

# Homebuilders Homeschool Member Policy Handbook

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By the Homebuilders Board

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## Christian Homeschool Support With Respect

Homebuilders Homeschool (Homebuilders or HB) has supported homeschooling parents in the Bay Area for over 20 years. We are a private Christian homeschool support group in Eastern Contra Costa County within the CHEA (Christian Home Educators Association of California) Support Group Network and "exists to give home school parents encouragement, friendship, and opportunities for educational activities." ([HB Mission Statement](#)) The leadership is composed of those who have volunteered their time for the benefit of the group.

Though no profession of faith is required for membership, at our events and on our virtual platform, we "speak and teach about God's Word-the Bible, Jesus Christ, and any topic related to Christian homeschooling." ([HB Mission Statement](#))

Our application states that "the attitudes and actions of our families reflect upon the support group, upon home education at large, and upon the body of Christ. In accordance with Phil. 1:27 we encourage parents' to accept ... behavioral guidelines" that show respect for each other and those around us. ([HB Application](#))

Some of our member benefits include:

- **Support:** HSLDA Group Discount, Meal Coordination, Yearbook, Private member platform (mobilize)
- **Events:** Curriculum Swap, Park Days, High School Graduation, Annual Banquet, End of the Year Party and Mid-Year Events
- **Subgroups:** Shine (K-2<sup>nd</sup>), Rock (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), Gel (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), Alive (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

## Associated State & National Groups

<b>CHEA</b> <a href="https://www.cheaofca.org/">https://www.cheaofca.org/</a>	"The Christian Home Educators Association (CHEA) of California is a non-profit ministry established in 1982 to provide information, support, and training to the home education community throughout the state."	Homebuilders is part of CHEA's Support Network.
<b>HSLDA</b> (Home School Legal Defense Association) <a href="https://hsllda.org/">https://hsllda.org/</a>	"HSLDA passionately advocates for the freedom to homeschool and offers support for every stage of your homeschool journey."	Homebuilders is a discount group for HSLDA*
<b>FPM</b> (Family Protection Ministries) <a href="https://fpmca.org/">https://fpmca.org/</a>	"Defending the freedom of parents to train, educate, and care for their children privately, without governmental interference. Working to detect, analyze, monitor, and intervene in all legislation affecting the legality of private home education in California since 1986."	Homebuilders regularly raises money and donates to this organization.

**\*HSLDA Recommendation**--Homebuilders recommends that you belong to the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). Homebuilders' members receive a \$15 discount on HSLDA membership using the Homebuilders code that you can get from Sarah Ark, email: psark03@gmail.com. Contact HSLDA - phone: 540-338-5600, or web site: [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org).

## Read & Understand

When applying to join our group, members sign our application stating they have read and understood

Homebuilders':

- Statements (Mission, Purpose, & Faith)
- Bylaws
- Expectations
- Policies
- Release of Liability

Our bylaws are available in a separate document, but the rest are found here.



## Statements

### Mission Statement

Homebuilders is a Christian support group of homeschooling families in East Contra Costa County, whose members either oversee their own private schools in their homes (filing their own affidavits), belong to a PSP (private school satellite program), belong to a charter school, or use a tutor. Homebuilders exists to offer support services and activities but does not enroll children in a school and does not keep school records. At all group activities, Homebuilders reserves and exercises the freedom to speak and teach about God's Word—the Bible, Jesus Christ, and any topic related to Christian homeschooling. Homebuilders supports both the Biblical definition of marriage between one man and one woman, and that parents, defined as a father and a mother, have the God-given responsibility for their child's education.

### Purpose Statement

Homebuilders exists to give homeschool parents encouragement, friendship, and opportunities for educational activities including but not limited to co-ops, field trips, science fairs, reading clubs, spelling bees, and special assembly programs. Homebuilders is administered by a volunteer board of not less than three Homebuilders parents. The board provides a forum for group interaction, parent meetings, dissemination of legal information from CHEA (Christian Home Educators Association) of California and HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association), connection with other local and state home school organizations, and a relay for general home school information. Activities are not necessarily planned by the board, but the board encourages member families to plan and execute various activities for the benefit of other member families. The Homebuilders board supports an online communication platform, operated by Homebuilders members for the purpose of real-time information among members.

### Statement of Faith

Homebuilders members support the Christian belief that the Bible is the holy inspired written Word of God, the final authority of faith and life, without error in its original writing both in doctrine and history, and that all true knowledge is consistent with God's revealed Word the Bible. Homebuilders members support the belief in one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that knowing God through Jesus Christ is the foundation for human knowledge, wisdom, and truth. Homebuilders members support the belief that all of mankind are sinners deserving of God's eternal judgment for sins, and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Word of God come as a fully sinless man, born of a virgin, that He paid the price for those he saves from judgment by His death on the cross, that He rose bodily from the dead and ascended to Heaven, that He now sits at the right hand of the Father with all authority, and that He will return to earth to raise those He saved to reign with Him in power and glory throughout eternity. Homebuilders members support the belief that the Christian gospel is the power of God to save from eternal judgment all people who believe in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. While all people are born spiritually dead in sin and alienated from God, Jesus saves all who come to Him in repentance and faith and gives power to say no to sin and yes to right living. Homebuilders members acknowledge and support the Biblical definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. God calls us to lives of holiness, being pure of heart, mind, word, and deed. We are to reserve sexual activity to the sanctity of marriage, a lifelong commitment before God between a man and a woman. We believe that homosexuality is sinful and immoral, as is any sexual activity outside of the sanctity of marriage between a Man and a Woman. Homebuilders members support the belief that the brotherhood of all believers is God's family of those who have received God's gracious gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, and that brotherhood in the family of God does not necessitate all Christian families must home school. Homebuilders members support the belief that children belong to God who has given the first responsibility and authority for the education of children to their parents who are responsible to protect that right. Parents are to provide quality education that prepares their children to be good and peaceful workers in God's world.

## Bylaws

The bylaws are available as a separate document. They are necessary and essential to read, especially concerning our focus on private home education, the qualifications for membership, removal from membership, and our stance on sex offenders.



## Parent and Student Expectations—Code of Conduct

### General

We encourage all our members to help each other represent our wonderful homeschool community in the most positive way. When reminders of these expectations are needed, we are to go in love and receive with humbleness. Please remember Matthew 18:15-17 when approaching brothers and sisters in Christ. If failure to abide by these expectations persists, the board reserves the right to remove members.

### Homebuilders Parent Expectations –

The attitudes and actions of our families reflect upon the support group, upon home education at large, and upon the body of Christ. In accordance with Phil. 1:27 we encourage parents to accept the following behavioral guidelines:

- 1) We will supervise our children at all group events and not allow them to be a distraction. In the event a parent cannot attend a function they may ask another parent in the group to take responsibility for their child.
- 2) We will obey the instructions of the tour guide, field trip planner, event sponsor or facility being used.
- 3) Our family will show respect for other people and their property (no litter, play only in designated areas, leave things in better condition than we found them).
- 4) Our family will dress appropriately for the occasion.
- 5) We will express appreciation to our hosts, verbal or written.
- 6) Assume that personal posts are not to be shared elsewhere unless explicitly stated otherwise or you have permission.
- 7) Do not attend events if you or your children are sick.

### Homebuilders Student Expectations –

Please review appropriate conduct with your children before they attend any Homebuilders event. These are some helpful guidelines to assist students with remembering their manners:

- 1) I will work hard to behave in such a way that would glorify Jesus in all ways.
- 2) I will assist the teacher, event coordinator or fellow student when I see that they need help or when asked.
- 3) I will diligently work to create a friendly atmosphere in my class or activity and not participate in cliques.
- 4) I will prioritize the people around me and be “present” and so will limit my use of electronic devices while participating in activities.
- 5) I will always help with cleaning up and not touch or play with items where we are visiting unless otherwise instructed. If I do break something, I will admit my fault and apologize to the teacher or to the person who I’ve wronged.
- 6) I will respect the rules of the classroom, home, field trip or event that I am participating in and recognize I may not be invited back to such events or classes if I do not conduct myself properly by respecting others as well as myself.



## Detailed Policies

### Child Protection

How we protect our children at official Homebuilders events:

- Official events are for Homebuilders members and no family who has a registered sex offender in the household will be allowed to become members.
- At least two or more unrelated adults must be present at all times.
- If you need to drop off your child, arrange with another mom/host and make sure they have your contact information.
- Only one child in the bathroom at a time
- Homebuilders members are not mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect.

### Privacy

Privacy is very important and our members should feel this is a safe, closed group. Requests and information that are shared in the group are to be considered private (unless already public) and should NOT be shared outside the group. Sharing outside the group, even with good intentions, often causes damage and we want our group to be a safe place where prayer requests/other requests will be held in confidence unless explicitly stated otherwise or you have permission to share. If you'd really like to share something outside of the group, just ask!

### Mobilize Postings

By becoming a member of Homebuilders Homeschool, you will receive an invitation to join our private communication platform on Mobilize, for discussions, events, polls, files and member information.

### Please Do!!!

- Please ask questions—we have many experienced homeschooling families here to support you!
- Please share helpful information, resources, prayer requests, or needs...share about curriculum, questions, field trips, play dates, mom's night out, community events!
- Please use "Reply All" from email so that everyone in the group can benefit from your response.
- Use the event feature!!! It helps to track RSVPs and will automatically send reminders and show up in personal calendars (if they subscribed).
- Consolidate items being sold into a single post and limit postings to 1 or 2 a day

### Restrictions

- Assume posts are not to be shared unless explicitly stated otherwise or you have permission.
- Per our bylaws, do not post or ask about information concerning schooling outside of and instead of homeschooling or about government-funded education programs (e.g. charters), as Homebuilders' mission is for private homeschool support.

### Official/Unofficial Posts

Members are welcome to post notifications about events and share information or activities that would be of interest to other members, given they fall within our bylaws. Homebuilders sponsors some events and shares some posts; we will always tell you in the notification that it is an official event or posting. If board members are commenting or planning, it is unofficial unless stated so. If the notification doesn't say Homebuilders is sponsoring the event or the posting is on behalf of Homebuilders, it isn't! If you're unsure, please contact Homebuilders Board in mobilize or email [info@homebuildershomeschool.com](mailto:info@homebuildershomeschool.com).



## Events

### Official Events (Subgroup Shine/Rock/Gel/Alive events and other events put on by the Homebuilders Board)

- Events and sponsored activities are for members only unless otherwise noted.
- Homebuilders follows the government's health guidance for official events, unless that guidance goes against God's Bible.
- In the event of health restrictions, we will choose options that keep and build unity as best as we are able. If the health guidance treats groups of people unequally, we will strive to follow God's word (Lev 19:15, James 2:8-9, etc.) in not showing favoritism (e.g., meet outdoors if different groups have unequal indoor privileges or if indoor restrictions are controversial). We will use our freedom to love (Gal 5:13).

### Unofficial Events (Put on by anyone)

- Please share your activities and welcome others! Note whether your event is for members only or not.
- Please understand that those hosting and those attending events take personal responsibility for risks, liabilities, and understanding the current regulations.
- We have freedom in Christ and convictions and health situations differ, so we urge compassion and mutual respect. We show we are Christians by our love for each other (John 13:35).

## Graduation

Homebuilders graduation ceremony is a very exciting and special time for students to graduate with friends that they have come to know and love. We have a special community that has developed over time.

High school seniors may participate in our graduation ceremony if they have been a member of Homebuilders for two consecutive years prior to their graduation. The board reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule based on extenuating circumstances. A written request for exception would need to be submitted to the board no later than 4 months before the graduation ceremony.

Graduation planning, costs, and logistics are covered by the graduating seniors' families, with the assistance of the high school juniors' student families. The Homebuilders Board will help organize the group and support as needed including the deposit for the venue.

If you are looking for a graduation ceremony, but cannot attend ours, please consider CHEA's ceremony.

## Disabilities

Homebuilders welcomes children and parents with all types of abilities! We offer what support we can through our group and member community, though we do not offer any special services (e.g. speech, occupational therapy, etc.). Both CHEA and HSLDA have resources available through their organizations.



## Financial

Homebuilders' membership fee is collected annually and covers:

- CHEA Support Network Membership
- Webhosting and domain
- Events
- Donations to Family Protection Ministry
- Government filing fees

For accountability, the treasurer collects and records income, then the co-treasurer makes the bank deposit. All monies are deposited into the group's account, not into personal accounts. Reports are made to the entire board regularly. Annual income statements will be available to Homebuilders members.

Homebuilders will collect monies and offer reimbursements for official Homebuilders events and those bearing its name. For those collecting monies for their own events, please be aware that money going into your personal account could be considered taxable income, even if it is only there for a brief period. Please consult your CPA for more information.

Homebuilders Board Members do not receive compensation for their work or discounts on their membership fee.

## Medical

- Do not attend events if you or your children are sick including fever, vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 24 hours or covid-19 symptoms.
- Please share any pertinent medical information with event hosts (e.g., asthma, allergies, seizures, etc.).
- Each family/child is responsible for managing their food allergies. Homebuilders does not take any responsibility for any reaction or condition caused by the consumption of food offered at any Homebuilders event.

## Groups

### Official Subgroups

When you join our group, we help connect our kids through social events. These are great opportunities to build community with other homeschool families. Subgroup events are a special benefit for Homebuilders members only:

- Shine (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) – typically meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from September through May
- Rock (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) – typically meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from September through May
- Gel (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) – typically meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from September through May
- Alive (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) – typically meets the last week of the month from September through May

Sub-group leaders strive to maintain the Christian character of their group and must be:

- Christian
- Current members of Homebuilders
- Privately homeschooling
- Agree with Homebuilders Homeschool's mission, purpose, and faith statements.

Sub-groups are advised to have their own policies and directions for participation. These policies cannot contradict Homebuilders' policies and guidelines.





# Homebuilders Homeschool

2022-2023 Member Policy Handbook

## Other Homeschool-Friendly Groups

The homeschool-friendly groups in our community that we have chosen to have listed on our website have been seen as a benefit to our members.

**Being listed does not imply that Homebuilders Homeschool endorses these groups, which may or may not be for profit. Please be diligent in deciding what would be a good fit for your family.**

For more information about each group, please visit: [http://www.homebuildershomeschool.com/1\\_2\\_groups-special-interests.html](http://www.homebuildershomeschool.com/1_2_groups-special-interests.html) There are members within Homebuilders that participate and/or lead these groups. A contact list will be available for members.

## Release of Liability

**(Effective from the date of signing the Homebuilders Homeschool application until August 31, 2023)** – We agree to hold Homebuilders Homeschool, its board, its sub group leaders, and all field trip or activity coordinators harmless of liability in the event of any damages, or illnesses, or injuries to us, to our children, or to our property. By participating in programs, services, and activities of our homeschool group, you agree to the following: On behalf of yourself and your children, you hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless Homebuilders, its members and board members, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses, or illnesses of any kind arising out of or relating to your participation in our official programs, services, or activities. We also agree that we will take personal responsibility for the safety of our children and the actions of our children, and of our guests, in case of property damage or injury, whether willfully, through neglect, or by accident.