



Dear Prospective Homeschooling Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. (SBCHI). This packet contains specific information about SBCHI as a support group for the traditional Christian homeschooling family. General information about homeschooling is available through numerous sources, such as Christian Home Educators Association of California (CHEA) at www.cheaofca.org. SBCHI highly recommends that you purchase the newly revised ***An Introduction to Home Education***, which is on our resource list. Many suggestions are given in this helpful manual, from curriculum choices and lesson planning to record keeping and formation of your own philosophy of education.

The SBCHI organization exists to encourage and promote traditional Christian family values through Biblical principles as we privately educate our children at home. We require that the primary teacher in the family be a professing Christian who will sign the Statement of Faith. Spouses of other faiths will be asked to refrain from promoting the tenets of their faith at SBCHI activities and through the email list or other SBCHI communications. They will not be eligible for leadership and administrative positions or be able to lead or teach any SBCHI groups or classes.

SBCHI supports families who teach all of their homeschooled students privately. Families may not participate in public homeschool education, i.e. charter schools and public school independent study programs. We require that all SBCHI families be members of Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), and we have aligned ourselves with HSLDA's position as outlined on the Position Paper on page 6.

We have included all of the forms necessary to apply for participation. Please be aware that we require both husband and wife to read the paperwork and sign to that effect before returning the Application, initialed Position Papers, and check. After the paperwork is processed, an informal interview will be held with all new families who want to join SBCHI to determine if SBCHI is the right *fit* for both parties. If those who are new to SBCHI would prefer to wait until the interview to fill out the Volunteer Form, we can take that opportunity to answer any questions about the areas of service.

SBCHI is a part of the Christian Home Educators Association of California (CHEA) Support Network and we count it a privilege to support this organization with our membership. Both Family Protection Ministries (FPM) and Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) greatly depend on CHEA as these three organizations partner together to protect our freedoms and our right to homeschool legally here in California. We need the help of these ministries more than ever in the days ahead. Though membership in CHEA is not a requirement for SBCHI participation as is HSLDA membership, we strongly encourage you to personally support CHEA with your membership. As an organization, SBCHI tithes 10% of our participation fees to both CHEA and FPM.

We sincerely hope that you find this information helpful in your search for answers to your home education questions. If you have any additional inquiries about homeschooling or questions about SBCHI and the paperwork, please visit www.sbhomesteaders.com or contact SBHomesteaders@gmail.com. We look forward to partnering with you in a Christian community where like-minded families can be supported and encouraged in this challenging and rewarding task.

Sincerely,
SBCHI Board of Directors

Introduction to Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc.

SBCHI Mission Statement

SBCHI is a non-profit corporation whose specific purpose is to support and encourage those who desire to privately educate their children at home in accordance with Christian principles.

History of SBCHI

SBCHI has been in existence for over 30 years and was started by pioneer homeschooling families. SBCHI is an incorporated Christian support group made up of traditional families who have their own schools. There is a Board made up of three couples and a Leadership Team of women in positions of major responsibilities. There are no paid employees in the organization. SBCHI belongs to the CHEA (Christian Home Educators Association of California) Support Network.

Meetings offered by SBCHI

Moms' Support Group Meetings – held every six weeks, allowing networking with other moms, providing support through prayer and sharing, giving opportunities for training and discussion of homeschooling topics

Homeschool Information Meeting – held in the spring, giving an overview of homeschooling for members of the community

Newcomer Orientation Meeting – held at the beginning of the school year to help new participants become acquainted with SBCHI

Yearly Planning Meeting – held at the end of the summer, providing all participants an opportunity to give input for activities and events

Annual Events

Kick Off – held in September, including the entire family for a potluck and group games

Thanksgiving Feast – traditional Thanksgiving potluck lunch with student presentations and group games

Valentine's Day Program/Party – student performances at rest homes followed by a potluck and Valentine card exchange at a park

Spring Tea – gathering of SBCHI ladies of all ages (may not be held every year)

Graduation/Promotion Ceremony & Reception – held in June, celebrating the accomplishments of students whose schools are part of SBCHI

Benefits

Friendships – families build close relationships within a like-minded community

Mentor Moms – matches up new moms with experienced moms who can give advice throughout the year

Activities and Field Trips – planned by parents who organize activities of interest for their own families and then invite others to join them

Park Days – held weekly, allowing networking with moms and opportunities for children to make friends

Standardized Achievement Testing – offered in the spring for students K-12

Yearbook – professionally printed, showcasing highlights of Homesteader year, including family photos and senior pages

Newsletter – published monthly, keeping the group abreast of all SBCHI events and activities

Email list – a Homesteaders Google Group enabling communication with SBCHI participants, posting of field trip announcements, and homeschooling discussions

Website – includes an area for “Participants only” with access to newsletters and master calendar

Prayer emails – used for prayer needs of SBCHI participants

For more information, please visit www.sbhomesteaders.com or contact SBHomesteaders@gmail.com.



Recommended Resources and Books

Resources

SBCHI – Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc.

One-year participation fee is \$52; Considering Homeschooling fee is \$26
www.sbhomesteaders.com; email contact SBHomesteaders@gmail.com

CHEA – Christian Home Educators Association of California

One-year membership is \$35
www.cheaofca.org or (800) 564-CHEA

HSLDA – Home School Legal Defense Association

One-year membership is \$120, or \$100 if an SBCHI participant (#293284)
www.hsllda.org or (540) 338-5600

Books

An Introduction to Home Education by Susan Beatty and Karen Woodfin

102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum by Cathy Duffy

The High School Handbook by Mary Schofield

Preschool at Home: What do I do with my child before kindergarten? by Debbie Feely

For the Children's Sake by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

A Charlotte Mason Companion by Karen Andreola

Educating the Wholehearted Child by Clay and Sally Clarkson

Home Schooling Children with Special Needs by Sharon C. Hensley

Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc.

Application Requirements

Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. requires the following for establishing your annual SBCHI support group participation:

1. **Please read the SBCHI Participation Agreement and Position Paper.**

2. **Obtain current membership in Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA).**

Please use the Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. support group number, **293284**, which gives you the discounted group rate of \$100 for the year. Children enrolled in any homeschooling option other than private homeschool are not eligible for membership in HSLDA and thus are not eligible for participation in SBCHI. HSLDA membership is required for all SBCHI families with the following exceptions: the oldest child has not turned 6 years old by Sept. 1 of this school year; or the youngest child is privately educated at home and has passed the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or is 18 years old by Sept. 1.

Homeschooling High Schoolers:

High school students who supplement their high school education with college courses or career courses, on campus or online, can still be considered homeschoolers, and can belong to Home School Legal Defense Association. HSLDA recognizes the dilemma many parents face in teaching the more difficult subjects at the high school level. As long as parents are still directing their child's education, they can be accepted for HSLDA membership. The parents should file an affidavit for these students until they are officially graduated from your high school program. HSLDA membership is still required for membership in SBCHI until either graduation, passing of the CHSPE, or age 18 of the youngest child.

3. **Complete and sign the SBCHI Application for Annual Participation. Both parents must sign in at least 3 of the 4 indicated areas, and also read, initial and return both pages of the Position Paper.**

4. **Pay annual participation fee of \$52.** Fee includes:

- SBCHI Annual Event expenses, including Graduation
- CHEA Support Group Network membership and leadership conventions

Considering Homeschooling Participant: Families who are interested in homeschooling with Pre-Kindergarten aged children may join SBCHI as a Considering Homeschooling Participant. As an extension of SBCHI, these participants will have access to the "Participant Only" section of the website, and will be eligible to attend regular SBCHI meetings and family-related events. The fee is **\$26**.

5. **Complete SBCHI Volunteer Form (new families may wait until the interview to submit this form).**

Please mail:

- Completed and signed SBCHI Application for Annual Participation (**please do not return without both parents' signatures**) along with both pages of the Position Paper with initials
- Fee (\$52 or \$26 if Considering Homeschooling Participant), check payable to SBCHI
- Completed Volunteer Form (or bring to the interview)

To: SBCHI
4041 Via Lucero
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

For questions regarding forms, please contact SBHomesteaders@gmail.com.

SBCHI Participation Agreement

Statement of Faith (CHEA Statement of Faith)

We require that all parents, or at least the primary teaching parent of each family, sign this Statement of Faith. Board Members and those who have positions of responsibility in SBCHI must be Christians in belief and conduct and are required to sign the 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 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 heaven, 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.

Code of Conduct

Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God, and that its authority should govern our behavior. We expect support group participants to conduct themselves according to the principles of Christian living set forth in the Bible*.

This Christian conduct should be evident in all areas of our lives. As Christian home educators, we should be especially careful in how we conduct ourselves before the world and our Christian brothers and sisters. Our choices in clothing should be honoring to self and sensitive to others.

As responsible Christian parents, we should be diligent in teaching our children to behave toward everyone in a manner worthy of our Christian calling. Our children should behave respectfully to their own parents, to parents within the SBCHI support group, and to other adults who are in a position of authority during SBCHI group-sponsored functions.

Parents are responsible for their own children's behavior. Organizers of events and activities may remind other children within the group to refrain from behavior not in keeping with the Code of Conduct and the Guidelines for SBCHI activities.

The Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders' Code of Conduct governs all SBCHI support group functions.

*Biblical references that govern our behavior: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 9; 6:1-2, 6-8, 11:18-21; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 7:12; Romans 12; I Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Galatians 5:13-26; Philippians 2:1-5, 14-15; Colossians 3:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 2:11-17

Conciliation Clause

Any claim or dispute arising from or related to this agreement shall be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries. Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision. <http://peacemaker.net/project/rule-24-rules-procedure-guidelines-christian-conciliation-litigation/>

Guidelines for SBCHI Activities

1. Be punctual as a courtesy to other members and our hosts.
2. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior and safety for the duration of the gathering. This responsibility may be delegated to another parent if necessary. No drop-offs are allowed.
3. All field trip fees must be paid in advance and are non-refundable. If you need to cancel a field trip reservation, contact the field trip organizer immediately. You are still responsible for the ticket price unless you can arrange for someone else to take your place.
4. Dress should be modest and appropriate for the occasion.
5. Be respectful of both private and public property.
6. Please clean up after yourself at all events.
7. Thank the individuals who made the event possible.

SBCHI Position Paper on Charter Schools and Public School Independent Study Programs

SBCHI Mission Statement ~ Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. (SBCHI) is a non-profit corporation whose specific purpose is to support and encourage those who desire to privately educate their children at home in accordance with Christian principles.

SBCHI was formed for the specific purpose of supporting and encouraging those who desire to privately educate their children at home in accordance with Christian principles. SBCHI supports families who teach all of their homeschooled students privately. SBCHI families may not participate in public homeschool education, i.e. charter schools and public school independent study programs. We require that all SBCHI families be members of Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), and we have aligned ourselves with HSLDA's position on charter schools and public school independent study programs as follows*:

The mission of Home School Legal Defense Association is to defend the constitutional right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children. Homeschooling through charter schools or public school independent study programs is actually a form of public education in which the public school directs the education. Thus, it is HSLDA's longstanding policy not to accept as members families whose children are enrolled in such public school options.

We understand that the financial pressures faced by families today make publicly subsidized educational programs very attractive. While we believe that parents have the right to choose whatever form of education they wish for their children, defending parents who are educating their children via a charter school or public school independent study program does not fall within our mission.

Excerpts from the California Constitution and the California Education Code state the following:

Article IX, Section 8 of the California Constitution:

No public money shall ever be appropriated for the support of any sectarian or denominational school or any school not under the exclusive control of the officers of the public schools nor shall any sectarian or denominational doctrine be taught or instruction thereon be permitted directly or indirectly in any of the common schools of the state.

California Education Code 47605 (d) (1):

In addition to any other requirement imposed under this part, a charter school shall be **nonsectarian** [bold added] in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.

HSLDA affirms that children in either traditional charter schools or virtual charter schools (online counterparts providing online courses and access to computers and licensed teachers) "*must follow all of the programs' policies and procedures, which include restrictions such as exclusion of religious educational materials as part of the formal curriculum. Parents who choose these programs must realize that in accepting virtual public schools into their homes, they are also accepting the bureaucracy and government supervision that is linked to accepting tax dollars.*"

It is the hope of the SBCHI Board that our children and grandchildren will continue to enjoy the freedom and privileges of homeschooling in accordance with Christian principles, without government intervention and ultimately government control. The SBCHI Board continues to refine our purpose within the scope of our Mission Statement in order to keep our group focused on God's Word and reliant upon the strength and provision of the Lord. Accordingly, participation in SBCHI activities is reserved for SCBHI parents and students who are privately homeschooled. Siblings who are using an educational option other than private homeschooling may attend only SBCHI family-integrated events with their family, and are not eligible for participation apart from their family. Certain field trips and activities that require a minimum number and are not filled with SBCHI participants may be opened up to other attendees, with first preference going to siblings within SBCHI families.

**Material in italics taken from HSLDA website: Frequently Asked Questions (More about HSLDA membership, question #3) at <http://www.hslda.org/docs/faqs/default.asp?q010>; and http://www.hslda.org/docs/nche/Issues/F/Federal_Charter_Schools.asp*

SBCHI Position Paper on Clarification of Public and Private Homeschooling

(SBCHI requires that all homeschooled students be taught using the **Homeschool Private Option** outlined below.)

Educational Choices in Santa Barbara

Traditional Brick and Mortar Schools with full-time instruction:

- **Public Schools** – government money with government oversight (including full-time charter schools, such as Adelante, SB Charter School)
- **Private Schools** – tuition instead of government money, with limited or no government oversight
 - Secular (Laguna Blanca, Montessori, etc.)
 - Christian (Providence, A SB Christian School; Coastline Christian School; St. Raphael; Bishop Garcia Diego; etc.)

Homeschooling with instruction taking place within the home:

- **Public Options** – government money with government oversight
 - **Public charter schools** (HomeBased Partnership-HBP, Inspire, Trivium), Virtual Academy (K-12)
 - Participation in these public charter schools comes with restrictions from the CA Constitution and Education Code that clearly state that no direct or indirect sectarian [religious] instruction may be taught.
 - Charter schools and non-charter schools, as Public Independent Study Programs, must comply with CA Independent Study regulations. They may teach about religion, but may not teach a sectarian curriculum (EC Section 47605(d)). This would not allow the use of Christian curricula, such as Sonlight, Beautiful Feet, My Father's World, and Apologia, which emphasize the biblical worldview.
- **Private Options** – no government money and no government oversight
 - **Secular or Christian** (some families are not connected to any group and privately educate at home without using any government money)
 - **Christian** (Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc.)

SBCHI is a **Private Option** that allows families to choose Christian curricula that reinforce biblical values. Our mission statement states:

Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. (SBCHI) is a non-profit corporation whose specific purpose is to support and encourage those who desire to privately educate their children at home in accordance with Christian principles.

In order to stay within the scope of this Mission Statement, we have the following requirements for participation in our group:

- The Primary teacher must be a professing Christian who will sign the Statement of Faith.
- **All homeschooled students** must be taught using the **private option (see above)**; other students in the family may participate in other traditional brick and mortar public or private schools.

We understand that it can be a struggle to make ends meet in Santa Barbara. We want to do whatever we can to help our families continue to privately educate their children at home. We love to see families loaning curriculum to one another. Some families have group classes and trade off with the teaching. The privilege to home educate our children without government intervention and in accordance with Christian principles is a freedom we want to hold onto and cherish.

SBCHI Application for Annual Participation for School Year 2018/19

Information in this section will be included in the SBCHI Directory unless indicated by a checked box

Parents' First & Last Names: _____ Exclude from directory
 Street Address: _____ Exclude from directory
 City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Exclude from directory
 Email Address: _____ Exclude from directory
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Exclude from directory

Please include names of ALL children living at home under age 18:

First, middle & last name	Birth date	Grade	School	Gender
_____	_____	_____	_____	M or F
_____	_____	_____	_____	M or F
_____	_____	_____	_____	M or F
_____	_____	_____	_____	M or F

Use back as needed to list additional children

Homeschooling Experience:

- first time
 have been homeschooling for ____ years

SBCHI Participation:

- continuing new
 returning after absence

Name of your Private School: _____ Church Affiliation: _____

CHEA membership is optional, though strongly recommended. Current member? Yes No

HSLDA membership is required (SBCHI group # is 293284): **Please do not return without HSLDA information**

Current Member: Expiration Date __/__/__ # _____ New Member: Date Applied __/__/__ & Exp. Date __/__/__

- If exempt: Oldest child is under 6 yrs by 9/1 of this school year
 Youngest child has passed CHSPE or is 18 yrs old by 9/1 of this school year

SBCHI Participation Agreement:

Statement of Faith – We are professing Christians and agree with and sign the Statement of Faith.

 Signature (husband and wife; required at least by primary teaching parent) Date

Code of Conduct/Conciliation Clause/Guidelines – We have read and agree to abide by the Code, Clause, and Guidelines.

 Signature (husband and wife, both required) Date

Public School Extension Programs – Our homeschooled children are not enrolled in any extension of the public school system.

 Signature (husband and wife, both required) Date

In signing the above, we agree to these conditions of participation. If at any time we no longer meet any of these conditions, we will willingly give up our participation in SBCHI. (Please give an explanation if only one parent has signed.)

 Signature (husband and wife, both required) Date

Forms must be postmarked on or before **August 15** (applies to renewals only)

- \$52 \$26 Considering Homeschooling Participant
 \$25 late fee if postmarked after August 15 (late fee applies to renewals only)

TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Please send application, initialed Position Paper pages, and check to: SBCHI, 4041 Via Lucero, S.B., CA 93110

Santa Barbara Christian Homesteaders, Inc. Volunteer Form 2018-19

Name: _____ Home #: _____ Mom's Cell #: _____ Email: _____

The volunteer efforts of each and every member of the organization are needed to make the year a success.

Please mark 1st and 2nd choice from opportunities below. See website www.sbhomesteaders.com or <https://www.dropbox.com/s/bbqinu6ifep7epg/SBCHI%20Volunteer%20Position%20Descriptions%202018.docx?dl=0> for job descriptions. In addition, please mark one Graduation task.

Volunteer Options for Moms' Meetings

- I will set up, clean up & bring snacks for one Moms' meet-up (circle two possibilities):
- 2018 Moms' Meet-ups: Sep 10, Oct 22, Dec 3
- 2019 Moms' Meet-ups: Jan 14, Feb 25, Apr 8, May 20
- I am willing to host one of the Moms' Meet-ups in my home (typically have 15-20 moms).
- Circle possibilities: Sep 10, Oct 22, Dec 3, Jan 14, Feb 25, Apr 8, or May 20
- I am willing to host the Newcomer Orientation meet-up on Sep 6 in my home.
- I am willing to host the Encouragement for All meet-up on Nov 13 in my home.
- I am willing to host the Encouragement for All meet-up on Feb 5 in my home.

Other Areas of Service

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Volunteer Coordinator | Jessika L. |
| Master Calendar | Pauli H. |
| Yearbook Coordinator | Julie C. |
| Yearbook Sales | _____ |
| Yearbook Proofreader | _____ |
| Activity Group Coordinator(s), Pre-K/Primary | _____ |
| Activity Group Coordinator(s), Grades 4-5 | _____ |
| Activity Group Coordinator(s), Grades 6-8 | _____ |
| Teen Group Coordinator(s) | _____ |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Tasha W. |
| Home Education/Curriculum Consultant | Jean K. |
| Park Day Coordinator | Brianna D. |
| Prayer Coordinator | Loa W. |
| Mentor Coordinators | Denise D. & Loa W. |

- I can be a mentor for:
- one mom OR a small group of moms.
- I would like to have a mentor:
- personally OR with a small group of moms.
- I am currently serving as _____
- I am willing to serve in an area not listed: _____

Volunteer Options for Events and Field Trips

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Sep 22, 2018 | Kick-Off Coordinator | ___ Helper ___ | Games Scott D. |
| Nov 16 | Thanksgiving Breakfast/Service Projects Coordinator(s) | ___ Helper ___ | |
| Fall, Spring | Retirement Home Program Coordinator/Fall | ___ Coordinator/Spring | |
| Feb 14, 2019 | Valentine's Day Party Coordinator | ___ Helper ___ | |
| March | Homesteader Expo | _____ | |
| April 15-19 | CIMI (Catalina Island Marine Institute) | | Linda K. |
| Fall | School Photos | | Allison H. |
| Fall | Pumpkin Patch, Lane Farms, Goleta Avila Valley Barn, San Luis Obispo | | Brianna D.
Tasha W. |
| Spring | Spring Tea Coordinator | _____ | |
| June | Used Curriculum Sale Coordinator | _____ | |
| TBD | Family Campout | | Linda K. |
| TBD | Couples' Dinners Coordinator | Viviane Helper ___ | |
| TBD | Amtrak Trip | _____ | |
| TBD | Blueberry Picking or Nature Hike | _____ | |

I am willing to organize the following event or field trip (possibilities include Moms' Overnight, Father/Son Event, Whale Watching, Science Fair): _____

Please mark one Graduation task

Volunteer Options for Graduation

June 7/8, 2019 Graduation/Promotion Rehearsal/Ceremony

Rehearsal

- Processional Helper (for Friday & Saturday) _____
- Food Prep _____

Reception

- Coordinator (with guidance from Viviane M.) _____
- Assistant to Coordinator _____
- Set Up _____
- Clean Up _____
- Yearbook Distribution _____

Flowers

- Assembly of Corsages, June 6 (training available) _____

(Parents of Senior Graduates will choose specific assignments at parent graduation meeting in January.)

Please contact Jessika L. at jrenee.leonard@gmail.com with questions about this Volunteer Form.

Use reverse side to list additional ways you can serve SBCHI, including field trips, events or ideas for Moms' meetings.