

Congratulations on your decision to home school your children and your interest in our support group!



Community Christian Homeschoolers is a Christian support group offering fellowship, support, and encouragement for parents, as well as park days, field trips and other activities for their children. CCH began in 1985 with just a handful of families.

Membership is based on:

1. Agreement with the Statement of Faith (see below),
2. Agreement with our Purpose for Home Schooling (see below) and Goals (see attached),
3. Compliance with the Legal Status of Home Schooling in Florida. (See attached),
4. An approved application, which has been previously screened by the Prospective Member Liaison and/or the President.
5. One or more children that will be 5 years of age on or before February 1 of the current school year. (There is no need for children of kindergarten age to register with the county. The parent may chose whether or not to register with the county until the child is 6 years of age by Feb 1.)
6. A signed Membership Agreement Form.
7. CCH encourages you to be actively involved and committed to get the most benefits from the support group. This includes attending organization meetings, passing along phone tree messages promptly and accurately, calling the voice mail for weekly messages, and supervising children at field trips, park days etc.

Please fill out the attached application and return promptly. If you have further questions, Please call Maggie Pogue - Prospective Member Liaison 352-528-5221

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, 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.

PURPOSE FOR HOME SCHOOLING

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 home schooling parents, positive fellowship for our home schooled children, exchange of ideas, resources, and information important to home schooling, organizing activities such as field trips, parties, co-ops, classes, seminars, clubs, and disseminating legislative and other information affecting the rights of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children.

ORGANIZATION

- ❖ The large CCH group, which is unlimited in number, is broken down in smaller sub-groups of families (this is so newcomers are able to more easily meet and get to know other home schoolers). Sub-groups vary in purpose from groups with specific ideas about what activities they will be offering during the year to ones that are more 'low-profile'. A list of the sub-groups with descriptions will be sent to you after we've approved your application.
- ❖ Sub-groups: Within the large CCH group are several sub-groups, which functions can include: mom's groups, field trips, parties, and various other activities.
- ❖ Whatever work is involved for an activity should be shared by ALL members as much as possible and each member should take a turn being responsible for an activity, if at all possible. Each person should contribute in some way, preferably in an area of interest or ability. The group should provide a framework for its members to be creative, try out new ideas, or pursue interests beneficial to the group as a whole.

- ❖ *Meetings: Large group will meet two times per school year; in August and May. Sub-groups will have their own additional meetings.*
- ❖ *Dues cover insurance, copying, postage, website costs, building rental and other group expenses. Budget is determined by the steering committee.*

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**WHAT CCH OFFERS ITS MEMBERS**

- ❖ *An Anthology of students artistic & literary work*
  - ❖ *Discount at some area bookstores, educational stores & copy centers*
  - ❖ *Book It reading incentive program*
  - ❖ *Book Bowl*
  - ❖ *Directory of CCH membership*
  - ❖ *Field Trips and Events*
  - ❖ *FPEA Membership (optional)*
  - ❖ *Geography Bee*
  - ❖ *CCH Newsletter*
  - ❖ *Presidential Physical Fitness Test*
  - ❖ *Information on Curriculum Fairs and Workshops*
  - ❖ *School Pictures & Yearbook*
  - ❖ *Science Fair*
  - ❖ *Spelling Bee*
  - ❖ *Sub-groups for smaller group field trips, events and information*
  - ❖ *Testing and Evaluation Information*
  - ❖ *Web page for group information*
- ❖ **Please note that these activities are subject to change based on availability of volunteer coordinators and workers.**

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LEGAL STATUS OF HOME SCHOOLING IN FLORIDA

There are basically three methods that home schooling families in Florida use to legally teach their children at home.

1. *607/617/623 Nonpublic, home based school: "607/617/623" refer to the statute numbers which define this option. Both of these statutes allow for a private school to be started as a non-profit corporation. There are guidelines that must be followed such as number of teaching days, hours taught, administrative meetings to be held, etc.*
 2. *FS 232.0202 Private Tutoring Program.*
 3. *Regular Attendance Law, F.S. 232.0201: This option is a state statute written expressly for home-educating families and is the one most used in Alachua County. Because of its popularity an explanation follows.*
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STEPS TO COMPLY WITH HOME EDUCATION ENACTMENT STATUTE F.S. 232.0201

As a parent without a valid regular FL certificate to teach you must comply with the following requirements:

- A. **Send a letter of intent** to the Superintendent of Schools.
The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent, and shall include the names, addresses and birth dates of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. Do not assign a grade level. Include only children who are at least 6 years old by February 1 and less than 18 years old. This letter must be filed within 30 days of establishing the home-education program. Please terminate your program by letter if you should move out of the county or place a child in another school.
- B. **Maintain a portfolio of records and materials.**
The portfolio shall consist of the following:
 - 1) *A log of educational activities which is made contemporaneously with the instruction and which designates by title any reading materials used.*
 - 2) *Samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student. The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent or guardian for 2 years and shall be made available for inspection by the superintendent (or agent), upon 15 days' written notice. The superintendent is not required to inspect the portfolio.*
- C. **Provide for an annual educational evaluation** in which is documented the pupil's demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with her/his ability. The parent or guardian shall select the method of evaluation and shall file a copy of the evaluation annually with the Superintendent's office. The annual educational evaluation shall consist of one of the following:
 1. *A teacher selected by the parent or guardian shall evaluate the pupil's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the pupil. Such teacher shall hold a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.*
 2. *The pupil shall take any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.*
 3. *The pupil shall take a state student assessment test.*
 4. *The pupil shall be evaluated by an individual holding a valid, active license (psychologist's evaluation).*
 5. *The pupil shall be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the school superintendent of the district and the pupil's parent or guardian.*

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SAMPLE LETTER OF INTENT

Dr. Mel Lucas, Director  
Home Education Program  
School Board of Alachua County  
620 E. University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601

September 1, 2009

Dear Dr. Lucas :

*This letter is to inform you of our intent to as parents to establish and maintain a home education program for our child:*

Jane Doe  
100 Main Street  
Gainesville, FL 32600  
Birthdate: January 1, 2003

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Doe

NOTE: This letter is not sent every year, just when you begin your home school program and add more children.

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SUGGESTED READING LIST

Big Book of Home Learning 4 volumes by Mary Pride

The Three R's Series by Ruth Beechick. How to teach reading, language and arithmetic from preschool through 3rd grade.

Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual by Cathy Duffy

How to Home School - A Practical Approach by Gayle Graham

You Can Teach Your Child Successfully by Ruth Beechick.

The Unit Study Idea Book by Valerie Bendt.

Survivor's Guide to Homeschooling Luanne Shackelford.

Teaching Children by Diane Lopez. A guide to what children need to know at each grade level through 6th grade.

Books Children Love by Elizabeth Wilson. Commentaries on hundreds of quality books in over two dozen subject areas.

For the Children's Sake by Susan Schaeffer MacCauley

How to Create Your Own Unit Study by Valerie Bendt

Home-Schooling for Excellence by David and Micki Colfax. Exciting account of the family that sent 3 homeschooled sons to Harvard.

The Home School Manual by Theodore Wade

Home-Style Teaching by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore. Insights on how to become a great Teacher/Mom.

Home Grown Kids by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore. Guidelines for emotional and intellectual development from 0- 9 years.

How to Raise a Reader by Elaine McEwan. Tips on helping your child read well with age graded recommendations of the best children's books.

The Right Choice by Christopher Klicka

Many of these books are available from the public library. The public libraries have information of interest to new homeschoolers in vertical files.

Community Christian Home Schoolers - Membership Application 2009-10

Officers for 2009-10

President – Debra Tolar

Vice President – Vincenta Cox

Secretary – Emily Hurlston

Treasurer – Janine Sherman

Prospective Member Liaison – Maggie Pogue

Last Name: _____ Wife: _____ Husband: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

County _____ Email: _____
 Phone: **circle one** 904 /386 / 352 _____ Today's date: _____ # Years home schooling: _____
 Regularly attend or member of which church? _____

Have you been a member of CCH before? _____ If so, what years? _____

Are you new to the area? _____

Do you know any members of CCH who could recommend you for membership? _____

Children

<i>Homeschooled Children</i>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Non-Homeschooled Children</i>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Grade</i>

Please state your reasons for home schooling: _____

Do you believe you have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, please give a brief summary of your conversion: _____

Have you carefully read through and are you in agreement with our Statement of Faith, Purpose, Goals, Guidelines, and in compliance with the Legal Status of Home schooling in Florida (see attached)? **Circle one YES/NO**

Signed: _____

Please return this form to:
 Maggie Pogue
 21051 NE 50th Street
 Williston, FL 32696

Do not send a check with this form, upon approval of your application an enrollment form will be mailed to you.