

Frequently Asked Questions about Tri-City Home Educators

Q: Why do I no longer get a newsletter?

A: You may not have returned the membership form with the code of conduct/behavior guidelines this year. We only mail a newsletter out if you have paid your dues by August 31. If you have paid your dues later, you may get "skipped" if your payment came in between the time the newsletter was mailed and your payment was noted on the membership list. If none of these seem to be the cause, please contact the treasurer to see if your check was received and she can tell you from there.

Q: How do I join the group?

A: To join our group, you need to fill out an application and send in the membership dues to the address on the forms. You also must read and sign an agreement to abide by our code of conduct.

Q: What do I get for my membership fee?

A: You will get the newsletter, the right to join our email loop, updated information as it becomes available throughout the month and exclusive rights to field trips, certain classes, annual events, and a group discount with HSLDA. Additionally, any "perks", such as group I.D. or other benefits will be only for our members only.

Q: What if I don't have the application forms or my friend who wants to join doesn't have one?

A: You can contact a leader and she can email you the forms for your convenience. You can download the forms as www.tricityhomeschool.com. There is also a file at Yahoo so that you can print it from the internet on your home computer. You can find those files at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TricityHomeEd/files/> If you can't print out the forms, you can contact one of the leaders and they will mail a form to you.

Q: Am I required to be a member of only TCHE?

A: No, you may join as many groups as you wish in support of your home education efforts.

Q: Do you have a "Statement of Faith" that you require me to sign?

A: No, we have chosen to not require a statement of faith for membership. However, leaders and teachers sign a statement of faith. While we do not have a statement of faith for membership, we are a *Christian* group by design and as such, will be mentioning God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and other mainstream Christian concepts from time to time. We simply feel a statement of faith is divisive and not productive. Be assured we ARE a Christian group, we just do not choose to bind a statement of faith on our members.

Q: Are you an "OCHEC Affiliated" group?

A: Yes. In the fall of 2007, our H.O.P.E. Committee voted unanimously for our group to become affiliated members of OCHEC. This process was completed in the spring of 2008.

Q: Can I share information about other members with non-members, information such as they are in our group or where they live or phone numbers, etc?

A: **NO!!!** Please do not share any information with anyone else outside our group, even information you might consider harmless. We all value our privacy and would never reveal your family's private information, so please guard our information with equal respect.

*** If you speak to someone (such as reporter, someone looking for the person, etc) who insists they need that information, you can simply refer them to the group leaders who will let them know about our privacy policy or you can offer to give the inquirer's contact information to the member in question and have that member choose whether to contact them, but PLEASE do not reveal any information about another member to someone outside our group.

Q: How do I join HSLDA and get a discount?

A: You may look them up on-line for membership information. Their website is www.hslda.org When you join our group, you can use the group ID number to get a discount on your annual HSLDA dues. The ID number is 299785.

Q: Why would I want to be on both the email list and the mailing list for the newsletter?

A: The newsletter serves as a nice reminder to put on your calendar or fridge and the email group is a more up-to-date way to keep informed. Many things happen through the month that don't make it into the newsletter. We also often have members selling their no-longer-needed curriculum on the email loop and you miss that if you only get the print newsletter.

Q: Can I invite non-members of our group to group field trips?

A: No. Please do *not* invite non-members of our group to any group events such as field trips, clubs, or classes. These events are reserved exclusively for those folks who have paid dues and who have agreed to have their children abide by the code of conducts. Thanks for helping in this area. The only exception to this rule is our monthly Skate Day. This activity is open to any homeschool family from any town. (The more the merrier!)

Q: What if I know a homeschooler who is not able to afford the dues but needs help?

A: You can refer them to the group leaders for reduced membership dues. We all recognize that a family may be having tough financial times and there are members who have agreed to stand in the gap for those who can't afford the dues.

Q: What if I have other questions not answered here?

A: Just ASK!! You may feel free to contact any leader or H.O.P.E. member. We are here to help, and if we've been here a long time we might not remember to tell about all the little details for newcomers. Just ask, there's no such thing as a "dumb question" – only dumb answers!

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