



www.afhe.org
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P.O. Box 569
Queen Creek, Arizona 85142

October 2009

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 eighteenth annual recognition night will be held Friday, May 21, 2010, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the South Ballroom 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 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 \$115 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. Checks will be deposited after registration closes. If you are not an AFHE member, you may go to the Membership link on the website at 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 **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. The link is also located in the "Graduation Announcements" section of the registration portion of this letter.

- **DVD+Rs:** The ceremony will be professionally videotaped. 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 **March 19, 2010**. The decision of the judges is final. DVDs will not be returned. Winners will receive a monetary gift. Mail entries to:

Joanne Weiss, Graduate Speech Contest, 20851 E. Mewes Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

- **Posters:** Please **cut a poster board to a 16" x 20" size** with the 16" side at the top/bottom. 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 and money must be **received by February 10, 2010**. 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 Joanne via e-mail at joanneweiss@cox.net if you have further questions.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kathy Lumpkin/Joanne Weiss
Senior High Graduate Recognition Secretary

Mitzi Wisely
Senior High Graduate Recognition Director

Cap and Gown

Traditional caps and gowns are mandatory for all senior high graduates. **Graduates will no longer be wearing royal blue caps and gowns.** They will be navy blue and will be purchased for \$35.00 (includes gown, cap, and one tassel). Please indicate the graduate's height and weight for sizing.

Height _____

Weight _____

Amount for cap and gown: _____

(Moms are needed to help with the ironing of gowns - time/place still to be determined. Please indicate if you are able to help with this job.)

Yes, please call me. I am willing to help with ironing the graduates' gowns.

Graduation Announcements (optional)

This year the graduation announcements may be ordered from **Announce Your Day, Inc.** at

<http://announeyourday.com/orderafhe.html>

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR GRADUATION EXPENSES: _____

Please enclose one check, payable to Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE). **If you would like confirmation that we have received your registration, also include a self-addressed, stamped postcard, which we will return.**

Completed registration form, 2 photographs, and all money must be **received by February 10, 2010.** Checks will be deposited after registration closes.

Send to: Joanne Weiss
20851 E. Mewes Rd
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

We understand and agree to abide by the established dress code as outlined in the accompanying letter (i.e. navy blue cap and gown, dress clothes, dress shoes, no denim, no shorts, no gym shoes, and no flip flops). **BOTH SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED.**

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)

I am a homeschooling parent and my child has been educated at home in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes §15-802 and I confirm that my child is not a virtual school student. **A PARENT SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED.**

(Parent Signature)