

**FREEDOM HOMESCHOOLERS Membership**

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School year \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook Name if different from name listed above \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name and age \_\_\_\_\_ Place a \* next to any children not homeschooled this year.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Number of years home schooling? \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission for my family's picture to be taken at group activities and published on the Freedom Homeschoolers website or Facebook page.    Yes    No

I agree to abide by the Freedom Homeschoolers Code of Conduct    Yes    No

I am an HSLDA member. # \_\_\_\_\_ (not required)

I would like to help Freedom Homeschoolers:    *Circle any that apply*

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Plan teen activities      | Tutor a student in _____ |
| Used Book Sale            | Help with fundraisers    |
| Coordinate a field trip   | Directory or Membership  |
| High School workshops     | Graduation               |
| Welcome new homeschoolers | Teen Dances or Prom      |
| Coordinate a study group  | Other _____              |

Do you have a student graduating this school year? Please list their name so we can include them in any senior activities and our commencement ceremony plans.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name

Other ideas for Freedom? Please share them with us \_\_\_\_\_

*This information will not be shared with anyone outside of our group*

**Mail this completed form to Suzanne Sheppard at 111 Lee Rd. 998, Phenix City, AL 36870**

# Code of Conduct

---

The purpose of Freedom Homeschoolers is to provide support for homeschooling families regardless of religious affiliation. Our group is comprised of families from all walks of life. In some ways we are different from each other as we could possibly be: parenting styles, politics, religion, personalities, talents, ethnicity, how many children we have, how old our children are, curriculum choices and finances just to name a few. The one thing we all have in common is homeschooling.

The goal of our group is support: supporting each other even when we are different, supporting the tired and weary, supporting the newcomer and the veteran, supporting even when we disagree. This is an incredibly difficult task when you think about it.

How do we find common ground when we are all so different?

Let's choose to focus on what draws us together instead of what could tear us apart. We don't have to be cookie cutter homeschoolers to be able to support each other. What would the public think about homeschoolers if all they had to go on was the behavior of your family? You may be the only homeschooler someone ever meets. Make it a positive experience.

Below is a list of guidelines for behavior for Freedom Homeschoolers members.

## General Guidelines

The "Golden Rule" pretty much sums up everything else that will be spelled out below. Do to others as you would want them to do to you. Simple, but a good guide for behavior in general.

"If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all. " - Thumper 1942

Parents are responsible for the supervision and behavior of their children and are solely responsible for any injuries or damages. Parents are also responsible for transportation to and from group events. If someone other than a parent is picking up or supervising a child, the parent must communicate arrangements to any coordinators.

Members are asked to respect the beliefs and opinions of other members. Use discretion when discussing topics that might be controversial or contrary to another person's authority or belief system.

Dress appropriately. Parents are to make sure their children are appropriately dressed for any group event. A good rule of thumb is to be sure that areas that should be covered by a bathing suit are actually covered.

Profanity will not be tolerated at group events. This includes the spoken word as well as t-shirts, hats, music etc.

Treat volunteers with kindness and respect. Remember they don't have to serve; they chose to serve. The least each of us can do is show appreciation.

Arrive on time for field trips, classes or other group events.

Respect any restrictions or exclusions stated for specific events by the volunteer coordinator.

## Facebook Etiquette

Our Facebook pages are available for members to post activities, events and homeschool related articles and resources. Keep your posts positive and supportive.

Grievances are not to be posted on Facebook. Please refer to the Conflict Resolution section below for further guidelines for appropriately resolving problems between members.

Our Facebook page allows members to chat with each other in real time. This is a good way to be able to chat live with group members that may not be your "friend " yet. Chats are open to all members so keep in mind what you post may be viewed by the entire membership. For personal conversations, please message individuals directly.

You are responsible for what is posted by your account on the Freedom Homeschoolers pages. Be sure you have secure passwords to help prevent hackers from obtaining your identity and posting under your user.

Profanity, bullying, nudity, name calling, insults or any other inappropriate posting to the group Facebook pages or chats need to be reported to the administrator (Suzanne Sheppard) immediately. Inappropriate posts will be dealt with by the administrator directly and may result in your removal from both the Facebook group and membership in Freedom as a whole. The decision of the administrator will be final.

### **Yahoo email etiquette**

Please keep posts to the yahoo group related to homeschooling topics or events. If you have a home business that would be of interest to members, you may post relevant information but please don't abuse the opportunity.

If your email account is compromised and sends out spam on our yahoo group email, you may be temporarily removed from the group to protect the email accounts of other members. Once the problem is resolved, members will be added back to the email list as soon as possible.

### **Conflict Resolution**

A concern that all of us have heard about homeschooling is the issue of socialization. Outsiders are concerned that our children won't have the needed social skills to function in society if they aren't educated in a school. We know that the family can be a great place to learn morals, values and appropriate behavior. When we branch out from the walls of our own homes and interact with other families it can also be an opportunity for children to learn.

**Between students:** Disagreements between children are normal and can be an opportunity for them to learn appropriate ways to resolve their problems. Students should talk about problems face to face or when necessary over the phone but always in a respectful tone. Please do not post problems on Facebook or send text messages trying to resolve disagreements.

**Between families:** Disagreements between families need to be address face to face if at all possible and by phone when a face to face meeting isn't possible. Members should not email, text or Facebook message as a way of resolving conflict. If a resolution cannot be reached on their own, the group coordinator (Suzanne Sheppard) should be contacted. Please do not contact other member families to discuss disagreements.

**Problems with Volunteers:** Any concerns about a decision or action made by a volunteer in Freedom Homeschoolers should be addressed directly to the person involved. If the issue is still unresolved, please contact the group coordinator (Suzanne Sheppard).

DO NOT discuss personal grievances with other member families. If it is not possible to resolve a particular conflict between individuals or families, all people involved still need to behave in a polite manner at group events. Conflict can be an opportunity to divide a group that is intended to be supportive. Let's not allow that to happen.

*I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct listed above. As a parent, I also agree to be responsible for the behavior of my children at group events and on group social media.*

---

Parent Signature

Date