

WHO WE ARE

Homesteaders began in 1990 as a ministry of Columbia Presbyterian Church, with just a few families. In 2016, Homesteaders became an independent, non-profit ministry, and continues to grow. Our membership is open to homeschooling Christian women who are active participants of Bible-believing churches. As a group, we are unified in our purpose of honoring Jesus and educating our children at home by encouraging and supporting one another.

MAIN PURPOSES

- ◆ To provide a God-honoring, supportive community for Christian mothers where home education can be learned and taught, and where a variety of educational activities can be shared among our children in an atmosphere of Christian love and discipline.
- ◆ To provide opportunities for God-glorifying friendships among our children and ourselves.

HOW WE WORK

We expect each member to attend our Moms' Support Night meetings as a key component of our care for each other. God has created us with unique gifts, so we trust that He will provide the right people to meet the needs of the group each year. Therefore, each member is expected to serve on a committee.

PREVIEW

Please note that prior to joining Homesteaders, all potential members are required to visit two Moms' Support Night meetings during the school year to determine if Homesteaders is a good fit. While Moms' Support Night meetings are open to visitors from September through April, all other official Homesteader events (special events, field trips, etc.) are open to members only.

INTERVIEW

In an effort to preserve the Christian foundation and emphasis of our ministry, visitors who are interested in membership must request and complete an interview with the Membership Interview Coordinator prior to recommendation for membership. During the interview, we will look for evidence of saving faith in Jesus and discuss the commitments that are involved in membership.

OBLIGATION

Members are expected to actively volunteer their service on one committee and to attend monthly Support Night meetings. Other activities are optional.

SUPPORT

Our New Member Support committee is dedicated to supporting our newest members, helping them navigate homeschooling and network within our group.



Foundational Committees

MOMS' SUPPORT NIGHT

Moms meet once a month to worship together, fellowship, encourage each other, and pray for one another. The monthly program typically includes a brief worship time, a devotion, a teaching tip, and prayer time. On occasion, there will be allotted time to work with your committees.

Moms' Support Night is a critical part of Homesteaders; therefore, moms are expected to attend as part of their commitment to the group. From August to May, meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at Columbia Presbyterian Church from 7:00 to 9:00 pm (we do not meet in December). Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting from September to April, but our August and May meetings are reserved for members only.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our membership keeps in contact via email and through forums on our website. This site contains our events calendar, official documents, links to homeschool resources, etc.

HOMESTEADERS WEBSITE

www.homesteadershomeschool.org
(Limited access for non-members)

Standing Committees

Our standing committees plan and support many worthwhile activities which are optional. Families can choose what level of involvement best furthers their personal goals for homeschooling.

SERVICE PROJECTS: This committee creates opportunities for families to participate in service to our homeschooling community and beyond such as Operation Linus blanket making, lunches for Grassroots, encouraging active-duty military, etc.

***RADIUS:** An optional, co-op based academic instructional program for grades 6-12 which takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Homesteaders hosts several optional fun events and fellowship opportunities for the entire family. Members look forward each year to activities such as the annual winter luncheon and our premier end-of-the-year event, the Share Fair.

RADIUS EVENTS: This committee encourages community among the Radius-aged students by offering events ranging from casual times of fellowship around a bonfire to highly anticipated milestones like the High School Gala. The committee seeks to offer at least 5-6 events throughout the year.

FIELD TRIPS: Numerous field trips are planned to enrich and augment academic subjects taught at home. Special emphasis is placed on programs and trips that are specially designed for school groups, including docent-led tours where applicable. Trips are planned for a variety of ages. All trips are optional and are open to members only.

***SPOKES:** SPOKES stands for Special Programs of Kids' Enrichment and Support. These classes meet on Friday afternoons. They accommodate special interests, address specialized academic needs, and encourage friendships within small groups of students. Recent class offerings have included art, MD state history, Legos, science, P.E., and much more. SPOKES is entirely run by Homesteaders members; parents (and occasionally mature teens) teach all classes.

HOMESCHOOL RESOURCES: This committee helps families utilize tools and opportunities available for homeschooling.

** New members may join Homesteaders from May through December. Optional registration for SPOKES and Radius classes occurs at regularly scheduled registration periods for these programs. See bookmark for more details.*