

Orangeburg Christian Home Educators Association

“Encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thess. 5:11

ochea.net

OCHEA Mission Statement

We purpose to nurture, educate and lovingly discipline our children according to the Word of God. We intend to do this by teaching them spiritual and moral values and to lead them by consistent lifestyle example. We believe that God ordained marriage as the unity of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children are a blessing and gift to that union and are to honor and obey their parents. **We recognize home schooling as the privilege of educating our children at home, using the curriculum of our choice, free from public, private or governmental control of any kind.** Each member family has the responsibility of portraying Christian values in their homes and to one another by displaying respect, courtesy, honesty, fairness, understanding, guidance, patience and brotherly love towards one another at all times.

(References: Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 22:6, Mark 10:6-9, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 6:1-3, Philippians 4:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15)

Group Information and Policies

OCHEA is a support group for home schooling families in the Orangeburg area. We are not an accountability group! Our members vary in experience from new to veteran and teach children of all grade levels using their own choice of curricula and scheduling. While many different Christian denominations are within this group, our focus remains the same--working together to do what is best for our children.

Our group has two yearly planning meetings at which we schedule opportunities for our children to learn and grow together. Members are expected to attend both of these meetings. We send out monthly e-mail reminders which inform members of upcoming events and topics of interest. We have a Yahoo internet group where we can e-mail messages and reminders to members. We also offer standardized testing by certified testers once per year for our active members.

Without member involvement, our group cannot remain productive. Our group is only as good as we make it. Therefore, those families who year after year do not host or help with at least one OCHEA activity and participate in OCHEA-sponsored activities may forfeit the privilege of testing and/or may be denied renewal of membership.

Exception: first year members are not required to host or help with any events. Listed next are the activities offered by our group followed by committees. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute this year.

As a member of OCHEA, I agree to host or help with at least one activity per year and show some participation in other activities.

Activities offered by OCHEA

Social Studies/History Night-Students will present what they have learned in the areas of Social Studies, Geography, International or American History. Students may bring display boards, recite essays, perform, bring native foods, etc.

Spelling Bee- Students will compete on their grade/age levels to earn the title of Best Speller.

Science Night- Students will present a science project or report of his/her choice.

Family Talent Night- An evening of fun for the entire family. Students and parents are encouraged to come out and show off their talent. (combined with graduation)

Mom's Night Out- A couple of nights a year set aside for the mothers of our group to get together for down time, fun time, or just to eat and chat.

Holiday Parties- Our children and teens celebrate holidays with a party hosted by a volunteering member(s). It can be held at the member's home, church, or wherever the host decides. The host is asked to plan a craft or activity, games and serve light refreshments. Usually these are a Back to School Party, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and End of the Year party.

Graduation- A commencement ceremony for graduating seniors and to recognize our 8th graders and kindergarteners.

Co-op- We will be offering a co-op twice monthly to our members for instruction in music, art, and PE. History and Science is offered for 6th-8th graders. (See co-op information at the end.)

Various field trips-These will be planned at our meetings.

~Please note that OCHEA collects box tops. Please save your box tops and bring them to meetings or see Barbara Smith. Thank You!

Committees

Listed below are volunteer committees that need your help. Each position is for one school term. These committees may meet in addition to the regular planning meetings.

Yearbook- on this committee, you will be responsible for helping organize OCHEA's annual yearbook. You may be asked to submit photos, layout pages, help sell ads, etc. High school aged students are encouraged to volunteer for this committee as well.

Graduation-committee members meet and help plan all of the following for our graduation ceremony- meeting dates, securing a convenient location, printing programs, setup, and serving refreshments, clean up and any other areas which help alleviate some of the responsibilities of the parent of graduates. Parents of graduates as well as OCHEA board members make up this committee.

Promotional- As a member of this committee you will be responsible for any group advertising and /or newsworthy correspondence such as writing an article for the newspaper and/or submitting pictures.

Co-op Information

A **mandatory** meeting for co-op will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of the fall planning meeting (August 6, 2018). Each participating family must send a representative if a parent cannot attend.

Co-op participation is optional to our members. However, you must be a member of OCHEA to attend co-op.

OCHEA Leadership

Our Board is elected for two year terms. Board members offer advice and provide information to members and prospective members, lead planning meetings, handle fundraisers and monies, provide an internet support loop, help plan graduation and lead the various aspects of the group. The officers for the 2018-2019 term are as follows:

President:

Vice Pres: Karen Rider (308-1419)

Secretary: Jana Porter (308-0783)

Treasurer: Heather Chavis (608-6579)

Parent Responsibility/Discipline Policy

As homeschoolers, anytime we are together as a group in public, we represent the entire home school movement as well as our families, and it is our desire for OCHEA members to always be viewed in a positive light. All members should respect the hard work and effort it takes to organize an event and encourage their children to participate. Please thoroughly consider an event before signing up for it. Cancelling at the last minute may cause a problem for the organizer or event. We respect the right of each family to discipline their children according to their own consciences, providing the children are not disruptive or disrespectful in their language, dress or behavior. We seek to promote the happiness and contentment of each family without offending one another. However, we will not permit the obvious disregard of rules or regulations to affect the activities provided for the group, or cause us to lose privileges at any given facility. Parents are responsible for the actions of their children and will be asked to appropriately handle any disruptive conduct that may prevent members from enjoying group events. There should be no “dropping off” of children at an event unless proper consent of an attending adult is obtained beforehand. OCHEA cannot accept liability for injury or neglect at group functions. Your signature on the application form attests to your notification and agreement to the above policies.

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School Year 2018-2019 Membership application/renewal

*Please read all information/guidelines before signing this application.

Name (parent/primary teacher/guardian) _____

Spouse's name _____

List all children who are home schooled, their ages, and their **upcoming** grade level:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Mailing address: _____

Home number _____

Cell number _____

I accept text messages Yes or No

E-mail address _____

(*Correspondence is handled through email and through the Yahoo Loop*)

Your accountability group (SCAIHS, Homeward Ed, etc.) _____

Membership Fees: OCHEA membership for one school term (August 2018-May 2019) is \$15.00 per family. Our application deadline is Monday, August 6, 2018. Please mail your application with check by this date or bring it with you to our first planning meeting which is on that same date. Membership fees are nonrefundable and will be used as needed to offset costs of general operating expenses.

I want to join OCHEA _____ (\$15)

SCHEA Membership Fees: For \$15 more, you may join the South Carolina Home Educators Association. . (OCHEA is a member of SCHEA and members will be sent newsletters and updates by e-mail. Your own membership would entitle you to receive your own newsletter, discounts on state wide conventions and membership to the Home School Legal Defense Association.)

I want to join OCHEA and SCHEA _____ (\$30)

Please refer to the Activities and Committees offered by OCHEA and answer the following questions.

An activity or field trip I will help with is _____.

A committee I am interested in being on is _____.

I have read OCHEA's Group Information/Membership Guidelines, and I understand the privileges, obligations and qualifications for membership. My family shares OCHEA's mission statement and agrees to the membership terms.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

*When you join OCHEA you will be invited to join the OCHEA Yahoo! Loop (it's free). Please follow the steps in the invitation email that you will receive to set up your member account. This way you will receive up to date information regarding events and meetings as well as our monthly newsletter.

If you do not receive an invitation email, or if you have trouble with the email, please contact Mary Beth Myers at mbmyers2013@gmail.com.

Please mail ONLY Page 4 of this application form along with your check made payable to OCHEA with applicable fees to:

OCHEA
PO Box 2498
Orangeburg, SC 29116

****Please return your application and fees by the first of August or at the first planning meeting.**