

P.E.A.R.L. HOME EDUCATORS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009-2010

Mission Statement:

This group is a private interdenominational association established to provide educational enrichment, Christian fellowship, and support for families consisting of heterosexual parent(s) and their homeschooled children.

Statement of Faith:

We Believe the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes His completed and final revelation to man. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole and in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details. God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God come in human flesh being fully God and fully man, except without sin. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act, and are therefore under His wrath and just condemnation. The central purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross, the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection. Salvation is to individual faith, not trusting in any person's works whatsoever, but the sacrificial death of Jesus alone. We believe God Himself, as established in Genesis chapter 2, ordained the institution of marriage between man and woman.

Group Purpose:

- To honor Christ as an organization, with all activities and publications consistently and forthrightly Christian to the glory of the Lord and to provide encouragement for families who choose home education
- To keep the group informed of any pertinent homeschool current events such as seminars, conferences, and legal issues
- To facilitate family socials, educational field trips, and group activities for our children
- To provide an atmosphere for exchange of teaching techniques and curriculum information, as well as Christian fellowship through meetings, newsletters, and phone calls
- To promote homeschooling in our community as an attractive educational alternative

Discipline Policy:

Our main concerns are safety of our children, respect of other's property, and the reputation of our group and homeschoolers in general. Therefore, we believe that a high standard of behavior, for both parents and children, should be maintained as a testimony to others and that parents should monitor their children's behavior at all times. If a child displays disruptive behavior such as disrespect, rudeness, and unruly conduct (i.e. hitting, shoving, spitting) or offensive language, he/she will be advised of the appropriate behavior. If disruptive behavior continues, the parent will be notified and asked to monitor the child. If a third offense occurs, the child will be asked not to come to the next activity or event. At this point, a disciplinary panel of fathers from among the P.E.A.R.L. membership will handle the problem. PLEASE NOTE THAT A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED FOR FIGHTING AND/OR BRANDISHING A WEAPON. ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO SHALL BE PERMITTED. A DISCIPLINARY PANEL OF P.E.A.R.L. FATHERS WILL HANDLE THESE VIOLATIONS.

Dress Code:

It is not our desire to become legalistic regarding student/parent attire. However, because we represent homeschooling in general and want to set high standards, we do require that members adhere to the following guidelines at PEARL functions:

- No facial piercings of any kind may be worn (excludes earrings).
- No bare midriffs. Please wear a top long enough to cover the top of the pants.
- No extremely baggy pants showing underwear. Underwear should never be seen.
- No suggestive, offensive, vulgar, or inappropriate pictures or writing on clothing.
- No short shorts or skirts. Skirts should be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee.

Definition of Homeschooling:

Since July 2007, with the appearance of Georgia Virtual Academy (GVA), the definition of Homeschooling has been in question. For our intents and purposes, homeschooling is defined as a privately funded, parent directed program of study that is in compliance with the Home Study Laws of Georgia. It does not include Government Funded school-at-home programs such as GVA. However, GVA families will not be excluded from membership provided that they do not currently participate in any other GVA specific support group, are in compliance with all PEARL rules and regulations, and have a student enrolled in K5-12th grade. If at any time it becomes necessary to exclude GVA families, PEARL leadership retains the right to dissolve membership of GVA users.

Using Georgia Virtual Academy:

Georgia Virtual Academy Users are enrolled in a public funded, government controlled, program of study. These users technically are not considered "homeschoolers" by the state of Georgia and are not subject to Home Study Law as defined in the Georgia Code. However, GVA users may join PEARL with the knowledge that we are a homeschool support group and will conduct ourselves as such. All meetings, fellowship and socialization through PEARL will be conducted in order to promote, support, and encourage privately funded, home based, parent directed, Christ centered education. It is the responsibility of GVA users to know the rules associated with being a GVA student. GVA students will not be allowed to participate in standardized testing conducted by PEARL. GVA students will not be accepted if they are participating in a GVA organized support group.

Membership Requirements/Guidelines:

1. Each family must be currently teaching at least one student in K-4 through 12th grade during the current year and be in compliance with the laws of the state of Georgia regarding home study programs. GVA families must have a K5-12th grade student enrolled in the program and comply with those school-at-home regulations.
2. Payment of annual dues along with signed statement of faith. Dues will only be refunded prior to September 1, 2009.
3. Promote unity within the group through words and conduct.
4. Participate in planning at least one event/activity (Mandatory: Please see following page).
5. Promote a high standard of home education both inside and outside of the group.
6. Obey discipline policy at all group activities.

Activities/Services Provided:

1. Monthly Activities
2. Website and e-group
3. Six Hour Reading Program for free Six Flags tickets (K-6th grade)
4. Swap Board
5. Commencement & Reception
6. Parent Meetings in order to provide fellowship and support
7. HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) discount (Contact Donna Moseley at chocodonut@netzero.net)

Group Day Activities:

Activities designated as Group Day Activities would be any activity that is planned at a specific location on our Weekly Group Day Schedule. This may include Holiday Parties, Academic Events, per fee classes, and Social Activities. All members are expected to help with clean up after each activity, and to leave the facility in better condition that when we arrive. Class rooms, meeting rooms and bathrooms must be clean, trash taken out, lights turned out, and doors locked if necessary. You may be asked to serve on a clean-up rotation.

Prospective Members:

Parents who are currently homeschooling at least one child may attend group activities for up to thirty days before committing to the group and may participate in any activities or meetings (excluding any extracurricular classes which are for P.E.A.R.L. members only). If the parent is not currently homeschooling at least one child, then we ask that you only attend the support group meeting. After the thirty-day trial period, we ask that you please let us know of your decision to join the support group for the rest of the current school year.

Dues (Fee is per family, not per child for new and existing members.):

Please remit to: Mrs. Maria Jones
5133 Fawn Lane
Conyers, GA 30094

New Members

Joining before Dec. 31, 2009.....	\$45
Joining after Dec. 31, 2009	\$25

Renewing Members

Renewing before Aug. 1, 2009.....	\$30
Renewing after Aug. 1, 2009.....	\$40
Renewing after Jan. 1, 2010.....	\$25

(August 1st is the cut off date to receive applications/dues in order to remain on Yahoo! Groups, Calling Post, and the Roster. As always, you may join at anytime, and we will add you to these items as soon as we receive your application and dues.)

NOTE: Submit this page with your application fee to apply for membership.

P.E.A.R.L. HOME EDUCATORS 2009-2010 Membership Application

Please indicate how many years you have been educating at home:

This is my first year of home education: _____ **OR** I have been home educating for _____ years.

Please indicate if you are currently using or planning to use Georgia Virtual Academy this school year. YES NO
(If you check YES, please read Using Georgia Virtual Academy on the previous page.)

Yes, I would like to join P.E.A.R.L. for the school year of _____ to _____. I do agree with the Statement of Faith, Guidelines, Rules of Conduct, and will adhere to them. **PLEASE NOTE:** In two-parent homes, *both* parents must sign in order to process the application.

Father's Name: _____ Father's Signature: _____
(Please print) ___ Yes, I may be called upon to participate in a disciplinary panel of 3 to 4 fathers, if needed.

Mother's Name: _____ Mother's Signature: _____
(Please print) ___ Yes, I would be willing to host a PIN mtg. (Parents' Information Night) at my home/church.

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell (optional): _____ E-mail Address: _____

It is our intent to post names, phone numbers & email addresses (no other information) on the password protected member's area of the website. If you do not want to be posted, please check (NO _____). *Please realize that this may make contacting you more difficult in an emergency.*

List children's names and birth dates. **Please indicate homeschoolers with an asterisk (*)** - (K-4 through 12th grade):

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED

PLEASE NOTE: Each family is expected to serve the group by planning one PEARL sponsored event or activity during the year, but may plan more than one event or activity, if desired. This year, we will form committees to plan our Social and Academic EVENTS and our FIELD TRIPS. *First year home educators are exempt from all planning requirements.* Please indicate your preference for either the EVENTS committee or the FIELD TRIP committee by circling your choice. I would like to serve on:

EVENTS Committee

FIELD TRIP Committee

Board members will be available to answer questions and to help facilitate the planning; however, it is the responsibility of the individual members to carry out those intended arrangements. In case of emergency, it is the assigned member's responsibility to find a replacement to lead an activity. Failure to perform assigned duties will be reviewed by the Board. Consequences will be levied on a case by case basis subject to Board recommendations.

All P.E.A.R.L. members are considered part of the Benevolence Committee, the purpose of which is to provide support and a spirit of sisterhood during times of stress, trauma, or change, as well as food and other help as needed when there is a new baby, job loss, death in family, or illness of either the mother or one that requires the mother's attention.

It is important for us to have updated information about our members' legislators to prepare for Capitol Day. Here is a space for you to write down this information. Voter Registration numbers have been included to make this as convenient as possible.

Rockdale: 770-785-5947

Newton: 770-784-2055

Henry: 770-954-2021

State Senator: _____ State Representative: _____

You may also go to www.congress.org and enter your zip code to find your elected officials and their contact information.

❖ I have read and agree with the disciplinary code. Initialing is mandatory for membership. _____