



2009 JR. HIGH GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY REGISTRATION LETTER

January 2009

Dear Junior High Graduate and Family:

Thank you for your interest in the upcoming Junior High Graduate Recognition Night. The 16th annual ceremony will be held on **Friday, July 17, 2009 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the south building of the Phoenix Convention Center, 33 S. 3rd St., Phoenix 85004**. This event is a special evening to honor homeschooled graduates from across the state and is free for family members and friends to attend. This reverent, beautiful ceremony is open to AFHE member families with homeschooled junior high graduates who wish to participate.

- **Clarification of Homeschooling:** The AFHE Junior High Graduate Recognition Ceremony is open to graduating junior high students who have been educated at home by their parents in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes §15-802 where the parent is the primary teacher. Those enrolled in a virtual charter school are not eligible to participate.
- **Cost:** A non-refundable registration fee of \$40 per graduate is being charged. This fee covers the cost of two 5x7 individual photographs of each graduate, a certificate of graduation, and program expenses.
- **Check-in:** One parent/guardian must accompany each graduate to the rehearsal and remain until his/her attire is checked and he/she is seated.
- **Strict Dress Code:** To show respect for all participants and attendees, graduates must adhere to the following dress code **or will be unable to participate in the ceremony:**
 1. Boys: wear a tucked-in dress shirt, dress pants, and a tie; jackets are welcome, but not required.
 2. Girls: wear nice, **modest** dresses or dress pants. Not permitted are backless dresses/blouses, halter tops, low-cut bodices, or those that have spaghetti straps (must be 2 inches or more). You may cover these types of dresses/blouses with a shawl, jacket, bolero, or sweater, but the cover-up must be worn during the entire rehearsal and ceremony. Be aware that you will be walking on an elevated stage, thus girls' dresses must not end above the knee.
Each graduate's attire will be inspected and requirements strictly enforced!
- **Mandatory Rehearsal:** This is a choreographed event. All participating graduates are required to attend the rehearsal from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on the day of the ceremony. Although one parent is needed to check-in each graduate, parents are not required to attend the rehearsal. Graduates are required to wear the **same** clothes to the rehearsal that they will be wearing during the ceremony.
- **Arrival for the Ceremony:** All graduates should arrive freshened and ready for the ceremony no later than 7:00 p.m. Please note the lack of superfluous time between the rehearsal and the ceremony; plan your dinner accordingly.

- **Conduct:** The volunteers have taken great care to make this ceremony momentous. Any graduate who fails to conduct himself with proper decorum will be promptly escorted out by the ushers.
- **Posters:** Posters will be displayed for all graduates. Poster board should be cut to 16" x 20" (Orientation must be 16" wide by 20" high). Use your creativity so that your poster is a reflection of who you are. Include favorite photographs and mementos that highlight your interests and accomplishments. Make sure your first and last name, hometown, and grade are in a prominent location on the front. Uncluttered posters have proven to be more appealing and effective. Please keep the poster lightweight so that it can be hung easily, and make sure you choose your pictures with modesty in mind. Posters with inappropriate pictures will not be displayed.
- **Special Music/Poetry:** To make the graduation personal to those participating, we like to highlight some of the students who are graduating during the ceremony. The committee will be looking for musical, poetic, or other works that reflect the themes of family, gratitude, hope for future work, and honor. Because this is a formal event, reverent and classical selections are preferred. If you have a musical selection (instrumental, vocal, duet with the graduate as the prominent performer, etc.) or poem, please submit a labeled audio or video recording of your presentation along with your registration form. Include the written text of any song or poem submitted along with pertinent information such as composer, arranger, etc. We will review the submissions and contact you if yours is chosen. **Deadline:** Submissions must be received by **May 8, 2009** (NOTE: This is earlier than the general registration deadline).

Registration form and payment must be **received** by **June 5, 2009** (no exceptions). These deadlines are necessary to enable the volunteers to do all of the advance preparation. Please consider your registration for this event a priority commitment. *Don't miss out!* Confirmation letters with more detailed information will be sent to registered graduates mid June.

Thank you!

Patricia Cottle, Jr. High Graduate Recognition Secretary
Leslie Johnson, Jr. High Graduate Recognition Director
Valerie Monk, Jr. High Graduate Recognition Committee Chairman

