



Member Handout

Welcome to Ashe Schools of Home Education! We are so glad you chose to join our group and hope you find this information useful as you participate in the group. If you have any questions, please ask! Anyone will be glad to help you. We hope you enjoy the group and find ASHE a fruitful part of your homeschooling journey.

The purpose of ASHE SCHOOLS OF HOME EDUCATION (ASHE) is to promote the common interests of ASHE members: to provide encouragement, support and guidance to its home schooling families living in Ashe County and surrounding areas. We are a home school organization and are governed by Christian principles; but, we are open to everyone who home schools, regardless of religion or race.

- Our website is **www.ashehomeschools.com**
- The goal for the website is for it to become the group's primary means of communication. It has replaced our written newsletter. Please utilize it whenever possible to gain information, share information, and get updates on the group so we move forward into making the website integral to the group.
- The organization has by-laws. These by-laws can be found on the website under the documents link. It is useful for every member to read the by-laws as they will give further explanation of the organization and guidelines of the group.
- The group is governed by a board of directors. The board of directors is elected by the membership. Each **family** that is a member gets one vote. Votes are cast at the annual picnic (see next bullet). Members may also find a ballot each year near election time on the website under the documents link that they can email or send in via regular mail if they are unable to attend the picnic. A married couple may choose to serve together in filling a single board position. The board consists of five positions that are not further specified at the time of election. Then the officers are selected by and from the elected Board of Directors. The Officers are a President, Vice President, Secretary, and two board members at Large. The Position of Treasurer is a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. The board may also appoint other positions/officers as they deem appropriate (for example, they appoint a website manger). Our annual meeting is the picnic that is held yearly in August. This meeting serves several purposes and all are encouraged to attend. Members should share input into the group as they desire during this meeting. Registrations are accepted during the picnic. Newcomers may come to check out the group during this time and everyone can find out more information about the classes and opportunities that are

available for the upcoming school year. This is also when the vote is taken for the board positions that need to be filled for that year. You may also bring curriculum to sell or give away.

- Our group publishes a membership directory shortly after the fall semester begins. This list is not redistributed in part or in entirety outside of the ASHE membership.
- We hope to support and benefit all homeschoolers in our area. Please be aware that you do not have to take classes to join the group. Families can join the group at any time during the year. The registration form can be found on the website and returned via email to info@ashehomeschools.com or via paper mail to the address under the Contact Us link.
- What are your gifts, talents, and passions? We are always open to people teaching any class that would be beneficial and/or educational for our group. It does not have to be specific to your formal education. It could be **anything** you are knowledgeable about and want to teach. This also includes anyone who would like to start a club or club like group that might not necessarily meet on Tuesday mornings. If you or anyone you know is interested in doing this, contact the Ballards at wblc@aol.com
- To request that something be posted on the website you need to email the Ballards. Their email is wblc@aol.com. If it is information best distributed via the website it will be forwarded information to the website mgr.
- If you want to coordinate a field trip, support meeting, club, park date, or any type of event that is pertinent to homeschoolers then please do so! You may also request to share information about events or activities that may be of interest to the group but are not held through ASHE. Please be aware that the general public can see our calendar and website. This has not been an issue in the past, but is something to consider. When sending a request please specify if it is for our members only or if it is open to all homeschoolers in our area. Per the by-laws, if it is an ASHE sponsored event then it needs an appointed representative and any necessary funds need to be collected/paid through ASHE. Non-sponsored events are not organized or funded by ASHE.
- A note about guidelines for participation in classes, especially regarding dropping children off. Anyone who participates in classes must sign the waiver form which attests to the fact that as the parent you have read the guidelines, understand them, have conveyed them to your child(ren), and will follow them. It is important that every parent understands that we are concerned about the safety of the children, respect of others' property, and the reputation of the group. Therefore, we believe that a high standard of behavior should be maintained as a testimony to others.
PARENTS SHOULD MONITOR THEIR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES. ULTIMATELY, PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISCIPLINE AND CORRECTION OF THEIR OWN CHILDREN. In order to assure this, if a child is doing something offensive, harmful or destructive, the child will be taken to the parent or the parent will be taken to the child. If the parent is not present, the parent shall be contacted at the telephone number noted by the parent on the sign-in sheet upon signing in the child for the day. The parent will be expected to address the problem, remove the child from the activity if necessary, or do whatever is most efficient to prevent the problem from recurring or continuing. If a non-present parent's telephone conversation with the child does not eliminate the problem, the parent will again be contacted to remove the child from the facility for the day, unless the parent can return to the facility and eliminate the problem by being on-site the rest of the day. If the problem continues or recurs, the parent and the child may be asked to no longer attend the activity.

Ongoing Opportunities for Homeschoolers in our Area:

Generation Excellent: Generation Excellent is a group of young people directed by Pam Miller who are committed to the ministry of sharing Christ with others through songs, skits and testimonies. The group practices every Tuesday at Beaver Creek Baptist Church and performs monthly at various churches. Being part of this group requires dedication and a strong commitment from both child and parent(s); however, it can be a rewarding experience for all involved. For more info go to <http://www.asheconnect.com/genx/index.php> or contact Pam Miller at millerfam@skybest.com

Ashe County Library: The library has programs for children and teens. There are story times for young children ages 2 to 5. They have Afternoon Adventures for homeschoolers ages 7 to 9 which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. They also have a writing club for teens. Go to <http://www.ashelibrary.com/children> for information.

Scouting: Anyone interested in Girl Scouting in the county can email Kim Eldreth at keldreth@ncdot.gov
Scouts - Boy Scouts (Troop 221, Mark and Tammy Mallette, mallette@skybest.com (336) 982-2250); Cub Scouts (Daniel Baird bubbabaird@gmail.com Old Hickory Council)

4-H Shooting Sports/ Club: contact Jennifer Miller, JenniferMiller@ashecountygov.com (336) 846-5850 (speak with Vicki or Jennifer).

We will be meeting at Bald Mountain Baptist Church this year. If you need directions, please see our website.

ASHE Membership Fee: \$15 per family per year

