

CHECC

Parents' Handbook and Guidelines



2015-2016

Mission Statement

In everything that we do as a group, we seek to glorify God and honor one another. CHECC is a cooperative support group. Our focus is on encouragement, fellowship and education of one another in various aspects of private, Christian homeschooling.

Statement of Faith

CHECC is a private, Christian homeschool support group. As a reminder, these are the principles upon which the group operates. Our objective is to honor and please the Lord Jesus Christ in every detail of the group.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, authoritative and inerrant Word of God. (2 Tim. 3:16)
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:1, John 10:30)
3. We believe in the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:35, Heb. 4:15, Heb. 7:25, John 2:11)
4. We believe that man is sinful by nature and that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential and an absolute necessity for salvation. We believe salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 2:8-9, Tit. 3:5-6, John 3:14-17, Rom. 3:19-23, John 3:16-19)
5. We believe in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Eph. 5:18, Eph. 4:30, 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they who are saved unto eternal life, and they who are lost unto eternal damnation. (John 5:28-29)
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 8:9, 1 Cor. 12:12-13, Gal. 3:26-28)
8. We believe in the creation of man by the direct act of God. (Gen. 1:26-28)
9. We believe God in His Word has given us the responsibility and authority to educate our children in a godly manner.(Col. 3:17, Deut. 6:6-8, Deut. 11:18-21, Prov. 22:6, Psalm1:1-2)
10. We believe marriage is God-ordained, between one man and one woman, and is intended to be a *lifelong* faithful union with one's spouse. (Matthew 19:4,5, Genesis 2:18, Genesis 2:23, Matthew 19:6).

Parent Meetings

Our meetings and events are held at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1801 Lacassie in Walnut Creek. CHECC meetings/events will be held in the Parlor located between the office and the sanctuary. Our meeting date is the fourth Monday of the month unless otherwise specified. Meeting times will be from 7pm to 9 pm unless otherwise specified. Except during explicitly stated times, parent meetings are for adults only. Exceptions can be made for nursing infants with thoughtful parents. Meetings are free for all members and first-time visitors. A \$5.00 fee is charged to all other visitors at monthly Parents' Meetings.

Membership

To become a member, we ask that you carefully read and sign the Membership/Release of Liability Form and pay an annual fee. Membership is open to all homeschoolers who understand and willingly and voluntarily agree to support the purpose of CHECC: to encourage and support the private, Christian homeschooling community of Central Contra Costa County.

Release of Liability Statement

Christian Home Educators of Central County (CHECC) is a group of Christian families who choose to associate together. The leadership is comprised of those who voluntarily oversee CHECC. Volunteers coordinate all events. Participation in CHECC is strictly voluntary; no one is required to attend any meeting or event. Neither CHECC, its leaders, nor any facility that CHECC rents for meetings, etc., is liable for any injuries or damages, whether connected with a group event or not.

We acknowledge that as parents, we are responsible for the safety and behavior of ourselves and of our children at all times. We acknowledge that the attitudes and actions of our family reflect upon CHECC, upon home education at large, and upon the body of Christ. In accordance with Philippians 1:27 "...conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ," we agree to accept the following behavioral guidelines:

1. At every event we will be responsible for our own children at all times. If we must send our child to an event with another adult, it must be one who is comfortable enough with the child to correct him when needed and who has written approval to authorize medical attention should it become necessary.
2. We will cooperate with all leaders – tour guides, field trip managers, event sponsors, etc. We also agree to follow any additional rules requested from us by a facility being used for meetings, activities, or field trips. We will read and abide by all CHECC Policies.
3. We will take personal responsibility for our actions and those of our children and our guests which damage property and/or cause injury, either willfully or through neglect. In the event that we are unable to control our child/children, even after having been spoken to about their behavior, we understand that we and my child/children will be asked to leave the event.

By signing this form voluntarily and without reservation, I/we are stating that I/we have carefully read this Release of Liability Agreement and will abide by it and all CHECC policies and guidelines. In accordance with 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, I/we further agree to hold Christian Home Educators of Central County (CHECC), its leaders, any facility used, and all CHECC coordinators harmless of liability for any injuries or damage my/our family may incur while participating in any support group function or event. I/we agree that this Release of Liability Form is until I/we revoke it in writing. I/we will execute a new Release of Liability Form in the event any information changes regarding my/our family and/or to sign up for the following school year.

Megan's Law Website

Due to the potential of parents having contact with other CHECC members' children through park days, co-ops, etc., CHECC does not accept into membership any family with a registered sex offender. Moreover, the family centered nature of our group means that activities may take place

in the homes of our members and that close relationships may develop outside of CHECC. As always, members are personally responsible for the safety of their own children. However, for the sake of prudence, all members and applicants are checked through the Megan's Law website. Any person listed on that website will not be admitted into CHECC.

Role & Responsibility of Individual Members

CHECC is a "cooperative support group," and as such each member is a critical part. A substantial number of members take on the overseeing of specific areas as "coordinators." Some of these include Park Day Coordinator, Library Coordinator, and Hostess Coordinator.

Other members provide short-term assistance by working with various coordinators facilitating events such as a Christmas Festival or an End-of-the-Year Tea. These positions require less time, but really add to the fun and variety of our group. Moreover, "many hands make light work."

Still, there are others, perhaps with a newborn, sick spouse, outside work on top of family and homeschooling, etc., who cannot take on a particular title. This last group, as well as everyone else, is equally vital. Two of CHECC's primary goals include support and encouragement of one another. Every CHECC member has the title of Supporter and Encourager! Has someone crossed your mind? Pray as the Spirit leads you that God would encourage/comfort/sustain that brother or sister in Christ! Fellowship with one another. Listen to someone. Mention a helpful resource (bearing in mind that God leads us in many varied directions, and no one way is necessarily right for all). Take a meal to a family. Start a co-op with another family. Our God who is full of grace blesses both the encouraged and the encouragers. You are so important!

Code of Conduct

As homeschoolers and Christians, it seems that the general public watches and assesses us sometimes more so, and in a different way, than they do others from other walks of life. We very well may be the only Christians and/or homeschoolers they will ever come in close contact with, and they will certainly form an opinion of both.

The privileges as well as how many events CHECC will be able to offer is directly related to our conduct, as leaders and parents, as well as the conduct of our children. Thus, it is vital that we and our children represent Christianity and homeschooling in a positive light, conducting ourselves as God directs in His Word - the Bible. Let us bring glory and not dishonor to His great name.

Therefore, we acknowledge that as parents, we are responsible for the safety and behavior of ourselves and our children at all times. We acknowledge that the attitudes and actions of our family reflect upon the support group, upon home education at large, and upon the body of Christ. In accordance with Philippians 1:27 "...conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ," we agree to accept the following behavioral guidelines:

PLEASE GO OVER THIS CODE OF CONDUCT (and supportive scriptures) WITH YOUR FAMILY.

1. At every event, we will be responsible for our own children. If we find it necessary to send our child to an event with another adult, it will be one who is comfortable enough with our child to correct him if necessary, and who has approval to authorize medical attention should it become necessary.
2. Please be respectful of authority figures. (1 Peter 2:13-17 and Romans 13:1) We will obey the instruction of our tour guide, field trip coordinator, or event sponsor. We also agree to follow

any additional rules requested from us by a facility being used for meetings, activities, or field trips.

3. Please be attentive, obedient, respectful, and courteous (in speech and actions). (James 3:13)
4. All children, please refrain from physical horseplay, running, throwing objects, etc. (Galatians 5:24; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 5:3)
5. Please refrain from doing, saying or having in your possession anything that may be offensive to others you are with or are visiting. Respect their property and feelings. (I Corinthians 8:9-13; Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:17b)
6. Children shall be accompanied by an adult when using the restroom.
7. We will take personal responsibility for the actions of ourselves, our children, and our guests, who damage property or cause injury, whether deliberate or not.

NOTE: Parents MUST be in COMPLETE CONTROL of their children at ALL TIMES.

If your child/children are being disruptive, destructive and/or breaking any of the above rules, you have two choices: a) Take the child/children aside quietly and get control, or b) leave the event. If you do not choose and follow through with the above choices, you and your child(ren) may be asked to leave.

Field Trip Policy

1. Most field trips will be limited to 20 children maximum. This will ensure a good ratio for learning and questions, while allowing us to spread out the cost of the field trip.
2. Field trip sign-ups will be available at monthly meetings and via the email loop, and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
3. Payment for field trips is required at the time of the sign-up. Do not sign up unless you are prepared to pay, as you may be bumped by a family on the waiting list who has already paid, and you will not be notified. The cost of field trips is not refundable. However, on your own you may arrange to transfer your payment to another family and collect your cost from them. If you do so, please let your field trip coordinator know ahead of time so she can plan accordingly.
4. When field trips have an age limit, it must be strictly adhered to. Most of the time the limit is set by the tour guides. Occasionally, the field trip coordinator may have a reason to set an age limit.
5. If the field trip is full, parents are encouraged to place their names on a waiting list. There may be space that opens up at the last minute or a parent may volunteer to arrange another tour date for those on the waiting list.
6. If, after signing up for a field trip you find that you are unable to attend, please call the field trip hostess as soon as possible so that field trip coordinator can notify someone on the waiting list.
7. ***Parental supervision on field trips is required.*** If the parent is unable to accompany his/her child/ren, s/he must find another parent or adult to be responsible for her children. The safety of our children on these outings is our first priority.
8. Transportation to and from the field trip location is the responsibility of the parent. Car-pooling with other families is encouraged, but is not arranged by CHECC or the field trip coordinator.
9. Children are expected to mind their manners and exhibit Jesus Christ in their behavior. Remind your children to raise their hands for questions and to respect the authority of the tour guides and adults in charge. We enjoy the comments we receive from our tour guides about how good our group is. What a great witness for homeschooling!

10. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children, especially preschoolers and toddlers. Unruly behavior spoils the field trip for all; however, tour guides often give us extra privileges when they see our group is well behaved.
 11. Field trips are for the children. We ask that parents do not ask questions during the tour, but rather that they are saved for a point in the tour where asking the question will not be disruptive. Adult questions frequently bore children and discourage them from asking their own questions. Adult questions also remove the tour guide's focus from the children and place it on the parents.
- Enjoy the field trip, your children, and the fun and fellowship of being with other homeschool families!

Funding

CHECC is a not-for-profit organization. The annual membership fee covers our parents' meetings, newsletter, and liability insurance costs. Other operating expenses, such as resource materials and special speakers, are provided for by our annual fundraiser. Field trips, workshops, and various special activities are paid for directly by participating families. CHECC donates ten percent of its funds to Family Protection Ministries.

Financial Reimbursement

CHECC is committed to accounting for all of our funds with integrity. The basis for this is stated by Apostle Paul in 2 Cor. 8:21 (NIV): "For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

All Event Coordinators are given a budget they must adhere to. All expenses are first to receive their approval. A reimbursement form should be filled out by anyone requesting a reimbursement. All receipts must be attached. (A reimbursement form can be obtained by the Treasurer or Council Members.) The Event Coordinator should then give the approved reimbursement form to a council member who will review it and pass it to the Treasurer for payment.

Anyone needing a check written to a third party in advance of an event should follow this same procedure.

CHECC can not reimburse unauthorized expenses, so please make sure you communicate clearly with your Event Coordinator/Council Member about your needs before spending the money.

Please submit requests for reimbursement within 30 days of your event.

Leadership

Due to our charter to promote private, Christian homeschooling, all leaders must homeschool privately (either through filing an R4 affidavit with the State Department of Education or through a PSP (Private School Satellite Program, formerly known as a private ISP), must personally affirm each tenet of CHECC's Statement of Faith without reservation, and must currently practice personal faith as God leads. Leaders must also be filled with grace and wisdom to allow each CHECC member to practice his own faith in good conscience and accept that God guides individuals in varying ways on varying paths.

Email Loop

CHECC has a moderated email loop as our forum for communication. All announcements are to be sent to **CHECC-It-Out@yahoogroups.com**. All items should be homeschooling and/or CHECC related, edifying and pleasing to the Lord. The moderator has full editing rights and reserves the right to decline posting a message. Please allow 1-3 day lag time for posting. It would be most helpful if you send information about your event *in the body of the email* in the following format:

Name of event
Where this will occur: Location
When this will occur: Date & Time
Deadline: if any
Contact Person and all appropriate contact information
Cost:
Then the description

The information in the subject line needs to be repeated in the body of the email.

To help us deliver messages to your computer, please be sure that we have your correct email address. If you change email addresses during the year, please be sure to notify the email loop moderator at **CHECC-It-Out-owner@yahoogroups.com**.

Lending Library

The materials available will be out for people to look over and to check out if desired. Small items such as magazines will be left in folders but will be available for viewing. Each item will have a card for your name and phone number when it is checked out. Any material checked out should be returned at the next meeting. For materials not returned on time, a post card will be mailed out as a reminder. Remember that other people may be waiting to check out the item you have. Also, we have an inventory list and materials can be put on reserve upon request. You will be held responsible for any unreturned or damaged materials that you have signed out.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we require a signed membership/release of liability form?

We want everyone who participates in CHECC to realize that they are personally responsible for their actions and their children's. The membership form familiarizes each person specifically with our rules and conduct.

Why does CHECC promote private, Christian homeschooling?

Since CHECC is a support network member of CHEA, we adhere to their mission statement which says, "The mission of the Christian Home Educators Association of California is to Advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by: Promoting private Christian home education as an outstanding educational opportunity..."

Do we allow membership by those in public ISPs and charter schools?

Yes. One of CHECC's goals is to promote private, Christian home education. Nonetheless, it is our desire to build up the entire community, and we welcome into our fellowship any who would join with us regardless of the legal structure under which a family places itself. We will be emphasizing private, Christian homeschooling at our meetings, events, and publications.

Why does CHECC promote *private* homeschooling over *public*?

This is tough to answer in such a brief format. But essentially there are four concerns:

1. Homeschooling families in either a public ISP program or in a charter school have resigned their God given authority and responsibility to direct the education of their children and have placed themselves under the authority of the state government.
2. The education code of the State of California clearly states that it is illegal to teach anything sectarian (for instance, Christian) during normal school hours. Although some public homeschool leaders are themselves Christian and may state something to the contrary (or recommend you teach Christian materials *on the sly*), the law states that it is illegal.
3. God provides, and we can trust Him completely without looking to our government to provide something which God did not intend to come under its legitimate jurisdiction. If every good gift comes down from the Father of Lights, as James declares, would He likely disseminate it through an agent that demands we deny Him?
4. The legality of homeschooling by any means is vigorously attacked every year. In California, private homeschoolers are deemed private schools by the education code, and we therefore stand arm in arm with campus-based private schools, increasing our clout. Public ISP members and charter school members, on the other hand, fall completely under the domain of government education and have zero clout in regard to homeschooling. As more homeschoolers join the public school ranks, the private ranks diminish, and the rights of *all* homeschoolers are threatened.

CHECC has more information in a document entitled “Why Charter School won’t Work for Christians”. The content applies equally well to public school ISPs. CHECC would be delighted to share a copy with you, or you can order it directly from CHEA at 562-864-CHEA or from Family Protection Ministries at 916-786-3523.

Most of all, this is a matter of much personal and family prayer. If you and/or your spouse choose to take the public homeschooling route, CHECC’s love and fellowship will remain the same.

Why can’t I bring my children to Parent Meetings?

CHECC is required by the management of their Parent Meeting facility to not allow the attendance of children, other than nursing infants. Unfortunately, this came about in years past due to a few individuals’ ignoring our longstanding Code of Conduct. CHECC was actually asked to leave as a tenant, and it is only through the grace of God, that we have been allowed to return with the stipulation of no children. Thankfully, this is not typical, as we usually hear good reports of our families during field trips, etc. Nonetheless, children are not allowed at CHECC parent meetings.

Is a phone directory available?

We do not print a directory for distribution in the group. We value your privacy, and CHEA recommends that all support groups not publish a directory for their members’ protection. If you need to call someone, call a CHECC Council member and request the phone number. We encourage the sharing of each other’s phone numbers through the Parents’ Meeting, Park Days and other activities.