

**ACTIVITY AND BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

**OF THE**

*irving***HOME***schoolers*

## Philosophy & Purpose

IrvingHOMEschoolers is a loosely-structured, all-inclusive group of homeschooling families from the Irving-Dallas-Fort Worth area. The purpose of our group is to offer activities and share resources to enhance and support the homeschooling experience. We are open to new and experienced homeschoolers alike. We welcome all people, regardless of sex, age, race, religion, or homeschooling program, including those families who are still exploring the homeschool option and seek further information about it.

We homeschool for many different reasons, but our shared goal is to fan the spark, the desire to learn, that all children are born with, and to provide a nurturing and loving environment to facilitate that learning. Toward this end we strive to be open-minded, tolerant, and tactful, and to be aware of and responsive to the needs of others in our group.

IrvingHOMEschoolers aims to provide a source of support, inspiration, and friendships for members of all homeschooling families in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

According to Article II, Section B., of the Bylaws of the irvingHOMEschoolers:

- Members will agree to abide by these Bylaws and any behavior guidelines adopted by the Board/Association.
- Members are expected not to engage in behavior that might disrepute upon the group or could jeopardize the welfare of our children. Such behavior will be subject to action at the discretion of the Board.

**In order to clarify the expectations of appropriate behavior, the following guidelines have been adopted.**

## **Guidelines for Adults**

1. We recognize that our group is made up of people from diverse backgrounds and that we homeschool in many different ways and for many different reasons. Our expectation is that everyone should be tolerant and tactful in their dealings with each other and be aware of, and responsive to, the needs of others in the group as much as possible.
2. We require that people do not smoke while at group activities, for the well being of all our children.
3. It is neither expected nor desirable that parents should discipline children other than their own, except in emergency situations.

## **Guidelines for Children**

1. We expect, and insist on, positive social behavior. We further believe that this insistence on positive social behavior must first come from, and be reinforced by, responsible and aware parents.
2. We ask that parents explain to their children that disruptive or harmful behavior (sand-throwing, spitting, hitting, biting, swearing, name-calling, teasing, taunting, etc.) by any child will be taken as a sign that the child is ready to leave, and that, if the behavior continues, the parent will indeed, simply and matter-of-factly, remove the child from the group. If the parent is unaware of a problem with her child's behavior, it is expected that other parents noticing the situation will notify the parent of the child. The understanding is that, although the child is not presently ready to engage in positive social interactions, he is welcome to come another time and try his skills again. By doing this we hope to:
  - a. Preserve the environment for the remainder of the children as a safe and harmonious place in which to play, learn, and make friends;
  - b. Reinforce in a concrete way the desirability of positive social behavior among the children; and place full responsibility for socialization where we feel that it belongs: with the parent, since no one else can reinforce expected and desirable social behavior as well as a child's parent.

## **ACTIVITY ATTENDANCE**

1. The majority of IrvingHOMEschoolers sponsored activities are open to IrvingHOMEschoolers members only. Specific activities which are open to visitors interested in home schooling or IrvingHOMEschoolers will be specified when the event/program is planned. If members would like to bring a guest to an IrvingHOMEschoolers activity, they must abide by all guidelines before being allowed to attend the activity.
2. If members have school-age children who are not home schooled, the children may participate in IrvingHOMEschoolers activities
3. For the safety and protection of the children, IrvingHOMEschoolers activities are not “drop-off” activities. Parents are expected to supervise their children at each activity, unless previous arrangements have been made with another parent to be responsible for them.

## **ACTIVITY REGISTRATION**

1. RSVPs are required for most planned events, all field trips, and youth activities.
2. If payment or deposit is required, it must be paid in full before the reservation or application is considered complete.
3. If circumstances prevent attending the event, refunds are not guaranteed, but will be made if possible. There will be no refunds for membership. There will be no refunds for activities dropped after activities have begun.
4. If unable to attend, members should notify the responsible coordinator. Failing to cancel RSVPs for field trips may require the group to wait or delay an activity unnecessarily.
5. Participants for field trips may be required to arrive early. This will be specified by the event coordinator. If early arrival is required, please follow instructions fully as this is important in order for field trips that require entrance as a group.

## **FIELD TRIP BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

1. IrvingHOMEschoolers events, all attendees are expected to demonstrate cooperation, courtesy, and respect for hosts, instructors, officials, adults, all other participants and each other.
2. During IrvingHOMEschoolers activities, parents will refrain from smoking. (This is for the health and safety of all of the children.)
3. Inappropriate subject matter, gestures, and/or language (i.e. abusive, crude, or obscene) will not be tolerated.
4. Verbal or physical attacks will not be tolerated.
5. Should any disputes arise, issues should be resolved in an appropriate time, place, and manner.
6. Youth will not engage in any public display of affection (i.e. pairing off, romantic type behavior, etc.)

## **DRESS GUIDELINES**

Members should dress appropriately, neatly and modestly, according to weather conditions and type of event. In the interest in group harmony, we ask that each individual consider carefully the wearing of any slogans, sayings, or ideas that might be deemed objectionable or offensive by other members.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

1. Two or more Board members may determine that a violation of guidelines has occurred.
2. Failure to comply with guidelines may result in the family being asked to leave the activity or field trip.
3. Any excessive or vicious attack, verbal or physical, will result in immediate ejection from the current activity.
4. Repeated or serious infractions of these guidelines may result in additional consequences as determined by the Board. Consequences may include restricting or revoking membership privileges.

## **Liability**

IrvingHOMEschoolers, its officers and members, specifically disclaim all responsibility for any liability, loss, injury or risk which is incurred as a direct or indirect result from participating in field trips, events, outings or any other social program which is set up by IrvingHOMEschoolers and its members.

## **Graduation Ceremony Guidelines**

Graduation ceremony guidelines are to be determined on an as needed basis.

## **Email Guidelines**

IrvingHOMEschoolers, in an effort to not distribute unwanted Email, has established an Email "LOOP". This loop is solely for the purpose of letting members know about current home school events, socials, field trips. This is NOT for passing jokes, advertising a business or any other literature that does not directly pertain to our group. The LOOP will be maintained by one board member. Members may send information to the LOOP for distribution.

IrvingHOMEschoolers also offers a once a month EMAIL SALE. The EMAIL SALE will be listed the 1st of each month and distributed via the LOOP. Items can be sold only at this time via email. This is set up to be an online garage sale. Please note: this is not for listing a home for sale or for advertising a business.