



AFHE Homeschool Group Listing Application

All groups wishing to be listed on the AFHE website must complete an application which will be reviewed by a committee. AFHE reserves the right to make the final determination as to whether or not a group will be listed and which category the group best fits.

Mail completed application to: AFHE-Support Groups, P.O. Box 2035, Chandler, AZ 85244-2035
 QUESTIONS: groups@afhe.org or 602-235-2673 (voicemail)

GROUP NAME		YEAR ESTABLISHED	
CONTACT NAME First and Last		AREA SERVED Cities your group reaches	
CONTACT PHONE		COUNTY	
E-MAIL ADDRESS		MEMBERSHIP DUES	
MAILING ADDRESS Include City & Zip Code Will not be published For AFHE purposes only		MEETINGS Do you have regular meetings? How often does your group meet?	
WEB SITE		SIZE Approx. number of families	
WHO MAY PARTICIPATE? Who is the group for?		EMPHASIS Christian, Secular, etc.	
HOW WOULD YOU BEST CATEGORIZE YOUR GROUP See Definitions	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Support Group <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool Resource Center <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool Club or Association <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool Park Day <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool Email Network <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool Co-op		
DESCRIPTION Brief description of the group's focus/purpose			
FORMAT List the types of activities and support you offer.			
CLASSES	Does your group offer any type of classes? ___ Yes ___ No If YES, please complete the following CLASSES questionnaire and submit it with your application.		
NON-HOMESCHOOL PARTICIPATION	Does your group include full-time public or private school students? ___ Yes ___ No Does your group include virtual charter school students (public school at home)? ___ Yes ___ No		
OTHER INFORMATION Any other info. you would like us to know about your group.			

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

<input type="checkbox"/> Website _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Database _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Email list _____
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AFHE Homeschool Group CLASSES Questionnaire

GROUP NAME:	
QUESTION	DETAILED RESPONSE
Are the classes offered to K-6th grade students?	If yes, please list/describe the class subjects being taught:
Are the classes offered to 7th-12th grade students?	If yes, please list/describe the class subjects being taught:
What do the classes cost? Include hourly rate, registration fees, supply costs, etc.	
How often do the classes meet? (i.e. weekly, twice/week)	
How long does each class last usually? (i.e 1 hour/week)	
Who does the teaching? (parents, tutors, others hired to teach)	
What is the parent's involvement in the class or with their child for the class?	
Where do the classes meet?	
About how many children are in each class?	
Does this group support homeschooling in other ways in addition to the classes?	
To what degree are these additional support services utilized? Are the classes the main attraction?	
Tell us about the organizer of these classes/homeschool group. Are they new to AZ? New to homeschooling? Recently leaving another profession such as teaching? Do they currently or formerly work for a public program for homeschoolers?	

AFHE promotes and assists homeschooling that we believe mirrors the intent of AZ Revised Statutes §15-802. See the "Definition of a Homeschooler" that we have written which appears on the AFHE website. Through this definition, we are trying to educate both the newcomer and the veteran regarding our vision for homeschooling. As homeschooling has grown, both well-meaning and exploitive individuals have capitalized upon a perceived need to offer fee-for-service classes to our community. AFHE is willing to review classes and share our research with our members so they may make an informed decision.

Please note: Because there are so many varieties of classes emerging, we cannot make unequivocal criteria available to determine if we will list a particular group. Our review will be on a case-by-case basis. However, we can state that AFHE's position is that we do not promote fee-for-service ("drop and shop") classes in core subjects for K-6th grades.

AFHE HOMESCHOOL GROUP DEFINITIONS

Revised February 13, 2010

All homeschool groups that wish to be listed on the AFHE website must exist for the specific purpose of supporting home educating families and must submit a completed Homeschool Group Listing Application for our review. AFHE reserves the right to make the final determination as to whether or not a group will be listed and which category the group best fits.

DEFINITION OF A HOMESCHOOLER

Home education is best defined as parent-led, family-funded, relationship-based education of your child at home.

Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE) defines a "Homeschooler" as follows:

Homeschoolers are parents or legal guardians who choose to educate their own children at home in at least the required subjects of reading, grammar, math, science, and social studies pursuant to A.R.S. §15-802.

Thoughts to help clarify what a homeschooler is:

A homeschooler retains complete control of their child's primary level education. Delegation of control to either a private school program or fee-based classes held outside the home for core subjects reclassifies the parents or legal guardians as something other than homeschoolers, at least in relation to the child/children involved in said program or classes. It is unclear what percentage of a child's education constitutes homeschooling, but the spirit of the law implies that the parent teach the core subjects. Additionally, fractional enrollment in publicly funded programs designed for homeschoolers may require the parent or legal guardian to withdraw the Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool with the County School Superintendent. A school district or charter school is eligible to receive the entire ADM allocation for a child taught over 15 hours per week. Parents of secondary level students enrolled in community college classes, or utilizing other means of instruction, are still considered homeschoolers as long as the parent or legal guardian remains the primary instructor and retains complete responsibility for their child/children's education.

NOTE OF CLARIFICATION:

A child enrolled in a publicly funded distance learning or virtual school program is classified by law and the program as a **public school student** and can therefore not be classified as a homeschooled student.

Usage of the term "homeschooling" originated in the early 1980's and signifies an arrangement recognized by that name in Arizona law as one **where the parent or guardian assumes the teaching responsibility in the required subject areas and where the cost of this instruction is borne by the parents** and not the taxpayer. **Public school at home is therefore not the same as homeschooling/home education.** It is public school at home. Any enrollment in a publicly funded program puts the student under the authority of the public school and causes them to be subject to public school requirements and regulations including AIMS testing, etc.

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT GROUP

An **Independent Support Group (ISG)** is an association of volunteers organized and operated by independent homeschoolers for the purpose of assisting and encouraging each other as well as those pursuing the choice of homeschooling for the education of their children.

The ISG is driven by some form of leadership, depending upon group consensus. Group policies, practices, and procedures may or may not be written in the form of by-laws, depending upon the size, structure, and functions of the group.

The ISG holds regular meetings, whether they are park days or other types.

An Independent Support Group is not a business. Therefore, it does not exist to produce goods or services for sale to those outside their group as a regular practice (i.e. magazine subscriptions, books, classes, I.D. cards, testing services, advertising services). Single-event fundraising is an exception.

An ISG is not operated by a for-profit business, nor is it operated by or affiliated with a government agency or public or private school. An ISG does not function as a substitute for the parent-teacher role or responsibility in any of the subject areas assigned by law (reading, grammar, math, science, and social studies). In other words, an ISG stops being an ISG when it attempts to be a school.

AFHE HOMESCHOOL GROUP DEFINITIONS

Continued

HOMESCHOOL CLUB OR ASSOCIATION

A **Homeschool Club or Association** is a group that is run by homeschoolers and/or caters specifically to homeschoolers as it relates to a specific subject.

Homeschool Clubs or Associations are similar to ISGs in that they support homeschooling families, they meet regularly, and they are comprised of homeschoolers. The difference is that a Homeschool Club or Association focuses on a specific area of study, exploration or recreation while an ISG is geared more toward support in all aspects of homeschooling. Sporting organizations would fall into the category of Homeschool Club or Association as would any other group whose focus is on one area in particular (i.e. Chess Club, Astronomy Club, 4-H, Homeschool Drama Group, etc.).

There may be similar clubs operating within an Independent Support Group. These clubs may be listed separately under the category of Homeschool Club or Association if they are open to all homeschoolers and not limited only to members of that particular ISG.

HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

A **Homeschool Co-op** is a group of private homeschooling families that facilitate group academic or extra-curricular teaching. A homeschool co-op should be a supplement to the family homeschool and not a replacement for parent-led teaching of core subjects in the home, especially for the primary grades. A homeschool co-op is not a business, and is a collaboration of effort between homeschooling families to enjoy a group experience rather than the product of one individual's industry. Size, frequency of meeting, cost, subject matter, and choice of instructor all combine to influence the group's nature as either a co-op or something more like a private school.

HOMESCHOOL EMAIL NETWORK

A **Homeschool Email Network** is an Internet-based group run by an individual or group that is geared specifically for homeschoolers. A Homeschool Email Network is not itself a for-profit business nor run by a for-profit business. An Email Network may be established by an individual or group for the benefit of other homeschoolers utilizing a particular curriculum, resource, method of teaching, philosophy, or that share some other commonality.

When an email loop or e-newsletter is offered to all homeschoolers, whether in a particular geographical area or statewide, it is considered a Homeschool Email Network.

Independent Support Groups may offer an e-mail loop or newsletter to their members, but this would be considered a benefit of membership in that particular ISG and *not* an Email Network for our purposes.

HOMESCHOOL PARK DAY

A **Homeschool Park Day** is a group that meets regularly at a park with the purpose of providing an opportunity for homeschoolers to be encouraged and edified and to fellowship with one another.

If a park day is only open to the members of a specific ISG or other group, then it would be a benefit of membership in that group, but not categorized as a Homeschool Park Day for this list.

HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

A **Homeschool Resource Center** is a privately funded organization which offers services exclusively to the homeschool community. These services may include book and teaching material loans, equipment rentals, acting as a clearinghouse for private in-home tutorial services, space rentals, and counseling. Unlike ISG's these organizations may be run by non-homeschooling individuals and/or be focused on distributing products and services to the homeschool community at large. A Homeschool Resource Center may operate as either a for-profit business or a non-profit corporation.

A Homeschool Resource Center is supportive of parent-led education and functions as separate "executors" of the parent's educational goals. Should an organization, through its leadership or programs, prescribe rather than simply support the parent's educational goals, it is functioning more as a school than a resource center.

Classes offered must not interfere with the requirements of A.R.S. 15-802. See our "Definition of a Homeschooler" above.

Use of a Homeschool Resource Center should not obligate homeschoolers to state or federal regulations applicable to public or private schools because of their participation in the Resource Center's programs.