

CHEER SUPPORT GROUP BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the CHEER Support Group (referred to, as Support Group throughout this document) is to provide support to families who are members of the CHEER support Group and who educate their children at home. Such support will include regularly scheduled meetings, field trips, educational programs, service projects, and social events to promote fellowship among the families of Support Group members and to enhance our children's education. Other purposes of the Support Group may include: providing information and encouragement to prospective homeschool parents; assisting other like-minded homeschool support groups; joining with other homeschool support groups by sponsoring speakers, field trips, educational programs, political and legal efforts of mutual concern.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Preface: Our Statement of Faith concerns the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 2, Eph. 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity (Rom. 15:7).

Statement in concept and in the practice of Christianity as outlined in the Tenets of Christian Theology:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant and only infallible Word of God. (II Tim. 3:15-17, II Peter 1:20-21, 1 Thess. 2:13).
2. We believe in the only true God, the Creator, Who eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All of the persons are equal in power and glory (Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 13:14).
3. We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and man (John 1:1, 14), born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18), sinless in His life (Heb. 4:15). He died on the cross as a substitution for sinful men (Heb. 9:15). He rose bodily from the grave (John 20:1-9, 24-31, Acts 2:24) and now reigns with the Father (Acts 2:33, Heb. 10:12). He will return visibly and personally to the earth both in salvation and judgment (Acts 1:11, Heb. 9:28, Matt. 24:35).
4. We believe all humans are sinful by nature (Rom. 3:23, 5:12) and can only be forgiven by repentance and statement of trust in Jesus as Savior (John 3:16), brought about by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7).
5. We believe in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:1-17).
6. 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, abortion, and the promotion of homosexuality as an alternative, acceptable lifestyle. (From Article II of the OCHEC By-laws.)

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership Requirements

The membership of the Support Group shall consist of families who educate their children at home and who meet the following requirements:

- 1) Abide by Oklahoma state laws, diligently educating their children for the prescribed 180 days per school year, in good faith.
- 2) Agree to abide by the rules of conduct for Support Group activities and CHEER Bylaws.
- 3) Attend a CHEER 101 meeting to learn about CHEER at a monthly meeting and one other monthly Ladies meeting before joining. (A minimum of 2 meetings are required)
- 4) Agree to complete a membership information form which includes a release of liability, and proof of CHEER 101 attendance.
- 5) Agree to be a visible member during the current school year, attend a minimum of two monthly Ladies meetings after joining, and actively participate on a team within the Support Group.
- 6) Must pay the annual dues of the Support Group.
- 7) All Members who fill the above requirements will receive E-mail messages. The monthly newsletters will be available via E-mail.

B. Guidelines for Coordinating Activities

- 1) Call the facility to secure the date, time and any information needed (age limitations, strollers, etc.) as well as making confirmation calls before the activity.
- 2) Write articles, etc. for the newsletter and get them to the editor on time.
- 3) Making flyers, maps, etc. and assuring they are available at the ladies' meeting (even if you cannot attend the meeting). Make sign-up sheets and collecting sign-up sheets to follow thru.
- 4) Arranging a caravan if the field trip is out of town.
- 5) Calling those who signed up for the activity if any additional information is needed.
- 6) Maintaining a waiting list and calling to fill spaces, if needed.
- 7) If needed, collecting all necessary funds, turning money into the treasurer, and dispersing funds to facility.
- 8) Arriving a minimum of 20 minutes prior to the activity.
- 9) Being the contact person with the facility and handling communications prior to, during, and after the field trip.
- 10) Taking pictures for the yearbook or having someone else assigned to do this.
- 11) Overseeing any cleanup and insuring that the facility is left in the same condition as when the group arrived.
- 12) Giving the contact person's name and mailing address to the person in charge of Thank You Notes.
- 13) Giving pictures and small write up about the field trip to the Year Book Editor or Leader.
- 14) Turning in a "no-show" list, if any, to the Leader.

C. Revoking Membership

- 1) If a member is not educating their children at least to meet the state standards of education, according to the Oklahoma State law which includes schooling for 180 days, working toward the completion of 23 credits to graduate from high school etc (see ohec.com for complete details), CHEER membership will be revoked.
- 2) Any member who does not fulfill her commitment to the Group by participating on a Team, or attending the two required Ladies meetings will not be permitted to join the CHEER Support Group the following year.

- 3) If a member is not actively involved in the group and there is a waiting list, the Steering Team may ask the member to give up their membership.
- 4) Misuse of the Roster, E-mail, or any other Support Group lists may result in membership being revoked or other disciplinary action as determined by the steering team.
- 5) If an unresolved problem arises within the group, and the Steering Team has followed Matthew 18:15-17, then the Steering Team can revoke the membership of the involved member.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

Each member shall pay dues in the amount of \$20.00. The purpose of the dues is to cover the monthly cost paid to the church where we hold our ladies meetings, gifts or fees for outside speakers, photocopying expenses, office supplies, and other misc. expenses. This does not include the cost of field trips and other special events.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

The Support Group shall meet monthly, except December, during the school year (August-May) on the second Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise stated, and at a predetermined location. All members should make every effort to attend monthly Support Group Meetings in order to facilitate the purpose of the Support Group. The meetings are for homeschooling mothers and, if necessary, their nursing infants. Please make arrangements for older children.

ARTICLE VI. E-MAIL LIST

The Support Group will have an E-mail list to receive information, prayer requests, and legislative alerts quickly and efficiently. Only members are entitled to have their names on these lists. The Group Leader or a Steering Team member must clear and send all E-mail messages. This does not include messages sent on the e-loop

ARTICLE VII. NEWSLETTER

All information for the newsletter must be turned in to the Newsletter Editor by the predetermined date. If planning an event for the following month, submit pertinent information by E-mail by this deadline. If the event is ongoing you need only submit it one time and specify it to run monthly. All appropriate submissions will be considered based on space availability and may be rewritten by the editor if needed.

ARTICLE VIII. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Roster, Newsletter, and E-mail List are for the CHEER members only. For reasons of privacy these names and numbers need to be protected and should NOT be shared outside our group. These lists may not be used for business solicitations or other personal gain. Misuse of these lists may result in membership being revoked or other disciplinary action as determined by the Steering Team.

ARTICLE IX. FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Only members of the Support Group will be allowed to participate in activities and field trips. It is expected that the following guidelines will be followed when participating in any kind of group activity.

- 1) If the activity requires a sign-up, do so on time with the person coordinating and pay any money that is required ahead of time or you will not be allowed to attend.

- 2) Age guidelines of the public school will be followed when a facility requests that children be in a specific grade or older. For example, if a field trip requires being in 3rd grade or older, your child must be 8 years old by the 1st of September. Even if your child is doing 3rd grade work but is younger, we must respect the guidelines of the facility as they assume the children will be the age appropriate for that grade. Some facilities are very strict on their age requirements and we don't want to take advantage of them by bringing younger children.
- 3) If a member signs up to participate in an activity, it is expected that participation will occur. If unable to attend, the contact person must be given a minimum of twenty-four hour notice in order to allow another member the opportunity to participate. If an unexpected illness occurs on the morning of the activity, the contact person must be called immediately. No-shows not only leave a negative impression of the group, but are also an inconvenience to the facility we are visiting. Because of this, if the activity requires a sign-up sheet, failure to give notice to the contact person will cause the member to be placed on a no-show list. If a member is placed on a no-show list two times, the member will not be eligible for any limited activities requiring a sign-up for the remainder of the school year. In the event you sign up and do not attend your money will not be refunded.
- 4) Make sure whether or not babies and toddlers are welcome beforehand. If not, make other arrangements for childcare for the younger children or arrange with another mother to be responsible for the older children attending the function. No children will be allowed to participate without being under the supervision of a support group member!
- 5) Be on time for all field trips! Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the start of the field trip. The tardiness of one may leave a poor impression of the whole group. Be respectful of other's time!
- 6) Make a good first impression by your appearance. Children and adults should dress neatly and appropriately for the activity and within the dress code.
- 7) All children must behave in a courteous and controlled manner, be able to follow directions, remain silent for short time periods, and raise hands to ask or answer questions. Each participating student and adult is expected to respect and follow the leader's directions. In the event that a child or parent becomes disruptive or behaves in a manner which degrades the Christian witness of the group, the offending family will be asked to leave immediately by the group organizer or by a member of the Steering Committee.
- 8) Parents are responsible for the supervision of their own children to ensure safety and avoid accidents. If arrangements have been made for another parent to supervise a child, every effort needs to be made by that parent to prevent any accidents from occurring. However, in no way will another parent, the leader, or the group as a whole be held liable for any accidents that might occur. Each member must be willing to sign a "release of liability" form when joining the group or if not a member, prior to participating in any activity with children.

ARTICLE X. DRESS CODE

Due to problems that have arisen in other support groups, the Steering Team has decided to state in the bylaws, the unwritten but conservative policy that the Support Group has always followed.

- 1) Dress neatly and appropriately for the activity.
- 2) No "mini-skirts", extremely short dresses, short shorts, or short tops.
- 3) No body piercing. No "ring" or stud may be worn except pierced earrings on girls/ladies.
- 4) No undergarments showing.

- 5) Hair neatly combed.

These guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive. All final decisions rest with the Steering Team.

ARTICLE XI. STEERING Team

The purpose of the Steering Team is to:

- 1) Handle any business requested by the Leader,
- 2) Oversee the group in the absence of the Leader,
- 3) Contact members regarding disciplinary issues,
- 4) Initiate removal of a Support Group Leader who is no longer leading the group in accordance with these bylaws and/or the desires of the majority of the members,
- 5) Make decisions regarding CHEER group affiliations

The Steering Team consists of the Support Group Leader and other members at the discretion of the Steering Team. Those who serve do so at the prayerful invitation of the current Steering Team.

ARTICLE XII. TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Team Leader is responsible for promoting unity, fellowship and encouragement within her team. She is also responsible for making sure the team carries out the purposes and objectives of the team as determined by the Steering Team. Team Leaders will:

1. Schedule and lead at least one team meeting each semester,
2. Ensure that the team is handling its responsibilities completely and effectively,
3. Assist any new members as necessary,
4. Be a channel between team members and the Steering Team,
5. Encourage team members through communication
6. Inform the Ministry Team when a need becomes known,
7. Work in conjunction with the Steering Team to review bylaws and make changes.

ARTICLE XII. REMOVAL OF A SUPPORT GROUP LEADER

If at any time the Support Group Leader fails to abide by the guidelines set up by this Group, a written complaint must be submitted to the Steering Team for review. The Steering Team must vote unanimously to remove a Leader. If no unanimous vote is reached a written notification will be sent to the OCHEC Board for the purpose of arbitration and or removal of the Leader.

ARTICLE XIV. CHANGES TO BYLAWS

The process to revise, update or amend the bylaws is as follows:

1. Any member may recommend changes to the bylaws in writing to the Steering Team.
2. The Steering Team must unanimously agree on all suggested bylaw changes and has the authority to modify wording to bring this unanimous consensus.
3. Any change unanimously approved by the Steering Team, must then be presented to and approved by 2/3 of the current Team Leaders.
4. After full approval per the process above, the revised bylaws will be emailed to the membership noting the changes made.