

Great Smokies Christian Home Educators

Overview

GSCHE is a nondenominational Christian home schooling support organization governed by traditional Christian principles and is open to any legally operating home schooling family in North Carolina that agrees to honor and abide by the principles of the organization. As an organization, our focus is to honor God by encouraging and helping parents in their role of training their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord through home education. We seek to further the interests of private home education in Western North Carolina by providing accurate, helpful information on home education, encouraging and providing fellowship to local home schooling families, and promoting adherence to the North Carolina state laws regarding home schooling. Group activities are dedicated to the honor and glory of God in keeping with the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4.

Purpose of GSCHE

- To honor Christ as an organization
- To communicate urgent information and legal issues regarding home schooling
- To provide a place for encouragement, prayer, and fellowship with other home schooling families
- To provide opportunities for educational fieldtrips, activities, and social events for our children
- To share information and ideas about home school curriculum and methods.
- To promote adherence to the North Carolina state laws regarding home schooling

Requirements to Apply for Membership

- Submit a completed, signed Statement of Agreement and Member Information Form.
- Pay non-refundable annual membership dues in the amount of \$15.00 due by September 30.
- Existing membership is renewed by submitting an updated Member Information Form and paying the annual dues by the end of current membership.

Mail completed application materials and dues to:

GSCHE
PO Box 855
Sylva, NC 28779

Great Smokies Christian Home Educators

Statement of Agreement

I/we understand that:

1. GSHCE is based on a traditional Christian foundation. GSCHE has a firm belief that we are saved by the grace of God through our faith in the one true God and His Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again so that we might be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life with Him in heaven.
 - a. Members do not have to sign a statement of faith to be a member of GSCHE.
 - b. Members can belong to other home school groups besides GSCHE.
 - c. GSCHE's activities and expectations will follow traditional Christian values.
 - d. GSCHE exists to encourage home schooling families in a Christian manner and activities sponsored by GSCHE are to provide a safe, fun, friendly and positive environment.
2. GSCHE expects parents to:
 - a. Model a high standard of behavior.
 - b. Accompany their children to all events or appoint a designated adult to be responsible for their children.
 - c. Monitor their children's behavior at all times. Parents are responsible for the correction and discipline of their own children.
3. GSCHE expects children/students to:
 - a. Show respect and kindness to all GSCHE members.
 - b. Respond respectfully and quickly to correction.
 - c. Display respect for others and their property during GSCHE sponsored trips or events.
4. I/we may make a complaint with the Board if anyone is not upholding this agreement.
 - a. If a complaint is made the family will be approached with the complaint and expected to deal with the problem.
 - b. Problems that are not resolved may result in suspension from GSCHE at the Board's discretion.
5. Full member participation is expected and necessary in order for GSCHE to succeed.
 - a. Parents are encouraged to look for opportunities to contribute to GSCHE.
 - b. Upon renewal of membership I/we will be requested to list contributions made during the previous year.
6. Membership in GSCHE is subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

By signing this Statement of Agreement I/we agree to honor and abide by the above statements. I/we also agree to honor and abide by the standards set forth in the purposes, principles and bylaws of GSCHE.

Parent/Guardian 1

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 (optional)

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

GSCHE MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

Please provide the following information as completely as possible.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY.

Mail to:
GSCHE
PO Box 855
Sylva, NC 28779

Contact Information

1. Parent/Guardian name(s): _____
2. Mailing Address: _____
3. Home Phone: _____ Other Phone (optional) _____
4. Email: _____
5. I prefer to receive information about GSCHE and related activities via: Email Telephone Postal Mail

Children / Home School Students *(optional, please provide this information at your discretion)*

Name	Age or Birthday	Name	Age or Birthday

Home School Curriculum

Please list the types of curriculum or methods you use or have used in the past.

Release for GSCHE Directory

GSCHE publishes an annual member directory to facilitate communication among members. This directory is available to members only. GSCHE will never share your information with third parties without your consent. Please indicate below what information you would like included in the directory.

1. May GSCHE publish your contact information in the annual member directory? YES NO
If you choose to not have your contact information published, you will NOT receive a copy of the directory.
2. May GSCHE publish your children's names and ages in the annual member directory? YES NO
3. May GSCHE publish your home school curriculum choices in the annual member directory? YES NO

Business Information

Please list any business information you would like included in the annual member directory, or attach a business card.

Participation in GSCHE During the Previous Year *(Renewing Members Only)*

Please describe how you contributed to the success of GSCHE during the previous year.

Signature *Please sign and date below*

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

Great Smokies Christian Home Educators By-Laws

Article I – Name, Purpose, Location

Section 1 – Name

The legal name of this organization shall be Great Smokies Christian Home Educators of North Carolina, doing business as Great Smokies Christian Home Educators (GSCHE).

Section 2 – Vision Statement and Purpose

GSCHE is a nondenominational Christian homeschooling support organization governed by traditional Christian principles and is open to any legally operating homeschooling family in North Carolina that agrees to honor and abide by the principles of the organization. As an organization, our focus is to honor God by encouraging and helping parents in their role of training their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord through home education. We seek to further the interests of private home education in Western North Carolina by providing accurate, helpful information on home education, encouraging and providing fellowship to local homeschooling families, and promoting adherence to the North Carolina state laws regarding homeschooling. Group activities are dedicated to the honor and glory of God in keeping with the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4. GSCHE is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3 – Location

The principal office location of GSCHE shall be located in Jackson County in the State of North Carolina. GSCHE may have any number of offices at such places as the Board may determine.

Article II - Membership

Section 1 – Membership Qualification

GSCHE is a fee-based membership organization. Membership is open to all families interested in homeschooling, who agree to honor and abide by the principles of the organization. Only those families who have submitted a completed, signed application of membership which has been approved by the board, and paid their annual membership fee, may participate in the activities and programs of GSCHE and be listed in the GSCHE Membership Directory. Membership is for twelve (12) months, from September through August, and must be renewed annually. The amount of the membership fee will be determined annually by the Board of Directors. The annual membership fee for existing members is due by August 31 for the following twelve months.

Section 2 – Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities

GSCHE members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership in the organization as established by the Board of Directors and the laws of North Carolina. Members shall be entitled to participate in all activities of GSCHE and to represent the interests of GSCHE, subject to the authority of the Board of Directors, or any appointed agent(s) of the Board. Each member family of the organization shall have the right to one vote on matters submitted to a vote of the membership by the Board of Directors.

By submitting an application and payment of the annual membership fee, members agree to abide by and honor the By-Laws, and all other standards and policies of GSCHE as established by the Board of Directors, as well as the laws governing homeschooling in the State of North Carolina. Members shall refrain from engaging in any activity that may bring reproach on GSCHE or the homeschooling community at large.

A member may withdraw their membership at any time by providing notice of same to the President or Board of Directors. Membership of any member may be involuntarily terminated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of GSCHE will be served thereby. Applications for membership are subject to review and the Board of Directors has final approval authority for member acceptance.

Article III – Meetings

Section 1 – Location and Time

The date of the regular annual meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors who will also set the time and place. Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such place and time as shall be designated by the standing resolution of the Board. Notice of location and time for the regular meetings shall be determined and provided via established channels of communication to member families at least 10 days before the meeting is to take place. Board meetings are generally open to members.

Section 2 – Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary as long as such meeting time and place are communicated as stated in Article III Section 1. Special meetings may be open to only Board of Directors as necessary for the interest of the organization. The 10 day notification requirement for regular meetings does not apply to special meetings.

Article IV – Board of Directors

Section 1 – Purpose & Authority

The control, administrative, and judicial authority of GSCHE shall be vested in a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for maintaining the overall policy and direction of the organization. The Board shall delegate responsibility of day-to-day operations to appropriate designated persons or committees.

Voting members of the Board shall consist of not less than five members elected in the manner described in these by-laws, to be expanded as deemed necessary by the board, so long as an odd number of Directors is maintained. The board shall also have nonvoting members consisting of the qualified spouse of each Director, except in the case of the absence of one of the Directors, where the qualified spouse of the absent Director shall have the right of vote in his/her place. This provision shall not be construed as excluding qualified single-parent household members from serving on the Board.

Board members shall receive no compensation other than reimbursement for actual expenses and reasonable travel at the standard IRS mileage rate for charitable organizations for their service on the Board. No Board member (husband/wife team) shall hold more than one (1) Board position at a time.

Section 2 - Requirements

Directors are volunteer positions. Each Director shall meet the membership requirements stated in Article II, as well as the following conditions for leadership:

- a. It is desired that each Director be actively home-educating; exceptions to this provision may be reviewed by the Board and approved or disapproved as needed.
- b. Must be a professing Christian and promise to abide by, uphold, and promote the vision of GSCHE as stated in Article I.
- c. Must be an active participant of the Association; exceptions to this provision may be made for a board member not actively homeschooling as needed.
- d. Must be willing and able to attend Board meetings regularly and participate in the governing activities of the Board.

Section 3 – Meetings

The Board shall meet at least 4 times per year at an agreed upon time and location. Board members shall not miss more than 1 meeting(s) per year.

Section 4 – Election and Terms

The initial Board of Directors shall be elected by the incorporating members of the organization. All Board members shall serve for two year terms (staggered terms are optional) and are eligible for re-election. Any Director may be removed from office without assigning any cause by a 2/3 vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board. Any Director may resign at any time by giving notice to the Board of Directors.

Section 5 – Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy on the Board (including situations where the number of Board members has been deemed necessary to increase), the Directors shall accept nominations from any member of GSCHE in good standing or, any director may nominate a person with the second of any other voting member in good standing, and the Board shall vote to elect qualified nominees as necessary to fill said vacancy.

Section 6 – Quorum

A quorum consisting of at least 60 percent of the Board members must be present before business can be transacted or motions made or passed.

Article V – Officers

Section 1 – Officers

The initial officers of the organization shall be elected by the incorporating members. Thereafter, the Board of Directors shall convene in the first week of August of each year to elect officers which shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for a term established by the board. The officers shall be chosen from the incoming Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

To be considered for election to an officer position, a board member must have served on the Board of Directors no less than six months, or have been participating in GSCHE for one year, and have attended a majority of the regularly scheduled open board meetings during these time periods. The nomination and election to officer positions is decided by a majority vote of the Board, in compliance with the quorum requirements set forth in the bylaws.

The Board may also elect other officers from within its membership as it deems necessary. No officer shall hold more than one position. The husband/wife team provision of Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph 2 shall be understood as applying to officer positions also.

Section 2 – Removal

Any officer may be removed from office without assigning any cause by a 2/3 vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board.

Section 3 – Compensation

Officers of the Board shall not be compensated for their service as an officer of the Board other than as denoted in Article V, section 1.

Section 4 – Board Chair/President

The Chair shall convene regularly scheduled Board meetings and shall preside or arrange for other Directors to preside at each meeting in the following order: Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board Chair appoints Committee Chairs.

Section 5 – Vice Chair

The Vice Chair will chair committees on special subjects as designated by the board. In addition, the Vice Chair will facilitate meetings in the absence of the Board Chair.

Section 6 – Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all board meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each Board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained.

Section 7 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall make a report at each Board meeting. The treasurer shall assist in the preparation of the budget, help develop fund raising plans, and make financial information available to Board members and the public.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1 – Creation

The Board may create committees as needed, such as fund raising, public relations, and program committees. The Board Chair shall appoint all committee chairs and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. All committees shall meet at such times and under such procedural rules as they may deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 2 – Authority

NO committee shall have any power to: fill vacancies on the Board, adopt amend or repeal the by-laws, amend or repeal any resolution of the Board, or act on matters committed by these by-laws or resolution of the Board to another committee of the Board.

Article VII - IRS 501(c)3 Tax Exemption Provisions

a. Upon the dissolution of GSCHE, assets shall be distributed to either another tax-exempt organization involved in homeschooling, or to a Christian church. The Board of Directors shall vote by simple majority and choose who will receive any assets at the time GSCHE is dissolved. In the event that a selection not be made or is not possible, any remaining assets shall be distributable to any Charitable organization as defined in 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

b. GSCHE is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of GSCHE shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, reimburse members for incurred expenses in the furtherance of the organization, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.

c. No substantial part of the activities of GSCHE shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

d. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article VIII – Amendments

By-law amendments are serious undertakings and should only be made when absolutely necessary. These By-laws may be amended when deemed necessary by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chair and notification shall be sent along with regular board meeting notices. No amendment modifying the general Christian focus of GSCHE as stated in Article I or Tax Exempt provisions in Article VII shall be entertained.

Article IX - Non-Liability and Indemnification

Within the limits of the law for an incorporated organization, GSCHE shall indemnify any and all of its officers, members of the Board of Directors, or former officers or members, or any person who may have served at its request or by its election or appointment as a member or officer of the organization, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any member of GSCHE are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been members or officers of GSCHE, except in relation to matters as to which any such member or officer or former director or officer or person shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for wilful misconduct in the performance of duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicted on the existence of such liability.

The indemnification provided hereby shall not be deemed exclusive of any right to which anyone seeking indemnification hereunder may be entitled under any by-law, agreement, or otherwise, both as to action in his/her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office.

GSCHE may purchase and maintain insurance on the behalf of any member, officer, agent, employee or former member or officer or other person, against any liability asserted against them and incurred by him/her to the extent that GSCHE would have the power to indemnify him/her against such liability under the provisions of this article and the laws of the United States of America, and the state of North Carolina.

These By-Laws were voted and approved on August 24, 2007 by the founding board members.