

### ABOUT DCHEA (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 as Christians, we have been set apart for Christ and 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. All of the families who desire membership in DCHEA must have the following in common:

1. A personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior as the only means of forgiveness of our sins.
2. Acknowledgement and agreement with the Statement of Faith, Purpose, and Mission that DCHEA and CHEA have endorsed.
3. An active pursuit of home education for a child with legitimate educational goals and a determined course of action to meet those goals.
4. Home education through a private, non-government funded, home schooling option: (1) Independently/Filing a Private School Affidavit, (2) enrolled in a Private School's PSP, (3) Other Private PSP.

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 DCHEA Board Member.

### 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.

### 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.

We believe that marriage is established by God (Gen. 2:18-24). We believe that this union can only be between a biological man and a biological woman and was created for mutual edification and encouragement (Matt. 19:4-6). The husband can have only one wife and the wife is to have only one husband (1 Cor. 7:1-4).

We believe Jesus Christ is God; in His virgin birth and in His sinless life, God came to us in the flesh. We believe through His death, those who believe upon Him are sanctified and set apart for God's glory. There is no other mediator between God and man and none other that can provide forgiveness for our sins. (John 1:1, Matt. 1:18, Heb. 4:15, John 3:16, 1 Tim. 2:5)

We believe that all persons are created in God's image and are made to glorify Him. God's design was the creation of two sexes, male and female which designate the fundamental distinction that God has embedded in the very biology of the human race. Therefore, gender identity is determined by biological sex as established by God and not by one's self-perception. And as such, biological sex should not be medically modified to correlate with self-perception. (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 43:7, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6)

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This application packet contains the following forms and information:

- Membership Application Form
- Medical Release
- Statement of Faith
- Release of Liability
- Code of Conduct
- Field Trip Agreement

Please read all of the information and then return via mail both the Membership Application Form and the Medical Release along with the annual membership fee of \$35 to the name and address referenced at the bottom of the application.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in your commitment to homeschool as you fill out the Membership forms. Please ask Him to lead you in understanding the areas where you might contribute to the group knowing that the Holy Spirit has given us all, as believers, spiritual gifts. We operate entirely on the volunteer efforts of our membership. Descriptions for the volunteer categories listed on the application are below so that you can make an informed decision as to where you may be able to serve.

#### *Co-op*

DCHEA runs an educational cooperative that allows children within the same grade level to have a unique classroom educational experience. Parent volunteers teach subjects that allow for interaction and group study. Several volunteers are needed to teach, assist with projects, monitor student break time and ensure the utilized facility remains clean. The co-op classes meet during eight Fridays for three trimesters, totaling twenty-four classes per school year.

#### *Events*

Events include the gathering of the membership on park days and special celebrations. These are great activities for the member families to gather and fellowship. Volunteers are needed to plan and coordinate details and activities for the events.

#### *Field Trips*

DCHEA attempts to schedule a field trip monthly. A field trip committee allows for varied input on location and support in planning.

#### *Yearbook*

A yearbook is completed each year and is available for purchase to all DCHEA members. A simple to use program allows for page design and picture input. Of course, we always need people to take pictures!

#### *Hospitality*

DCHEA always needs those gifted with hospitality to host or plan activities such as the Mom's Night Out and to greet new members.

### *Teens/Tweens*

A committee of parents plans events of specific interest for teenagers and pre-teens. Sometimes those events are done together and sometimes separate. This is a great opportunity to work with other parents to create fun and educational opportunities for kids in this specific age range.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

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 any time conduct himself or herself in a fashion that would bring reproach to Christ or to DCHEA and the homeschooling community. In addition, you agree to adhere to the following standards:

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.
3. Appropriate dress, language and conduct should be maintained according to biblical standards during all DCHEA functions and activities. Clothing must be neat, modest and gender appropriate. Extreme and offensive apparel is not allowed, including all apparel that is excessively revealing. Excessive make-up and bodily ornamentation is not allowed. The DCHEA Leadership Board, as well as individuals designated by the Board for DCHEA events, reserves the right to remove from participation any person attending a DCHEA organized gathering who is not dressed modestly or who conducts himself/herself inappropriately, as determined by the Board or designee.

### **TWEENS AND TEEN SCENE**

#### **Tweens Attendee Requirements:**

1. Must be 10 -13 years old and be current DCHEA Members
2. Certain events will be open to guests and will be publicized that way, otherwise, member tweens only

#### **Teen Scene Attendee Requirements:**

1. Must be 14 -18 years old (up to age 19 if they are still a senior) and be current DCHEA Members
2. Can be a 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 13-18 with a 2 event maximum per school year
3. DCHEA Alumni (no older than 19 and must have gone through a DCHEA Graduation Ceremony)
4. Certain events will be open to guests and will be publicized that way, otherwise, member teens only

#### **Teen Scene Non-Member Policy**

It is the policy of DCHEA that only current DCHEA members can attend DCHEA events unless the event specifically states non-members can attend. However, we recognize that in some cases families may have guests in town or other circumstances that would limit their teens availability for a teen scene event due to the lack of ability to bring non DCHEA members. Therefore, the following policy has been put in place both to accommodate these limiting circumstances and to protect our member families.

In order to attend a DCHEA Teen Scene event, all non-members must subscribe to the DCHEA Statement of Faith, acknowledge that they have read and will adhere to the DCHEA Code of Conduct and provide that they agree to a Release of Liability Statement. In

order for a non-member to attend a DCHEA Teen Scene event, the Teen Scene Non-Member Permission Form must be completed. This form can be found under the Bylaws section of the Members Only page on dchea.com. Teen Scene is only for teens. This form cannot be used for an attendee who does not meet the Teen Scene age limitation. Member families are allowed two(2) invites of a non-member to a Teen Scene Event per school year (July 1 – June 30). It can be the same or different non-members, but the number of invites remains at two.

### **Tweens and Teen Scene Conduct Agreement**

- 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.
- 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.
- I will make sure my child is on time and picked up at the designated ending time. All events have times listed.
- I will consider others when I choose what to wear to DCHEA activities & events. Modest dress is always best.
- I will respect others' physical bodies...No fighting or roughhousing.
- 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.
- 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 for event pictures and when the event has ended to call my parents, if necessary.
- I will be respectful when taking pictures. I will get permission from the host family before posting any pictures anywhere on the worldwide web.
- I understand that there is absolutely no PDA (Public Displays of Affection with opposite sex) allowed at DCHEA activities or events.
- 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.

### **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. 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 canceling, 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 Supervisions

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.

## TERMS OF USE: DIRECTORY, NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE AND ONLINE ACCOUNTS

The DCHEA Directory, Newsletter, Website and Online Networking Accounts exist so that members 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 and Online Networking Accounts is for use by current DCHEA members only, regarding DCHEA matters only. The information contained therein is not to be given in any form to a party outside of DCHEA or used to solicit DCHEA members. DCHEA maintains a non-solicitation policy.

## 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.

You, as members, voluntarily agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death or damages of any nature to your family or anyone that you may bring to a DCHEA function. You 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.

**You, as a member, assume full responsibility for your children's behavior and for assuring their supervision at all times. You also assume full responsibility for any damage or injury caused by your children's actions or actions of a guest you bring to a DCHEA function.**

# DESERT CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

July 1 – June 30 Current Year

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Parent Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Your School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Either the Name as Filed on the Private School Affidavit or Name of PSP)

CHILD(REN) IN DCHEA

CHILD(REN) NAME(S)	BIRTHDATE	AGE	GRADE	
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> This is my first year homeschooling.
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> This is my first year in DCHEA
_____	_____	_____	_____	How did you hear about DCHEA?
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Do you have additional school age children (K-12) living at home that will NOT be DCHEA members?  Yes  No

If "Yes", Please list the child(ren)s name(s) and ages below\*\*:

\*\*Only children listed as members of DCHEA are allowed to participate in DCHEA sponsored activities. If you have children that are not members, they will NOT be allowed to participate in any DCHEA events, including field trips.

DCHEA depends on parent involvement. Please select a committee that you would be willing to participate in.

Co-op  
 Events

Field Trips  
 Yearbook

Hospitality  
 Teens/Tweens

## MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

(Both Parents Must Initial and Sign)

[We have read, understand and agree with the DCHEA Statement of Faith.](#)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial)

We, the undersigned, have completely read, understand, agree with and commit to uphold the (1) Field Trip Agreement (2) Code of Conduct (3) Terms of Use: Directory, Newsletter, Website and Online Accounts and (4) Release of Liability, We understand that not adhering to these may result in a loss of membership privileges and that my annual fee is non-refundable.

We state further that we are actively educating our child(ren) with legitimate educational goals and a determined course of action to meet those goals. We are privately home-schooling either independently or through a private PSP our DCHEA member children.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DCHEA Annual Fees are \$35 per Family. Make all checks payable to DCHEA. Mail Completed Application and Medical Release to:  
DCHEA C/O Michelle Richardson 82595 Bari Lane, Indio CA 92203

CHILD(REN) NAME(S)	DATE OF BIRTH	HEALTH PROBLEMS, MEDICAL OR FOOD ALLERGIES
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**CONSENT**

(Both parents must sign and return to DCHEA with the completed Application)

We the undersigned, as 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.

<b>Signature:</b> _____	<b>Spouse:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
Printed Name _____	Printed Name _____	
Phone _____	Phone _____	
Cell Phone _____	Cell Phone _____	
<b>Alternate Contact Name</b> _____	<b>Relationship to Child(ren)</b> _____	<b>Phone</b> _____

**INSURANCE INFORMATION**

Physician's Name _____	Phone Number _____
Insurance Name _____	Policy or Group # _____