as possible. Not responding may mean that a field trip is cancelled or that your family will miss out on an event. Also, not everyone checks e-mail with the same frequency so a phone call may be better for important or timely matters.

Legitimate uses for the DHCH Yahoo Group include:

- Communications regarding upcoming group activities and events.
- Discussing textbooks, curriculum, and other materials that are to be used by parents in teaching their own children.
- Members communicating with the group to promote homeschool family activities (field trips, hikes, park days, co-ops, enrichment classes, etc.).
- Educational opportunities around the state that are open to homeschoolers.
- Information about Educator Discounts and homeschool-friendly stores/services.
- Announcements of special events that may be of interest to homeschool families (Christian parenting conferences, teacher workshops, Creation seminars, etc.)
- Volunteer opportunities.
- Legislative updates and news related to homeschooling.
- Action alerts from organizations that are pro-life, pro-family, and pro-homeschooling.
- Notifications of potential threats to parental rights and homeschool freedoms.
- Prayer requests (when you feel the need for the body of Christ to ask the Lord for something in particular).
- Sharing links to homeschool articles, tutorials, websites, videos, or other resources.
- Asking questions about homeschooling, getting advice on specific curriculum, etc.
- Requesting to borrow or buy a certain book or other item in case a member of our group may have one available.
- Selling or giving away any books, desks, children's clothes, etc. that would be of benefit to our members. However, items for sale must be those of a DHCH member, not forwarded from other e-mail lists.
- Members' business announcements (limited to Billboard Day, the first of each month).

The following are NOT appropriate for the DHCH Yahoo Group:

- Virus warnings (unless you think a virus was contracted through the Yahoo group).
- "Encouragement" messages that are not your personal experiences – no "chicken soup" or forwarded "chain letter" type posts please. (Unless it's specifically related to homeschooling, such as homeschool quotes or humor.)
- Negative comments about other families' homeschooling methods. (Honest curriculum reviews are fine, keeping in mind that what works for some may not work for everyone.)
- Taking advantage of the group for sending commercial advertisements, promoting agendas that do not fit with our mission or are way off topic, and joining our group just so you can invite people to your group or solicit donations for your cause, whatever it is.
- Promoting public/private school programs that are not open to homeschoolers unless they stop homeschooling. This would include virtual academies and Christian schools, no matter how good they are or how well they may work for others. (DHCH is dedicated to supporting parent-led, family-funded home education, so we think it's important to uphold our convictions by encouraging our members to homeschool.)

The above instructions are not meant to be an all-inclusive rule on how to use the DHCH Yahoo group, but a general guideline. These guidelines may be adjusted and/or added to as time goes on. If you're not sure whether something is appropriate for our group or not, feel free to ask first before posting, by contacting dhch@dhch.org.