**Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR)**

Membership Packet

2016 - 2017

Welcome HEAR Member,

We are excited you will be joining the HEAR group this year. HEAR is a wonderful way to connect with other homeschool families in the area.

HEAR offers members so many opportunities to connect - field trips, co-op, fairs and other events. The Board of Directors have planned several events for our group already. *Members are welcome to serve and coordinate events as they feel led.* Please feel free to contact the HEAR Leaders if you would like to lead an event. We'll be glad to communicate the event through the website and assist you in planning.

Included in this packet is a membership form along with other required forms. We do ask that you seriously read our Statement of Purpose and Belief and the HEAR Code of Conduct before requesting HEAR membership.

Your annual membership dues of $30 are for your entire household. *Dues included with membership applications received no later than August 31st will only be $25 as part of an early bird special!*

Membership is on an annual basis so both new and returning members need to complete a packet and pay the current annual dues at the beginning of each fiscal year in August. Please complete these forms and bring them with you to the Annual Kick-Off Event. If you are unable to attend the event, you can submit completed forms and the annual dues in the amount of $30 ($25 from August 1st to August 31st) to the Membership Director, Beth Lassitter, or mail them to:

**HEAR**
**PO Box 792**
**Roxboro, NC 27573**

Checks should be made payable to HEAR.

You will receive a membership card and will be invited to be a member of our HEAR Facebook page once your form is processed. **The back of your membership card will have your password in bold which will grant you access to the Members' Page on our HEAR website.** The Members' Page has an event calendar, notices, Membership Directory, Newsletters, Directory of Businesses (tutors, music teachers, etc.) and more.

Please visit our website, www.roxborohomeeducators.org, after our Kick-off Meeting on August 25th to register for our events.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the HEAR Membership Director, Beth Lassitter, at ealassitter@hotmail.com or HEAR Leaders, Steven & Susan Byerly, at 336.599.9495 or email@roxborohomeeducators.org

Welcome and we look forward to another fantastic year!

*Please note that HEAR programs and events are based on participation and volunteers. Events may be cancelled or not offered in future years if HEAR is unable to obtain volunteers to coordinate programs or if attendance is low.*

# Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR)

## Statement of Purpose and Belief

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The Home Educators of Roxboro was founded in the fall of 1988 as a support group for Christian home educators in the Roxboro, North Carolina area. HEAR, from its conception, was formed upon the principles and commands found in the Holy Scriptures (i.e. the Bible). We provide support for one another in an effort to help each family grow in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and to walk out their calling as a family according to God's Holy Word. This purpose, by its very nature, sets us apart from organizations of a secular nature.

As an increasing number of families seek alternative means of educating their children in the coming months and years ahead, we believe that a tremendous growth will occur in home education. As these families seek out support groups to help them get started, we believe that it is imperative that we as HEAR members are open and honest as to where we stand and to whose calling we are responding. If these people then choose to be a part of our group, then they will do so having the full knowledge of our stand for Christ Jesus. Should a family or families decide that they cannot agree to our "Statement of Purpose and Belief" then they can begin a support group with others of like mind or receive help from NCHE or HEAR members outside of the group setting.

In obedience to the Scripture: "…then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being in one spirit and purpose…." (Phil. 2:2 NIV), we of the Home Educators Association of Roxboro have purposed that our support group be consistently and forthrightly Christian. We believe that it is essential that everyone be "like-minded" if our group is to function harmoniously.

Therefore, it is vital that all be aware of the foundation on which this group is built. Implications of this are as follows: HEAR will not allow any activities, presentations, witnessing, literature or communications within the group that are in opposition to the following statements of belief, either directly or indirectly, stated or implied, in whole or in part:

- The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and 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 is 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 eternal 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.

- A Christian is one who confesses with his or her mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believes in his or her heart that God has raised Him from the dead as outlines in Romans 10:10.

(Please retain for your records)

# Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR)

## Code of Conduct

Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR) is a support group dedicated to biblical and quality home education for our children. Our goal is to support, nurture, and encourage the Christian homeschooling family. HEAR desires to protect and preserve the family by providing opportunities for growing, playing and learning together with other families.

We believe it is the parents' responsibility to shape the Godly character and guide the Christian education of their child/children. In accordance with that belief, all parents and students are expected to represent our Lord, and HEAR, with the highest standards of integrity and Christian character. In accordance with this belief, all members must:

- Demonstrate behavior above reproach
- Be courteous, considerate, cooperative and respectful.

Therefore, at all HEAR related functions we require the following rules to be observed by all in attendance (members, nonmembers, adults and children):

- No Profanity
- No Smoking*
- No Drugs or Alcohol
- No Fighting
- No Slander
- No Coarse Jesting or Hurtful Language

*Adults of legal smoking age are asked to please do so in designated areas and away from the group due to health and safety concerns.

Knowing that each student is an image-bearer of the Lord, we would like to stress modesty in dress and appearance. Parents are encouraged to teach students how to look their best and how their appearance affects others and honors Christ.

- No bare midriffs
- No low-cut necklines
- No short shorts or skirts;
- Keep your underwear under your wear

We ask that our young men and young ladies treat each other with respect and refrain from flirtatious behavior. Each family has the right and responsibility to address relationships and dating according to their own convictions however, HEAR does not promote or allow any public display of affection at HEAR related functions.

**Children's Responsibility**

- Be responsive and respectful to leadership.
- Sit quietly and listen when you are a part of the audience.
- Do not run or yell when you are inside a building or in a crowd.

**Parent's Responsibility**

- We expect our members to read all important governing documents so they understand to what they are agreeing to by signing the membership application form.
- We expect our members to submit to the authority of HEAR's decision making body, its Board of Directors.
- We expect that our members will not offer any activities, presentations, witnessing, literature or communications within the group that are in opposition to the HEAR Statement of Purpose of Belief.

## CODE OF CONDUCT
(continued)

- Participation in HEAR activities is voluntary. Activities are provided for the benefit and mutual support of the homeschool group. Renewing members are encouraged to serve on a committee for at least one activity during the school year.

- HEAR expects members take responsibility for their child/children during the HEAR functions. If a member is unable to accompany their child, the member must make specific arrangements with another adult HEAR member who will be responsible for their child.

- Members should call to cancel if unable to attend an event in which they have registered. Fees are non-refundable except at the discretion of the event coordinator.

- Be prompt when attending functions.

- Be attentive to speakers during HEAR functions and group activities.

- Out of respect for members' privacy, we ask that our members not share the directory information including email addresses. Members please do not solicit other members. For business purposes, members may advertise their personal business in designated areas. Please ask permission of the member before emailing, forwarding or advertising to them.

**Resolution**

- Members should follow the Biblical model in resolving conflicts as found in Matthew 18:15-17. If you have a disagreement with another member you should approach the individual respectfully with your concerns. If that is not effective, you may ask the board members to assist you in resolving the conflict by mediating or by acting as witnesses in the conflict. Our aim is for peace among our membership, and we expect that all members will "...make every effort to live in peace with all." Hebrews 12:14. If your conflict is with the HEAR board and/or its policies, you may ask the board for a hearing.

- If a child is misbehaving in an offensive, harmful or destructive manner, we ask that the situation be immediately brought to the attention of his/her parent or guardian in a respectful manner to allow the parent the opportunity to resolve the matter appropriately. Members should not discuss the matter among themselves or on social forums.

- A child and guardian/parent can be asked to leave an activity by the event coordinator or a board member if the parent/guardian fails to correct disruptive or harmful behavior or if the behavior continues regardless of correction.

- The HEAR Board has the right to act in the best interest of the group and suspend a child and/or parent(s) from attending HEAR activities for a specified period if disruptive or harmful behavior continues to be a problem at any HEAR function or activities (even if the parent intervenes).

When we are attending activities as a group, our behavior reflects not only on the individual families but on HEAR as well. We ask that all members and guest of members respect the beliefs of HEAR as set forth in the HEAR Statement of Purpose and Belief and agree to adhere to the HEAR Code of Conduct.

(Please retain for your records)

# Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR)

## Social Media Etiquette

Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR) uses social media sites like Facebook and/or Yahoo Groups for relationship building, getting messages out to our members, and posting events and activities for members. In this document, forum refers to forums, boards, networking sites and any other social media sites used by the HEAR group. Please review the following guidelines for posting messages and having conversations on the message board.

### Who can join a HEAR group forum?

Joining a HEAR group forum is one of the benefits of being a HEAR member. You must be an active parent/guardian HEAR member to join a forum. Membership applications are processed during the month of August. All members (new and renewing) must submit applications every year. The Communication Director will update the forum(s) membership based on the active members for the current year. Nonmembers who are considering joining HEAR may be added to the group during the summer months by the forum administrator to allow them to view one of the benefits of becoming a HEAR member.

### Are children/students allowed to join a forum?

A group forum exists for our home educators to openly discuss and encourage one another. At times, that includes discussing a student's needs. Allowing students to participate on the forum potentially stifles open dialogue between our adult members. A parent would be reluctant to discuss a student's needs knowing the student's peers are able to view the discussion. For this reason, only the educator is allowed to join the forum(s).

### May I sell my curriculum on a forum?

Yes. We encourage our members to share experiences, tips, advice and upcoming events with one another. It is also perfectly acceptable to offer fellow HEAR members the opportunity to purchase your curriculum and/or learning aids on a forum. Please do not promote personal businesses on a forum. There is a file on our HEAR website which notifies HEAR members of personal businesses within our group.

### May I promote my personal business on the forum?

HEAR has a file on the members page of the HEAR website which lists businesses operated by fellow HEAR members. This is the appropriate place to promote a business.

### Political Posts

It is most important that we respect one another including differences of opinions. We ask that members refrain from sharing all political information unless it specifically directly relates to homeschooling. For example, political campaign information is not appropriate to share on the forum; however information about a bill being presented for a vote which directly impacts homeschool law would be appropriate to share.

### HEAR Conflict Resolutions

The HEAR Board and Leaders are volunteers and work diligently to provide activities for the group. Concerns and complaints about HEAR procedures, events, activities and such should be shared directly with a board member and/or leader and not posted on a forum. Please allow the leaders to resolve a matter before sharing grievances throughout the HEAR community whether through verbal communication or social media sites.

# Social Media Etiquette
(continued)

## Member Conflict Resolutions

Members should follow the Biblical model in resolving conflicts as found in Matthew 18:15-17. You should approach the individual respectfully with your concerns if you have a disagreement with another member. If that is not effective, you may ask the board members to assist you in resolving the conflict by mediating or by acting as witnesses in the conflict. Our aim is for peace among our membership and we expect that all members will "...make every effort to live in peace with all." Hebrews 12:14. It is never appropriate to post information regarding a conflict on a forum.

HEAR cannot regulate what a member puts on his or her personal account; however we respectfully ask that you be considerate when posting information even on your own account. Again, the goal is for peace among our membership and posting comments about other members or their children does not promote peace regardless of whether you directly or indirectly name the person to which you are referring.

## General Etiquette

Typing in all capital letters is considered yelling.

Please be respectful of boundaries and how much personal information you share.
Keep things respectful and never use language you would not want your children to hear.
Remember your face does not show and words alone may not convey your intention. Please give one another the benefit of the doubt. When posting, please try to be as descriptive as possible.
Posts that are not in compliance with the above guidelines will be deleted by the forum administrator.

Thank you for being respectful and courteous of fellow members. Our group forum has been a positive benefit for our members and we hope it will continue to be so.

(Please retain for your records)

# Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR)

## 2016-2017 HEAR Membership Form

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HEAR is a Christian support group dedicated to biblical and quality home education for our children. Our goal is to support, nurture, and encourage the Christian homeschooling family. Before submitting your completed application for membership, please carefully read and consider the HEAR Statement of Purpose and Belief and HEAR Code of Conduct.

New Members and renewing members must complete this form to ensure information is current. This form should be submitted to HEAR with your [ ] Annual Dues [ ] Waiver of Liability and [ ] Photograph/Video Permission Form. Annual dues for the 2016 – 2017 year are $30.00, however during the month of *August they are $25.00*.

Parents' or Guardians' Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State_____ Zip _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____ Secondary E-mail Address: _____

Years homeschooling: _____ New Member ☐ Returning Member ☐

Please list your children (additional children can be listed on the back of this form)

| Childs Name | Birth Date | Currently Homeschooling (circle below) |
|---|---|---|
| | | Y or N |
| | | Y or N |
| | | Y or N |
| | | Y or N |
| | | Y or N |

**In order to better meet your needs, please answer the following:**

Would you like to have an experienced homeschooler contact you to answer questions you may have? Yes ☐ No ☐

What curriculum/curricula do you primarily use?_____

_____

**Do you have a graduating senior and plan to participate in the HEAR graduation? Yes ☐ No ☐**

Special-Needs Child ☐ Needs of Child: _____

**I have read and agree to respect the HEAR Statement of Purpose and Belief and adhere to the HEAR Code of Conduct and am requesting our family become HEAR members on this date, the_____day of _____, 2016.**

**Signature of Parent/Guardian**_____

Dues Paid by: ☐ check ☐ cash Amount Paid: _____ Dues submitted to Treasurer on: _____

Form entered in database: _____ Membership Card Mailed: _____

# Waiver of Liability

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I understand that participation in all HEAR activities is voluntary. Therefore, any loss or injury suffered by me or my family, or to my property or my family's property because of our participation in any activity, whether sponsored or unsponsored, formal or informal, or shared or alone, is my sole responsibility and the sole responsibility of my family members. The Home Educators Association of Roxboro, its Board members, and coordinators will not be held liable for any such loss or damage to me, or my family members, or my property, or my family's property.

I have read the above agreement, understand and accept its terms and consequences, and freely, voluntarily, and knowingly sign this waiver. This waiver will cover all HEAR members and anyone that is not a member that participates in any HEAR activity for the 2016-2017 school year.

The undersigned hereby declares that the terms of this waiver has been completely read and are fully understood and voluntarily accepted.

Please list the names of each of your family members below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

I have read and understand all of the above on this date, the_____day of _____, 2016.

Signature of Parent/Guardian_____

*Submit this form with your Membership Application*

# Home Educators Association of Roxboro (HEAR)

## Photograph/Video Permission Form

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Throughout the year the HEAR Support Group may be taking pictures or videos of your child/children and you at HEAR activities to be used for informational, instructional, and promotional purposes. By filling out and signing the form below, you are giving permission for photographs or videos of you and your child/children to be taken and used as described above.

Parents' or Guardians' Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State_____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

Child/Children's Name(s):

_____ age- _____

_____ age - _____

_____ age - _____

_____ age - _____

_____ age - _____

_____ age - _____

I have read and understand all of the above on this date, the_____day of _____, 2016.

Signature of Parent/Guardian_____

*Submit this form with your Membership Application*

*HEAR P.O. Box 792, Roxboro, NC 27573*