

# CHES

## CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS OF SULPHUR SPRINGS BY-LAWS

(rev.5-19-2008)

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

The name of this organization shall be Christian Home Educators of Sulphur Springs (also known as CHES), a private Christian charter.

### ARTICLE II

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Organization requires that members read and agree to abide by the CHES Statement of Faith, Code of Conduct, and Code of Organization. This policy allows the Organization to be inclusive; allowing any family, regardless of belief or background, to be part of the Organization. It also ensures that all members are aware of the Biblical basis on which the group makes its decisions and plans its activities. This "Code of Conduct and Organization" applies only during those times and places that CHES members (to include parents, designated guardians and children) are participating in or supporting CHES sponsored activities. All CHES activities, including sports, field trips, classes, etc., require CHES membership to participate. All CHES activities must be approved by the Board in order to protect all participants.

Membership in CHES and participation in its associated activities is a privilege, not a right. The CHES Steering Committee, based on continuing unacceptable conduct by a member(s) can revoke this privilege and terminate their membership in the Organization.

Members are encouraged to provide input and opinions about any aspect of CHES. Recommendations and/or disagreements that members may have are to be handled in a responsible and respectful manner. Such comment and discussion is to be directed to the appropriate board member(s) and escalated, if necessary, to the CHES Steering Committee.

Membership dues will be exacted per family and will be determined each year by the Board with the approval of the membership in regular general meetings. Annual membership fees, application, and liability form are due as stated by the Board. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of voting privileges and removal from the email loop. Special provisions will be made for those who desire to be members but are unable to pay.

### ARTICLE III

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Organization is two-fold. First, to provide support to parents and others involved and/or interested in educating children at home. Second, to further the appreciation of home schooling in the community through education and media communication.

Support may include services such as field trips, small group meetings for close fellowship and for mutual educational, academic, spiritual and emotional encouragement; Mom's Night Out; regularly scheduled meetings for the discussion of general business related to the CHES organization, information on curricula and assistance in choosing appropriate curriculum and for special speakers and workshops.

### ARTICLE IV

#### CODE OF ORGANIZATION

All leaders must read, agree, and sign the CHES Statement of Faith and submit a letter of recommendation from his/her pastor, elder or deacon of his/her church NO LATER than June 30 of the incoming school year. This ensures that those who believe in the Bible and follow Jesus Christ lead CHES. It is also expected that such leaders will make decisions and plan activities that will be pleasing to God and in accordance with His Word, the Bible. Should these articles not be submitted by said date, the leader will resign position which will be posted to the loop for availability of that position.

#### **Steering Committee**

Steering Committee members shall be men appointed by the Board as necessary from the membership at large. The reason for this is that the CHES Organization is composed of home schooling families over which men are to provide the leadership according to the Scriptures. The Organization is an extension of the home and should mirror the home. However, Steering Committee members shall not be spouses of Board members.

#### **Board Members**

The Board members of the Organization shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Teen Treasurer, and Chaplain. There shall also be Elementary and Teen Coordinator(s) as deemed necessary depending on the current size and/or makeup of the group.

The president shall preside over meetings of the Organization and oversee the operations of our group. The Vice-President shall assist the president and be able to direct the business of the Organization in the event of the president's absence.

The Secretary will be responsible for keeping a record of each meeting and handling any correspondence necessary. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving funds and disbursing payments and will provide an accounting of this activity upon request. Records shall be reviewed annually or as determined by the Board.

The Elementary and Teen Coordinator(s) will be responsible for overseeing all organized committees, events and activities related to students, as well as notifying and updating members of such happenings.

The Chaplain shall cover the Organization's meetings with prayer and offer support to CHESS members. Board members shall have home schooled or have been committed to home schooling for at least two years. Board members must be members of the Organization.

A board member's term of office is on a voluntary basis and shall be reviewed by the members on a yearly basis. An election will be held should two members volunteer for the same position. Should a board member resign during his term of office, the board may appoint someone to complete his term.

The first 30 minutes of each board meeting shall be an open forum to all membership. To be placed on the agenda, a minimum of three (3) days notice must be given to allow time to prepare the agenda.

Motions and official business of the board are binding pending a majority vote of those present. A quorum of three or more board members must be present. A quorum (or majority) of board members must be present in order to hold an official board meeting.

#### **Co-op**

CHESS Teaching Co-op members are also required to be CHESS members. As such, they will be held accountable to uphold and abide by the CHESS Bylaws at all CHESS events, including participation in the CHESS Teaching Co-op.

The CHESS Teaching Co-op will operate under the CHESS Teaching Co-op Board.

Complete information regarding the CHESS Teaching Co-op, including its policies and procedures, is contained in the Co-op Registration Packet.

#### **E-loop**

The purpose of our e-loop is to share with one another CHESS business, other homeschool-related items, educational opportunities, and personal prayer requests. Anything falling outside of these topics should not be posted on the loop. If you have a question about whether an e-mail you would like to send meets the requirements or not, please feel free to ask a member of the Board. If you have non-related items you may send them only to individuals to whom they pertain, not to the e-loop group.

#### **Meetings**

The time, date, place and frequency of general meetings shall be decided by the board members. Pertinent information regarding said meetings will be posted on the email loop 1 week in advance. It is the responsibility of the individual members to access this information.

#### **Execution and Amendment**

These by-laws shall become effective upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a general meeting called for that purpose. These by-laws may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of members present and voting at a general meeting of the Organization. Written notice of the proposed amendment will be posted on the email loop at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting. It is the responsibility of the individual members to access this information.

#### **ARTICLE V**

##### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Member families will act in such a way that their words and actions promote the unity and encouragement of fellow CHESS families.

Member families will avoid acting in such a way that is considered disrespectful, offensive, immoral, intimidating or rude.

Member families will avoid gossiping to or about other CHESS families.

Member families will be responsible for their own children's behavior to ensure they are acting in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

Any members or leaders of the Organization that persist in violating this Code of Conduct are considered to be conducting themselves in a way that is contrary to the specific and primary purposes of the Organization. Such members may have their membership revoked by the CHESS Steering Committee in an attempt for correction and restoration. See Discipline Guidelines below.

### **Field Trip Conduct**

We are a representative of Christ as well as home education in the community. Please ensure conduct that will reflect well on both.

Scheduling and payment arrangements shall be determined by the individual(s) coordinating each field trip.

Please be considerate and contact the person(s) in charge if you cannot make a field trip, for which you are registered, at least 24 hours in advance.

The coordinator is working hard so please, sign up on time and show up on time. As a courtesy, please arrive at the field trip destination at least 10 minutes early.

All prepaid field trip fees are non-refundable. It is recommended that the coordinator not pay for field trips from their own personal funds.

If a member fails to appear for a field trip in which he has been scheduled, resulting in a loss of discount for all participants, that member may be required to prepay for any further field trips he wishes to attend for the remainder of the school year.

### **Discipline Guidelines**

Adult Conflict Resolution: (The following is in reference to adult interactions.)

1. Give yourself time to calm down.

2. Pray!

3. Be humble: Your attitude should be the same that Christ had. What emotion, desire, right or attitude could you “die” to or put down in yourself?

4. Be merciful: “Let love cover a multitude of sins.” Perhaps this incident can be resolved without confrontation by extending grace, forgiveness and being merciful.

5. Be a peacemaker: Does the situation require confrontation? If you feel this conflict can be resolved privately, go to that person. Or, if you prefer, a Board member(s) will be available to serve as a mediator(s). If the problem persists, both parties should then meet with all board members. If no resolution is reached, the conflict should be taken to a neutral mediator (agreed upon by both parties).

This procedure is to be strictly followed. Any member approaching a Board member with a conflict within the group will be asked if he/she has abided by guidelines 1-4 above.

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1. The Bible is the living Word of God and is the infallible, inerrant and the final authority for all matters of faith and conduct. (II Tim. 3:16-17)

2. There is one God existing in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28: 19, II Cor. 13:14)

3. Jesus was born of a virgin, died for our sins, rose again on the third day and ascended to heaven. It is through His death and resurrection that we can have eternal salvation and avoid eternal punishment. It is by God’s grace, not by our works, that we are saved through faith in Christ. (Rom. 4:25, Eph. 2:8-9)

4. The ministry and gifting of the Holy Spirit is for the edification and unification of the church to the glory of Jesus Christ.

(John 16:7-15, I Cor. 12: 3-11, I Cor. 14:12)

5. In Christ we, who are many, form one body. (Rom. 12: 4-5)

We reject the anti-Christian tenets of secular humanism including the general theory of evolution, one world government, government mandated sex education, government mandated parenting courses, modern feminist ideology and abortion.

We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social and spiritual unit created by God. In it the child gradually learns self government, social relationships, and develops a relationship to the Creator and Savior (Eph. 6: 1-3, Col. 3:20). The family also provides protection from over-extensive government and over-stimulating social involvements.

We understand family to mean one male and one female parent with one or more children, all related by the institution of marriage though we recognize the exception of a single parent.

We reject homosexual marriages or homosexual orientation because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation (Rom. 1: 18-32). As well, we reject transitory co-habitational relationships as being equally in violation of God’s laws and incapable of providing the long-term nurture and instruction needed by children and commanded by God (Proverbs 1: 8-9, Col. 3: 21, Eph. 6: 4). In view of this, no homosexual or merely co-habiting “parents” are eligible for membership.