

# DCHEA Membership Application Packet

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. This *Membership Application Packet* contains 8 pages for you to print, including this instruction page. Please print all eight pages. Some will be mailed in with your Application and others will be kept for your records.
2. Read the entire *DCHEA Membership Application Packet* carefully.
3. Determine if DCHEA's Christian parent-directed homeschool support group is a good match with your family's values, faith and goals.
4. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in your commitment to homeschool and to guide you as you fill out the Membership forms. Ask Him to lead you to the areas where you might contribute to our group. Remember that we operate entirely on the volunteer efforts of our membership.
5. Completely fill out the *DCHEA Membership Application*. Both you and your spouse must sign and date the *Application, By-Laws/Statement of Faith* and *Code of Conduct*. Direction on the bottom of each page of the *DCHEA Membership Application Packet* will indicate whether you keep it for your files, or send it back signed along with your Application. A checklist of what to send is in #7 below. The DCHEA Leadership Board asks that you respect these written guidelines of DCHEA.
6. The fee for 2011-2012 Membership Applications postmarked **by July 31, 2011** is **\$30** per family. If your envelope is postmarked **Aug. 1, 2011 or after** your fee will be **\$35**.

### 7. Mail:

- (1) *DCHEA Membership Application*
- (2) *By-Laws/Statement of Faith*
- (3) *Medical Release*
- (4) *Code of Conduct*
- (5) *Release of Liability*
- (6) FEE based on postmark ~ Check made payable to *DCHEA*  
to: DCHEA  
c/o Chris Viegas, 84-289 Eremo Way, Indio, CA. 92203

E-Mail us at: [DesertCHEA@gmail.com](mailto:DesertCHEA@gmail.com)  
Visit our Website: [www.DCHEA.com](http://www.DCHEA.com)

## WHAT IS DESERT CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION?

DCHEA is a support group for Christian families who feel called by God to educate their children at home; relating God's Word throughout the scope and sequence of privately chosen curriculum.

The original founders of DCHEA realized there were many moral values that all home educating families have in common, even though religious convictions and curriculum choices differ. They understood, however, that it is our religious convictions that bind us together. The freedom to share these convictions during group activities is why DCHEA is a Christian organization. Due to this decision, the following criteria have been established for membership.

### The DCHEA support group is open to families who:

1. Have expressed a personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, as the only means of forgiveness of our sins.
2. Can express full acknowledgement and agreement with the Statement of Faith, Purpose, Mission and Bylaws that DCHEA & CHEA have endorsed.
3. Are actively pursuing home education for a child with legitimate educational goals and a determined course of action to meet those goals.
4. Are home educating through a PRIVATE home schooling option: (1) Independently/Filing a Private School Affidavit, (2) enrolled in a Private School's PSP, (3) Other Private PSP or (4) Private distance learning program.\*

If you have any questions concerning the DCHEA criteria (1-4 above), or if we can answer any other questions for you regarding home education, please feel free to contact a Leadership Board Member.

\* DCHEA is a local support group and is part of the statewide CHEA Support Network and therefore follows CHEA's position regarding PUBLIC (government funded) school-at-home programs. CHEA, HSLDA and Family Protection Ministries do not advocate any form of PUBLIC home schooling option: (1) Charter ISPs and (2) Public School ISP's. Most Christian home schooling families find the public school-at-home programs unacceptable since religious teaching is prohibited, directly or indirectly, by CA state law (California Constitution: Article 9, Section 8).

## PURPOSE

As a Christian organization for over 30 years, DCHEA's purpose is to provide support for families who have a shared commitment to privately home educate their children. It is DCHEA's intent that this organization and all of its activities and publications be God-honoring as we represent Him to each other and to our community.

## MISSION

The mission of the Desert Christian Home Educators Association (DCHEA) is to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by providing information and assistance to families who are considering Christian, private home education; To provide an educational and social context for our children with other families in the Christian, private home education movement; and To act as a support network for member families active in their roles as Christian, private home educators.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**DESERT CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

\*\*\*THIS 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP VALID JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012\*\*\*

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (Husband) (Wife)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ CA Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(You cannot receive monthly newsletters or other group information without an active email address)

Business or Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If you'd like it listed in the DCHEA Member Directory)

This is our First Year homeschooling. \_\_\_\_ This is our First Year in DCHEA. \_\_\_\_

How did you hear about DCHEA? \_\_\_\_\_

Child's first name (and Last Name if different than parents')	Birth date	Age	Grade Level
_____	____/____/____	____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____	_____

- I will help with:**
- \_\_\_ Yearbook
  - \_\_\_ Potluck or BBQ
  - \_\_\_ End of Yr. Testing
  - \_\_\_ Curriculum Sale
  - \_\_\_ Curric. Exchange
  - \_\_\_ Moms Nights Out
  - \_\_\_ Educational CoOp
  - \_\_\_ Teacher
  - \_\_\_ Community Service
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

- CURRICULUM or METHOD we use**  
(Check all that apply)
- \_\_\_ A Beka
  - \_\_\_ A.C.E.
  - \_\_\_ Alpha-Omega
  - \_\_\_ Apologia
  - \_\_\_ Bob Jones
  - \_\_\_ Charlotte Mason
  - \_\_\_ Christian Lib Acad.
  - \_\_\_ Classical
  - \_\_\_ Computer-based
  - \_\_\_ Easy Grammar
  - \_\_\_ Greenleaf Press
  - \_\_\_ Inst for Ex in Write
  - \_\_\_ KONOS or other
  - \_\_\_ Unit study
  - \_\_\_ Math-U-See
  - \_\_\_ Own Curriculum
  - \_\_\_ Saxon Math
  - \_\_\_ Sonlight
  - \_\_\_ TJED
  - \_\_\_ Veritas Press
  - \_\_\_ Writing Strands
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Agreement**

\* I, the undersigned, representing my family, have completely read, understand and agree with the *By-Laws / Statement of Faith, Medical Release, Field Trip Agreement, Code of Conduct, Terms of Use for DCHEA Directory & Website and Release of Liability*. I agree to uphold them. I understand that not adhering to these may result in loss of membership privileges and that my annual fee is non-refundable.

\* I am actively educating my child(ren) with legitimate educational goals and a determined course of action to meet those goals. I am privately homeschooling (1) independently or (2) through a private (non-public, non-government) PSP or distance learning program.

**NONE of my children are enrolled in a government-funded, public school-at-home program.\* We receive no government funds to educate ANY of our children at home.**

[\*includes public schools, tax-funded charter schools, tax-funded independent study programs, or any other form of education that is subject to legal restrictions solely because it is supported by government money or property.]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Which would be most beneficial for your family?**  
(Check all that apply)

- \_\_\_ Teen Scene
  - \_\_\_ Field Trips
  - \_\_\_ Park Days
  - \_\_\_ High School Help
  - \_\_\_ Graduation
  - \_\_\_ Curric. Exchange
  - \_\_\_ Moms Nights Out
  - \_\_\_ Educational CoOp
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DCHEA Annual Fees are \$30 per family.** Membership is effective from July 1 – June 30.  
Cost for renewal (current member) **postmarked after July 31st is \$35.**

**PLEASE MAIL :**

- (1) DCHEA Membership Application (2) By-Laws/Statement of Faith (3) Medical Release  
(4) Student Code of Conduct (5) Release of Liability (6) FEE ~ Made payable to DCHEA  
to: DCHEA  
c/o Chris Viegas,84-289 Eremo Way, Indio, CA. 92203

**Admin Use:**  
Rec'd \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Cash \_\_\_\_\_  
Directory \_\_\_\_\_  
Alerts/Hosp \_\_\_\_\_

## BY-LAWS

### MEMBERSHIP:

The DCHEA support group is open to families who:

1. Have expressed a personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, as the only means of forgiveness of our sins.
2. Can express full acknowledgement and agreement with the Statement of Faith DCHEA & CHEA have endorsed.
3. Are actively pursuing home education for a child with legitimate educational goals and a determined course of action to meet those goals.
4. Are home educating through a PRIVATE, non-government funded, home schooling option: (1) Independently/Filing a Private School Affidavit, or filing a statement in lieu of Affidavit, or (2) enrolled in a Private School's PSP, or (3) Other Private PSP, or (4) Private distance learning program.

### LEADERSHIP BOARD:

The Leadership Board acts as the directive organization of Desert Christian Home Educators Association (DCHEA). It is structured by the following guidelines:

1. A board member must be an active member of DCHEA for at least 1 full year before serving on the Board.
2. The term of the Board will be from July 1 to June 30.
3. Each Board member shall serve no more than 3 consecutive years in the same position, then must take at least a one-year break before going back into that same position. The board member may move to another position on the board in consecutive years.
4. The Leadership Board *may* include a Support Group Leader, a Treasurer, a Newsletter Editor, a Field Trip Coordinator, a Hospitality Director, Educational Co-Op Coordinator, and an Activities Coordinator.
5. The Support Group Leader must be a current (or enrolling) member of CHEA.
6. The Leadership Board will appoint the new board for the following year.
7. The Leadership Board can establish committees as needed each year.
8. The Board is to meet at least every quarter and more often if necessary. Minutes of the meetings must be kept and distributed to each Board Member.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, the final authority of faith and life, without error in its original writing both in doctrine and historical details, and that all true knowledge is consistent with its revelation.

We believe that there is one self-existent God who has always been and will always be, manifest in the three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that knowing Him truly is the foundation of all knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God manifest in the flesh, born of a virgin, that He is the savior of mankind through His death on the cross, that He rose from the dead and ascended to God and that He will return again and will raise those who have believed in Him to reign with Him in power and glory throughout all eternity.

We believe in the brotherhood of all believers who, through faith, have received the salvation provided by God's grace through the death of Jesus Christ. We believe that children belong to God, who has given the responsibility and authority for their education to their parents and that it is their responsibility to protect this parental right.

**BOTH PARENTS SIGN and RETURN THIS PAGE WITH APPLICATION:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# DESERT CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION MEDICAL RELEASE

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Health problems, medical or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

*Add additional children onto the back of this form.*

We the undersigned parents/guardians of the minor child(ren) named above, do hereby authorize and consent to any x-rays, examinations, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis and treatment and emergency hospital care which is deemed advisable by and is to be rendered under the general or specific supervision of any member of the medical staff and emergency room staff licensed under the provision of the Medical Practice Act and on the staff of any acute general hospital holding a current license to operate a hospital from the State of California Department of Health Services. It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required, but is given to provide authority to render care which the aforementioned physician in the exercise of his/her best judgment may deem advisable. It is understood that every effort shall be made to contact the undersigned prior to rendering treatment to the patient(s), but that any of the above treatment will not be withheld if the undersigned cannot be reached. This authorization is given pursuant to the provision of Section 25.8 of the Civil Code of California. The undersigned also assumes the responsibility for any of the costs connected with such treatment and hereby releases Desert Christian Home Educators Association (DCHEA), its leaders and members from any liability. This release form is completed and signed of my own free will with the sole purpose of authorizing medical treatment under any emergency circumstances in my absence.

## **BOTH PARENTS MUST SIGN and RETURN WITH APPLICATION:**

**Father/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other # to reach Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Other # to reach Father: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship to child(ren)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Co \_\_\_\_\_ Policy or Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

## CODE OF CONDUCT

*Please go over this page with each member of your family and sign. Thank you.*

As a member of DCHEA, you agree to uphold the rules and standards of DCHEA at all times while participating in any function that DCHEA is in any manner associated with.

DCHEA is a Christian parent-directed and parent-run homeschool support group that holds Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and the Bible as the inspired Word of God. All members are to recognize that the Bible teaches that Christians represent Christ and his body here on earth. No member should at anytime conduct himself or herself in a fashion that would bring reproach to Christ or to DCHEA and the homeschooling community. In addition, adherence to the following points is appreciated:

1. The DCHEA Leadership Board exists to provide assistance, support and guidance to all DCHEA families. Members are asked to respect the authority of the DCHEA Leadership Board and/or its designated representatives as they endeavor to serve the entire membership in the best way possible.
2. Since God has established the family as the mechanism by which children are to be trained and guided, all parents are recognized as the leader and authorities in their homes. Parents are expected to maintain order over their children at all DCHEA functions.

### TEEN SCENE:

1. The Host Family sets the rules of the event. I will be respectful of rules that may not be the same in my own home.
2. When carpooling with any family (including my own), I will cooperate, wear a seatbelt, speak and act so as not to distract the driver and abide by any other car rules.
3. I will make sure my teen is on time and picked up at the designated ending time. All events have times listed.
4. I will consider others when I choose what to wear to DCHEA activities & events. Modest dress is always best.
5. I will respect others' physical bodies...No fighting or roughhousing.
6. I will not use inappropriate language of any kind...even slang that could be offensive to others. I will act and speak worthy of God.
7. I will not use my cell phone or electronic device including texting or video games while a DCHEA activity or event is in progress. I know that I can use the phone when the event has ended to call my parents, if necessary.
8. I will be respectful when taking pictures. I will get permission from the host family before posting any pictures anywhere on the worldwide web.
9. I understand that there is absolutely no PDA (Public Displays of Affection with opposite sex) allowed at DCHEA activities or events.
10. I will respect others' belongings (purses, jackets, cameras, wallets, cell phones, jewelry, etc.) If it's not mine, I will not touch it without permission from the owner.
11. **Attendee Requirements:** **(a)** Must be 13-17 (up to age 18 unless they are still a senior) and be DCHEA Members, **(b)** sibling of a DCHEA Member teen (i.e. a sibling attending a public or private school, living in the same home as the DCHEA Member Family) between the ages of 13-17 with a 2 event maximum per school year, **(c)** DCHEA Alumni (no older than 18 and must have gone through a DCHEA Graduation Ceremony). **(d)** Certain events will be open to guests and will be publicized that way, otherwise, member teens only.

### **BOTH PARENTS and ALL STUDENTS MUST SIGN & RETURN WITH APPLICATION:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Children's/Teen's Signatures:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Terms of Use for DCHEA Directory, Newsletter, & Website

The DCHEA Directory, Newsletter, & Website were created so that members would have access to up-to-date, accurate information about DCHEA Membership, as well as events and opportunities within the group. Information in the Directory, Newsletter, & Website is for use by current DCHEA members only regarding DCHEA matters only. Neither are to be given in any form to a party outside of DCHEA or used to solicit DCHEA members. DCHEA will maintain a non-solicitation policy.

### FIELD TRIP AGREEMENT

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of DCHEA field trips is to enhance the home education of the members of DCHEA. In fitting with the Statement of Purpose established through DCHEA, it is the desire of the field trip coordinators to assist our families in their endeavor.

#### **WHO MAY ATTEND**

Field trips are open to DCHEA members only; except for certain events that are designated as open to non members when they are publicized to the group. DCHEA holds limited liability insurance. If you host a field trip using the DCHEA name you must verify membership for all participants through the Leadership Board.

#### **PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

When signing up for a field trip, payment must be received by the stated deadline unless arrangements have been made with the coordinator.

#### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

Some field trips have certain criteria, which must be met in order for a group to attend. These may be age/grade related, adult to children ratios, or specific academic requirements such as reading or writing ability. The criteria are often in place for the ease of the venue's staff and we, as a group, need to honor them. These field trips may be repeated each year and children will receive an opportunity to attend when it is appropriate for them to do so. Parents are expected to make other arrangements for children who do not meet those requirements at the time of the field trip. Children under 5 are usually welcome UNLESS specified in the field trip description.

#### **CANCELLATIONS / REFUNDS**

To fill openings on a field trip due to cancellations, priority will be given to families on the waiting list. Please do not send someone in your place without contacting the coordinator, if you must cancel. Monetary refunds *may* be considered only in cases where families (1) made a conscious effort to contact the coordinator, (2) have a valid reason for cancelling, and (3) will not cause a financial detriment to DCHEA. Families are responsible for remembering which field trips they have signed up to attend and refund will not be given to those who forget about the trip or fail to show up without making an effort to notify the coordinator.

#### **WAITING LISTS**

Occasionally, more people want to attend a field trip than can be accommodated. In these cases, DCHEA will place families on a waiting list in the order that they signed up. If the waiting list reaches the minimum for group requirements, the coordinator may plan an additional field trip or ask another member to be in charge.

#### **BASIC POINTS OF COURTESY**

As we strive to live our lives in a manner pleasing to God and reflect our commitment to Him, we ought to take the time to follow a few simple matters of courtesy. Please be appropriately dressed, acting with acceptable conduct, show up on time or early, stay together as a group if the activity warrants it, etc. Remember that not only do we represent our families and DCHEA; we also represent the entire homeschool community and most importantly, Jesus Christ.

#### **PARENTAL SUPERVISION**

Unless otherwise noted in the field trip description, parents will be expected to attend field trips with their own children or have a designated adult responsible (IN WRITING) for their children during the field trip.

#### **REFUSAL TO ATTEND**

Field trip coordinators reserve the right to refuse anyone the privilege of attending a field trip if they have not followed the field trip policies listed above, are disruptive to the group or venue, or if they place the group in jeopardy of attending the field trip again in the future. Please refer to the DCHEA Code of Conduct page.

***PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS***

**DESERT CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**  
**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

As a Christian group, we seek to follow the Biblical mandate, which disallows bringing charges against Christian brothers in civil courts. We also seek to be good stewards of the resources and blessings, which the Lord has provided. Our group has never been charged with an instance of injury or damage since its inception 30 years ago. And we believe it is best to be sure that all members understand our position prior to any mishaps.

We are a loosely organized "not-for-profit" group of Christian families. We are not an IRS-approved "non-profit" organization. The leadership is made up of those who have volunteered their time to organize activities for the group.

DCHEA leaders and members cannot be held liable for any injuries or damages, whether connected with a DCHEA event or not. Parents are responsible for their own children. Children MUST be under the full care, conduct, responsibility and supervision of their parent(s) or a parent-appointed adult. If you send your child to an event with another adult, it should be one who feels comfortable correcting your child, if necessary.

Any special guests (grandparents, relatives, out-of-town friends, etc.) who accompany members to any event are under the sole responsibility of that member for behavior, damages, injuries, etc. It is expected that any member or his child(ren) or guest(s) who damage property or who cause injury, willfully or not, will take personal responsibility for his/their actions. DCHEA will not be held liable in any way in such situations.

Any person, member or not, who has a claim will be directed to discuss the offense directly with the party he believes to be responsible. The outcome of such a problem is not DCHEA's responsibility. If the parties cannot handle such disputes directly, DCHEA will expect that the guidelines of Matthew 18 are followed through their own church leadership.

I voluntarily agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death or damages of any nature to my family or anyone that I may bring to a DCHEA function. I also agree to protect and hold harmless DCHEA, its Leadership Board, and volunteers from any and all claims, loss, damages, injuries or expense arising out of, or from any other occurrence related to a DCHEA meeting, class and/or event.

I assume full responsibility for my children's behavior and for assuring their supervision at all times. I also assume full responsibility for any damage or injury caused by my children's actions or actions of a guest I bring to a DCHEA function.

**BOTH PARENTS MUST SIGN & RETURN WITH APPLICATION:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_