

# BYLAWS AND POLICIES

## EAGLE'S NEST CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (ENCHEA)

### 1) PURPOSE

The purpose of Eagles' Nest Christian Home Educators Association (ENCHEA) is to provide support to Christian home educators in Coweta County and surrounding areas. Support includes but is not limited to:

- a) Planning social and educational activities and field trips for students
- b) Promoting better communication through newsletters, special mailings and phone messages
- c) Planning family activities
- d) Providing information on the legal status and climate of education in the State of Georgia
- e) Providing support and information to new and existing home educators through the medium of small groups

### 2) MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership eligibility shall be open to Christian home educating families in the Coweta County area. For the purposes of this organization, a family is recognized as husband and wife, male and female, with one or more children. Single parent family situations due to death, divorce, etc. may also be recognized. Homosexual relationships and co-habitational unmarried relationships are contrary to scripture and as such are not eligible for membership in ENCHEA. (Eph 5:22-33, Mat 19:3-8, Rom 1:26-27)
- b) Members must be in full compliance with home education laws in the State of Georgia. Failure to comply may result in expulsion from ENCHEA.
- c) The organizational quality of ENCHEA is directly related to the common values shared by its members. To maintain this cohesiveness, the Board reserves the right to deny or revoke membership to any individual or family who does not subscribe to the Statement of Faith or other values and requirements set forth in these bylaws. The Board may also deny or revoke membership to any individual or family if the Board determines that such membership is, or would be detrimental to the purposes stated in these by-laws and/or violate the principles reflected in the statement of faith. Although ENCHEA is a Christian organization, it is recognized that not all Christian homeschool families will choose to accept ENCHEA membership requirements.
- d) The Board may set a limit on the maximum number of members allowed to enter the Association if it is felt that the membership is so large that it is reducing the quality of the programs. This may be done with a majority vote of the Board.

### **3) STATEMENT OF FAITH**

All ENCHEA applicants will confirm agreement with the Statement of Faith by their signature on the membership application.

- a) ENCHEA is a Christ-centered organization, all aspects of which seek to honor biblical principles and bring glory to His name.
- b) We, the members of ENCHEA, in order to build the body of Christ, establish righteousness and justice, strengthen the family, spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, promote Christian ethical and moral behavior, secure the blessing of the covenant of the Lord Jesus Christ by obedience to His commandments, and ensure that our children will be a godly legacy, do ordain and establish this statement of faith:
  - i) We believe that God has existed for all eternity as Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
  - ii) We believe that Jesus Christ is the only eternally begotten Son of God, who took on human flesh remaining fully God and fully man, yet without sin, and that He is the image of the invisible God.
  - iii) We believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant work of God, and is the only infallible guide for our daily life, and that we are born again by the living and abiding Work of God.
  - iv) We believe that salvation is offered as a gift, free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to in individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.
  - v) We believe that our children are gifts from God and that as parents we are fully responsible for educating them, instilling godly character within them, and training them by instruction and example to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves.

### **4) ENCHEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a) The ENCHEA Board of Directors ("the Board") shall be responsible for the administration of ENCHEA business. The Board will meet a minimum of once per quarter, with special sessions scheduled as necessary. The Board shall consist of at least three families and not more than five. Although it is beneficial and preferable for both husband and wife to actively participate, it is acceptable for an individual to fill the role with the full support of his/her spouse. Each Board family shall have one vote. No more than two families from the same small group may serve simultaneously. A quorum must be present for a vote of the Board. A quorum will exist when at least 50% of the registered voting members are present. All votes will be decided by a majority which will consist of over half of the quorum.
- b) The Board shall appoint the following officers:
  - i) Chairman
  - ii) Treasurer
  - iii) Secretary
  - iv) Co-op Administrator

v) Small Group Coordinator

A Board member/family may hold more than one position, however each Board member/family will have only one vote.

- c) Qualification for Board membership:
- i) Subscribe to the Statement of Faith and all aspects of the bylaws.
  - ii) Have home schooled for at least one year and be currently homeschooling at least one child.
  - iii) Possess a proven record of active involvement in Eagles' Nest or a small group.
  - iv) Agree to serve for a term of twelve months. A term shall begin on October 1 and end on September 30.
- d) A Board member may nominate a candidate(s) to replace a vacated Board position. Nominees shall be listed in the ENCHEMA newsletter at least one month prior to a Board vote. Nominees shall be approved for Board membership by a majority vote of the existing members.
- e) Any Board member may be removed from the Board by unanimous vote of the remaining board members. The Board must consist of at least four families before such a vote can occur. Any Board member may be removed from the board by simple majority vote of ENCHEMA membership. This vote shall be exercised in the form of a petition with one vote per family.

## **5) NEWSLETTER**

A monthly newsletter will be published listing all scheduled activities and field trips for the month. Items should be submitted to the editor by the deadline, which will be announced in each newsletter. Advertisements for ENCHEMA members will be published at no charge, on a space available basis (business-card-size or smaller). Good and services offered by non-member businesses may be published, at the discretion of the editor, if they are considered to be in the general interest of Christian Home schooling.

## **6) SMALL GROUPS**

Small groups provide one outlet for social interaction for the Eagles' Nest members. Each group has its own schedule and will focus on curricular and/or social needs. Although each member is encouraged to actively participate in a small group, it is not a requirement of ENCHEMA membership. Opportunity to join a small group will be limited to the number of groups and available space within those groups.

## **7) FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

- a) All Eagle's Nest field trips and activities must be approved by the Board or the Field Trip Coordinator.
- b) Every student participating in a field trip must present a signed ENCHEMA permission slip to the trip coordinator, regardless of whether their parent is in attendance.
- c) Field trip participants must read and comply with ENCHEMA "Field Trip Guidelines" which is included in the application package.

## **8) CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES**

ENCHEA staff and volunteers shall be familiar with and comply with the Eagle's Nest Child Protection Guidelines.

## **9) FINANCE**

- a) The ENCHEA treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the current account status and providing financial reports to the Board. ENCHEA Co-ops will provide quarterly financial reports to the Board Treasurer for review. A Treasurer's report will be available to members upon request to the Board.
- b) Annual membership dues shall be established by the Board and adjusted as necessary on a yearly basis.
- c) All expenditures shall require Board approval.

## **10) CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

In keeping with our statement of purpose, ENCHEA strives to instill in all of its members exemplary conduct both in and out of the classroom. It is of the utmost importance that students and adults report misconduct to adult leadership so that effective corrective action can be taken. Failure to report unacceptable behavior will only serve to weaken the organization and to set a poor example for other students. Violations of the Conduct and Discipline Policy are grounds for disciplinary action as described herein. Our conduct reflects on ENCHEA and the homeschool community in general. Serious cases of misconduct could potentially result in suspension or ejection from the association.

- a) Students are not permitted to bring firearms, knives, BB or pellet guns to any event or activity.
- b) Students are not permitted to bring water pistols, sling shots, or similar toy-weapon items to any event or activity.
- c) Students are not permitted to use electronic devices (i.e., cell phone, radio, walkietalkie, game boy, pager, laser pointer, etc.) during classroom activities. Personal cameras are encouraged however, on field trips and other appropriate events.
- d) Students are not permitted to bring fireworks or other flammable materials to activities.
- e) Use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are not permitted at any ENCHEA event.
- f) Adults or Students will never use or permit the use of obscenities, racial slurs, or coarse, foul, or abusive language.
- g) Students will use manners and respect in all aspects of behavior to one another and to adult leadership. Display of poor manners will not be tolerated.
- h) ENCHEA students are expected to use good judgement not to engage in any activity that will unduly endanger another individual.

All students, staff and parents are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and courteous manner, and are expected to show proper respect to others at all times. In order to maintain orderly and effective classes and outings, certain disciplinary

actions may be occasionally necessary. No disciplinary action may be taken without another adult present. ENCHEA will use the following disciplinary actions to correct behavior when the behavior is judged inappropriate or disruptive. Depending upon the severity of the problem and the student's behavior history, the following disciplinary actions may be considered by the adult leadership:

- Verbal Warning and apology requested
- 15 minutes standing alone
- Removal from class or activity
- Written work
- Parent required to attend with student
- Student loses privileges (e.g., temporary restriction from classes/activities)
- ENCHEA membership revoked (requires Board vote).

The above detailed action steps may be accelerated based on the severity of the discipline problem, at the discretion of the Trip Coordinator and/or the Board.

## **11) AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

- a) Bylaws can only be amended by a quorum unanimous vote of the Board.
- b) Any ENCHEA member may submit suggested bylaws changes to the Board. Proposed changes must be published in the ENCHEA newsletter. No vote may take place until a period of at least thirty days from the mailing date of the newsletter in which the proposed changes were published.

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These by-laws were revised on June 19, 2004 by ENCHEA Board of Directors, Coweta County, Georgia.