

# RED HOUSE HOMESCHOOL GROUP

*Exalt, Equip, Extend*



## MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

Red House Baptist Church

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# MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to exalt Christ, equip believers, and extend His kingdom. We support home education through enrichment classes and social opportunities for children and parents.

## ABOUT RED HOUSE HOMESCHOOL GROUP (RHHG)

### What is RHHG?

We are a group of Christian homeschool families that have joined together to supplement our children's education with weekly group activities. Group lessons are designed to enhance the child's at-home education - not replace it.

### Is religion involved?

Yes. RHHG was founded by Christian families and is a **ministry of Red House Baptist Church**. RHHG represents homeschoolers from a variety of Christian backgrounds, but we stand united in our faith and values. As a result, lessons may include or reflect Biblical teachings and values.

### Who can join RHHG?

RHHG does not require members be of the Christian faith to join. However, it's important for potential members to understand that all teaching at RHHG, both in and out of the classroom, is biblically based and encourages personal growth through faith in Jesus Christ. All members of RHHG, from youngest to oldest, are taught and encouraged to uphold biblical and moral lifestyle standards as outlined in the Bible. To preserve these standards, all new families must apply for enrollment and all families must agree to the **Statement of Faith** and **Code of Conduct**. **Enrollment is not a guarantee**. All families must apply for admission each year, the leadership team will meet to discuss and have final decision on acceptance into the homeschool group.

### What is my role in RHHG?

All parents are required to either teach, assist, or participate in some way. If a parent desires to teach, he/she is responsible for planning lessons and activities. He/she must also receive authorization from the RHHG Leadership Team and be in agreement with our teacher covenant. All others will be assigned a task in the group for that semester. Parental participation does not create an employment relationship and even the RHHG Leadership group are not employees of RHBC or the RHHG.

RHHG LEADERSHIP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY OR CANCEL MEMBERSHIP TO ANY FAMILY OR STUDENT. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE GUIDELINES IN THIS MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK, OR ANY DISPLAY OF DEFIANCE OR IRREVERENCE TOWARD THESE GUIDELINES, MAY RESULT IN PERMANENT LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP AND DUES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED.

## What RHHG is not.....

### **RHHG IS NOT a childcare service or school.**

A parent/guardian is required to remain at the facility and volunteer their time while their child is present. Childcare is provided for children preschool age and under for parents who are teaching a class or volunteering in another aspect of the group. Childcare is ONLY provided during those times, not for the entire group day. Parents of students who are driving on their own are required to volunteer by teaching or serving on a committee.

### **RHHG IS NOT just for children.**

RHHG desires to equip all its members with the skills and tools needed to learn throughout their lifetime. RHHG actively supports members through prayer, commitment, and the sharing of educational information and resources to promote excellence in homeschooling.

## TEACHERS/CLASSES AND ASSISTANTS

Teachers are to create appropriate lessons for each age/grade group within the group. Each teacher will provide a description of the class for each semester.

The role of the assistants is not only to provide aid to the teachers of each class, but to monitor the student's behavior in the class and during transition time between classes. Assistants are to allow for restroom and water breaks in between classes as needed, and insure that students arrive at their next class on time. They will be responsible for picking up the class binder, taking it to each class, and returning it at the end of the day.

## BEHAVIOR POLICY- Code of Conduct

All MEMBERS who attend RHHG will comply with the rules and regulations of this **MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK** and will submit to the reasonable discipline of the Leadership Team.

Children and parents are expected to be respectful of the Biblical principles of Red House Baptist Church (RHBC) and behave accordingly.

All members of RHHG are required to be respectful at all times. Abusive or hurtful language or behaviors will not be tolerated.

Incident reports will be completed by teachers and/or assistants for any occurrence in which a student was injured or in which behavior of a student became out of control. Parents will receive a copy of the incident report and a copy will remain on file for the leadership team. Any ongoing behavioral problems could warrant a permanent suspension from the group.

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

RHHG and RHBC take the safety of children seriously. All adults who work with children or have the potential to be left alone with child(ren) are required to submit to a background check. All background checks are consistent with those performed by RHBC and completed through the church.

## **DRESS CODE**

All parents and students are expected to adhere to common practices of modesty, cleanliness, and neatness, and to dress in such a manner as to contribute to the academic atmosphere. Any clothing, object, or writing on clothing that does not honor God and others or is otherwise disruptive to classes, is prohibited.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The use of electronic devices for students is prohibited during RHHG class time with the exception of in class use per direction of our teachers and assistants. This includes cell phones, laptops, tablets, and similar devices. Parents should silence cell phones and step outside in the case that the cell phone must be used. If a student is found using an electronic device, it will be removed from the student and returned after class.

## **BUILDING USE**

RHHG Members are to treat RHBC property with respect because it is the house of God. RHBC prohibits use of the premises for any activity that has the potential of damaging structures or causing bodily injury. Members will be held responsible for any damages caused by inappropriate actions. Students will not be permitted to roam freely in the church. Supervised play is permitted outdoors after lunch.

## **FEES**

RHHG charges a family registration fee each semester. The class fees cover class supply costs per semester. Some classes will require supplies that each student is responsible to provide (their own pen, pencil, art book, literature book, etc). Fees are listed on the RHHG Payment Form and the Class Registration Form. All fees are due when registering for classes.

## **REFUNDS:**

The family registration fee and class fees are nonrefundable.

## FORMS

RHHG has a mailbox located in the fellowship hall kitchen (beside the refrigerator). Forms may be mailed directly to the church with the envelope stating ATTN: Red House Homeschool Group or may be placed in the mailbox in the fellowship hall kitchen.

## ENROLLMENT

All families must enroll their children to participate in co-op. An Application for Enrollment, Background Check (must be updated every 5 years), Leadership and Teacher Covenant, Class Registration Form, Code of Conduct, Permission Slip/Liability Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement Form, and RHHG Payment Form will need to be submitted to RHHG Leadership. RHHG will only accept homeschooling families with children in Kindergarten (turning 5 by September 30<sup>th</sup>) through Grade 12. Sibling rooms are available for families who have children enrolled, but also have younger children. Parents of children under the age of 5 are expected to be in the sibling room unless they are teaching a class or are assisting in another classroom. An exception is made for our non-co-op family teachers who teach co-op classes. We will provide care for their child under age 5 for the time they are teaching a class. Children can only be enrolled in their age and/or grade level. Please refer to the Class Registration Form for the grade level and age level for the semester sign up.

## FOOD, LUNCH & CLEAN-UP

Due to severe nut allergies, Red House Baptist Church Childhood Ministry does **not allow nut products** in the children's wing of the church. For the safety of all children, make sure items brought into this area are nut free.

Members are welcome to bring a nut-free lunch and eat together in the fellowship hall.

MEMBERS are responsible for cleaning up their lunch area, including washing their table/chair if needed and putting all garbage in the trash. PARENT/GUARDIAN is to ensure that their child's lunch area is cleaned.

STUDENTS are to remain with their PARENT/GUARDIAN during the lunch period. PARENT/GUARDIAN is responsible for their own child(ren) during lunch. In the case of an emergency evacuation during the lunch hour, PARENT/GUARDIAN is responsible for making sure that their children are accounted for.

## SCHEDULE

RHHG meets Tuesday mornings. RHHG will start on time regardless if families are late in order that all other activities that day will stay on schedule. Please refer to the class schedule for details.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

RHHG will follow the MADISON COUNTY public school cancellations. If Madison County is on an one hour delay, RHHG start time will NOT be changed unless otherwise noted on the Facebook page. If Madison County is on a two hour delay, RHHG will cancel classes. Any cancellation will be posted to the RHHG Facebook page no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of Homeschool Group. <https://www.facebook.com/redhousehomeschoolgroup/>

## **FIELD TRIPS/OFF-SITE GROUP CLASSES**

Member behavior in the community reflects the values of RHHG. It is expected that members will behave in a manner consistent with behavior expected on any typical group day. Transportation to field trip locations is not provided.

## **UNSCHEDULED & SCHEDULED ABSENCE**

When families are unable to attend co-op, they need to notify leadership as soon as possible. Teachers need to keep a lesson plan in the binder so the assistant teacher can teach a lesson for the day.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

### **Fire:**

In the event of a fire or fire drill, teachers and assistants will escort the children in their class to the far side of the lower parking lot. All children must stay with their class.

Nursery classes are provided with an evacuation crib with reinforced casters. Up to six babies may be placed in these cribs and wheeled to the designated fire areas.

For fire evacuation, everyone will use the nearest exit and move to the far side of the lower parking lot. Everyone should remain in this location and not attempt to leave in their vehicles. This will allow open routes for emergency vehicles to do their jobs.

Parents of children should meet their children at the designated location (far side of the lower parking lot). Once all the children are accounted for and RHHG leadership has been informed that it is safe to leave the premise or return to the building, members of leadership will notify all parents and teachers that it is safe to leave the premise and/or enter the building. Parents must understand that the lead teacher may need the children to remain with the class until he/she has accounted for all the children and leadership has confirmed all children are accounted for in co-op. No parent should take their child from the class without the knowledge of the lead teacher.

Teachers and assistants should know the number of the children in their group at all times. If possible, in a fire or tornado emergency, assistances should bring the class binder with them to help account for everyone in their class. Clearing the building takes priority over fighting a fire.

**Tornado:**

In the event of a tornado WARNING for Madison County, everyone should move to the basement of the Fellowship Hall or Family Life Center. Basement areas with windows must not be used.

If a tornado warning is called, children will move to the basement with their teachers. Parents may accompany the children, but may not take them from the class until the lead teacher is able to get them into a safe location and account for all of the children.

Nursery classes are provided with an evacuation crib with reinforced casters. Up to six babies may be placed in these cribs and wheeled down the ramp to the Fellowship Hall basement.

Teachers and assistants should know the number of the children in their group at all times. If possible, in a fire or tornado emergency, assistances should bring their class binder with them to help account for everyone in their class.

**Injuries:**

Parents will be contacted immediately if a minor is injured while attending RHHG activities at RHBC. Such notification is required whenever one of the following conditions occurs: a blow to the head, head or facial injuries, significant or prolonged bleeding, injuries in which medical treatment is considered or required, situations which significantly frightens a child, or anytime a worker feels parent contact is needed.

An incident report will be completed for any incident where potential injury has occurred. If there is a question about whether or not to complete a report, consult a leadership member.

## ILLNESSES

It is our desire to provide a healthy and safe environment for all of the children at RHHG. Parents are encouraged to be considerate of other children when deciding whether to place a child under our care. In general, children with the following symptoms should NOT attend group:

- Fever (100 or greater), diarrhea, or vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Green or yellow nasal discharge
- Eye or skin infections
- Other symptoms of communicable or infectious disease
- Symptoms of possible severe illness, such as difficulty breathing

Children who are observed by leadership or teachers to be ill will be separated from the other children and the parent or guardian will be contacted to request that the child be picked up for the day.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## **The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

## **God**

There is one and only one living and true God. ...The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

## **God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. ...God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

## **God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. ...He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

## **God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. ...He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. ...He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

## **Man**

Man is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. ...By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. ... The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.



## **Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

## **Education**

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence ... there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. ...The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

## **Cooperation**

Christ's people should ... organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. ...Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.

## **The Christian & the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society... in the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death..

## **Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. ... The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation... Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.