



October 2008

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Dear Senior High Graduate and Family,

Thank you for your interest in the upcoming Graduate Recognition Night. We are planning a special evening to honor senior high homeschooled graduates from across the state. The seventeenth annual recognition night will be held **Friday, May 29, 2009**, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the South Building of the Phoenix Convention Center, 33 South 3rd Street, 85004. Certificates of recognition will be given to the graduates. This event is free to attend and open to the public.

- **Clarification of Homeschooling:** The AFHE Senior High Graduate Recognition Ceremony is open to graduating seniors who have been educated at home by their parents in accordance with Arizona Revised Statute 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 \$100 per graduate for AFHE members only. This fee covers the cost of the facility, the photo presentation, and two 5x7 individual photographs of the graduate receiving their certificate. If you are not an AFHE member, you may go to the Membership page on the web site at [www.afhe.org](http://www.afhe.org) and download the Membership Application.
- **Dress Code:** Graduates will wear navy blue caps and gowns over dress clothes with dress shoes (i.e. no denim, no shorts, no gym shoes, no flip flops). This is mandatory for participation. The caps and gowns will belong to the graduates. However, our committee does the ordering, picking up, pressing, and delivering of them to the ceremony for the entire graduating class. Please contact us if further clarification is needed.
- **Photo Presentation:** Please help us personalize this year's graduation ceremony by sending two pictures of your senior graduate - 1) as a baby or young child and 2) a current photograph of the graduate. Pictures may be professional portraits or quality snapshots of the individual graduate (alone, not part of a group). Avoid very dark photographs or those that are over-exposed (light and washed-out). **Please do not send photographs larger than 5x7 in size.** Pictures must be sent with the registration form; they will be returned to the graduates the afternoon of rehearsal.
- **Announcements:** We are pleased to announce that this year **Announce Your Day, Inc.** has designed our own stunning AFHE graduation logo for the announcements. Graduates have the option of ordering graduation announcements this year from **Announce Your Day, Inc.** through a link on the AFHE web site. Announcements that are ordered will be mailed directly to the graduates.

- **Videotapes and DVD+Rs:** The ceremony will be professionally videotaped. Videotapes and DVD+Rs need to be pre-ordered on the registration form. They will be mailed to the graduates (along with the graduation photographs) approximately six weeks after the ceremony.
- **Speech Contest:** Submissions for the Senior Class Address will be accepted from participating graduates who have homeschooled for all four years of high school. The speech should be 3 to 5 minutes long, must be the student's original work, and should reflect how being homeschooled through high school has impacted their life or helped shape who they are. Speeches will be judged on content (please be careful to highlight homeschooling without criticizing other methods of education), structure, presentation, and overall effectiveness. Interested students should read "Suggestions for an Effective Speech" under the graduation section of the AFHE website. Send a cover letter with your name, address, phone number, a written version of your speech, and a DVD of your presentation by **January 20, 2009**. The decision of the judges is final. DVDs will not be returned. The winners will receive a monetary gift.  
Mail entries to: Kathy Lumpkin, Graduate Speech Contest, 2524 N. Kristen, Mesa, AZ 85213.
- **Posters:** Please **cut a poster board to a 16" x 20" size** (poster orientation should be 16" wide by 20" tall). Include favorite pictures and mementos on the poster that highlight your interests and accomplishments. Use your creativity so that your poster will reflect who you are! Your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address should be written on the back of the poster. Make sure your name and hometown are also listed prominently on the front. Please label all photographs and mementos. Uncluttered posters have proven more appealing and effective. Keep the poster lightweight so that it can be easily hung. (Do not use mat board or foam board. Do not frame.) **Please bring your poster to the Friday afternoon rehearsal.** They will be on display during the evening. **Posters should be taken home when leaving after the ceremony.** We cannot be responsible for posters left at the convention center.

Completed registration forms along with photos, money, and speech contest submissions must be **received by January 20, 2009**. We must have your registration by this date so the volunteers can do the necessary ordering and preparation. If you would like confirmation that we have received your registration, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard, which we will return. Letters with rehearsal information and details will be sent out by early April. You may contact Kathy via e-mail at [kathy.lumpkin@cox.net](mailto:kathy.lumpkin@cox.net) if you have further questions.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kathy Lumpkin  
Senior High Graduate Recognition Secretary

Mitzi Wisely  
Senior High Graduate Recognition Director