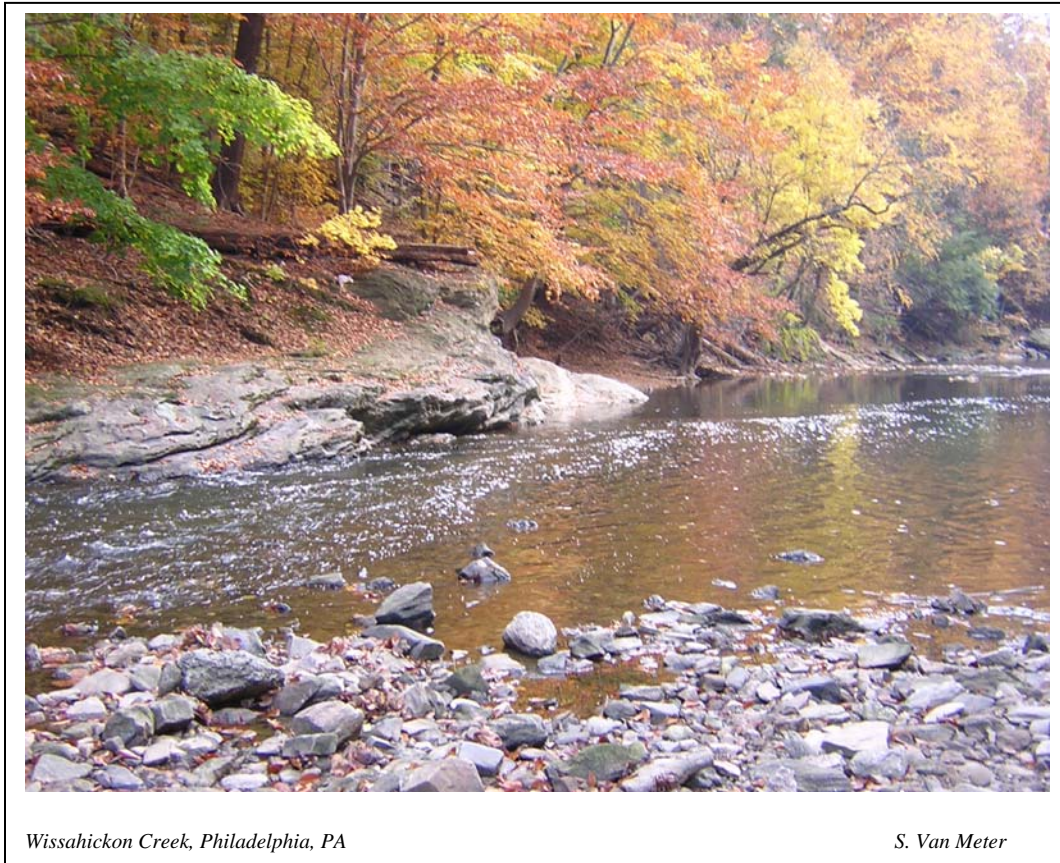


## **Living Water Home Educators**

### **Member Handbook 2008-2009**



*“If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”*

*John 4:10 KJV*

*“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

*John 4:14 KJV*

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*\*Policies, procedures, and information contained in this handbook are subject to revision. Please contact a leader if in need of further information.*

## *Who are the leaders of Living Water?*

Besides being busy homeschooling moms, like you, our leaders and support teams are also working hard to keep Living Water Home Educators running smoothly. Please be respectful of their time. **Keep e-mails or phone calls limited to after school hours. Use our directory (p. 4) to be sure you are e-mailing the appropriate person.**

Realize that unless your question or request is a true emergency it may take some time for them to respond. There are lots of other member requests to be considered. Our leaders will do their best to answer questions and respond to concerns in a timely fashion.

## *Who are Living Water Home Educators?*

**Our Mission:** The Living Water Home Educators Groups is composed of homeschool families in the Burlington County, New Jersey area who come together for the support of one another. **We do not undertake to substitute for formal schooling for any family in any way.** We are an e-mail based group, which means that most of our communication is done via e-mail. Information is also posted on our website [www.lwhe.org](http://www.lwhe.org).

**Leadership Faith Statement:** Since this group is not affiliated with any one particular church, we felt it important for you to know where the leadership of this group stands so you may feel comfortable participating in the various functions and activities made available by the group.

The Holy Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It contains His completed and final revelation to man. We do not endorse or encourage the use of any teaching that conflicts with what is contained in God's Word. The Bible, in its original form, is without error in its entirety. The Word of God has been and will remain the ultimate authority as we seek His wisdom in representing His group in a way that honors and magnifies the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Purpose:** Living Water is a group of homeschool families who come together for the support of one another and to provide activities for school aged children grades k-12. Each family that homeschools is an independent private school that has the freedom to instill the beliefs and values that we, the parents, feel are most important to our children. Because we are not affiliated with a church, we felt it important for you to know where the leadership stands so you may feel comfortable participating in the various functions and activities available.

**With the exception of siblings of older students, Living Water is an organized home educator's support group for school aged children grades K-12. Students must be 5 years old by October 15<sup>th</sup> to participate in the group's activities.**

**Meetings:** There are two General Living Water Meetings per year, September and May. Meetings are held in a local church determined at the beginning of each school year. Free childcare is provided.

Preceding each General Meeting there is a 60 minute Seminar on a topic of interest to homeschooling families. The General Meetings are the core of the home school support system. We discuss what is happening for the school year regarding activities, field trips, co-ops, and events. After the meeting you will have a chance to fellowship with other homeschooling families.

If you have something you would like to share at a meeting, please e-mail one of our leaders (see directory p.4) Since there are only two per year, it is important that all members attend these 90 minute meetings to obtain the full benefit of being a group member.

## *How do I get my questions about events, meetings and how the group works answered?*

<b>Our Leaders</b>	<b>For Questions About...</b>
General Leaders Enrichment Coordinators Chris & Bobbi Cascarella <a href="mailto:Cascafam6@gmail.com">Cascafam6@gmail.com</a>	All general concerns, new ideas, Approvals for Events, website & e-mail submissions, to speak at meetings and questions about procedures
Assistant Leaders Assistant Enrichment Coordinators Peter & Rosemary Laberee <a href="mailto:labereeland@verizon.net">labereeland@verizon.net</a>	General questions, High School questions, High School Class or Co op Ideas
Assistant Leaders Assistant Enrichment Coordinators Darin & Brook Gall <a href="mailto:rivergirl72@comcast.net">rivergirl72@comcast.net</a>	General questions, Living Water Enrichment registration questions & concerns, Class & Co op Ideas, Member Directory Questions.
<b>Support to Leadership</b>	
Webmaster & E-news Irene Taschek <a href="mailto:lwhenews@lwhe.org">lwhenews@lwhe.org</a>	Send submissions to be added to website and E-news.
Treasurer Dawn Miller <a href="mailto:LivingWaterHE@yahoo.com">LivingWaterHE@yahoo.com</a>	Approved reimbursements, Field trip checks.
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>	
Meals Coordinator Marcy Lightcap <a href="mailto:curtmarcy@verizon.net">curtmarcy@verizon.net</a>	Questions about making a meal or to volunteer to make a meal.
<b>Activity Coordinators</b>	
Party Coordinator Tracy Apple <a href="mailto:gtafam@juno.com">gtafam@juno.com</a>	Questions concerning parties and to volunteer to help.
Grades K-6 Kelly Linhart <a href="mailto:plinhart1@yahoo.com">plinhart1@yahoo.com</a>	Questions about field trips, give trip ideas or to help plan a trip.
H2O Robin Young <a href="mailto:cochisecr@aol.com">cochisecr@aol.com</a> Vicky Busalacchi <a href="mailto:vickbusalacchi@comcast.net">vickbusalacchi@comcast.net</a> Rosemary Laberee <a href="mailto:labereeland@verizon.net">labereeland@verizon.net</a>	Questions about H2O, ideas for activities, contact if you would like to help plan an activity.
Ages 14 & up Dan & Sue Hurst <a href="mailto:hurstnj@comcast.net">hurstnj@comcast.net</a> John & Andrea Gindhart <a href="mailto:basketbusiness@yahoo.com">basketbusiness@yahoo.com</a>	Questions or ideas for teen activites, to host an activity or to help with spring trip.
<b>New Homeschooling Coordinators</b>	
Robin Young <a href="mailto:Cochisecr@aol.com">Cochisecr@aol.com</a> Judie Renaud <a href="mailto:jlrladybug@yahoo.com">jlrladybug@yahoo.com</a>	To request a New Member Packet, questions about events for new members, suggestions for new member outreach and general questions from new homeschoolers.

## **How We Got Started: A History of Living Water, by Sue Hurst**

Do you ever feel like God is leading you down an adventurous path, but you don't know what that path is? The excitement builds and you are ready to jump in? That is how we felt when God called us to begin His group in 1993.

It is with joy and sadness that we are leaving the leadership position. Joy, since we are excited about His continued goal for LivingWater. Sadness, since this is an ending chapter of our lives. Our boys named the group when they were little. Eric at the age of 6 came up with "Living Basement" and Tim, at the age of 2 ½, was standing in a puddle, as only boys can do, and looked up and said "Water"..... Nick was only a baby so he just wanted food! So, us being simple folks, said, "OK - that'll work." LivingWater Home School Group. With the help of Mira and Ken Diaz, and Ken and Kathie Donaldson, the group became official in the spring of 1994.

That first year, the Williams family, Ryder family, Carr family and Reynolds family joined us in our determination and devotion to work together to reach our goal of quality Christian education. Others followed to make our home school family that much better.

Since then we have moved on into High School with our last son. Our oldest son is in college, and our middle boy is in eleventh grade and attending some college classes in the fall. It has not been an easy road, but one that we would do again in a heartbeat. We have grown close to our boys and we have seen them grow closer to Him. (Our oldest son met his soon-to-be-bride through home schooling.) Our boys have a special bond with family. Their grandparents are an intricate part of their lives. Both sets have helped teach them. Their learning of character and a servant's heart has been a great reward. What a privilege!

Living Water families have been the key to making the commitment easier. Would we have been able to do it without you and our families? No. We feel that God has brought you into our lives to work together to make His vision for our family complete. (excerpted from Living Water Newsletter, June 2006)

## **Who are Chris & Bobbi-Jean Cascarella**

What an amazing journey our homeschool experience has been! As we sit here to write this letter we have to laugh, we never intended to homeschool our children. We were looking forward to the excitement of sending our children to school and seeing them ride the bus for the first time. To get our plan started we made sure we bought our first home in a township with great schools. God had other plans, of course.

Four years ago we sent our first off to Kindergarten, from day one we had to make compromises with our beliefs. They were subtle enough to where we didn't see them right away. However, looking back now, we see so many. We had to face a few obstacles but we finally said enough is enough. We pulled Ellie out of Kindergarten thinking we would just put her into private school. Homeschooling was not even in our thoughts at that time. Yet again, God had other plans.

While looking into private schools we realized that we were supposed to be doing something totally different. Homeschool?! We finally started to listen to what God had been trying to tell us all along.

We had our doubts about homeschooling all together, let alone our ability to teach! As the years go on, we see all the many blessings and opportunities we have now. Teaching is not as hard as we made it out to be; after all, we've been teaching our children since birth!

This year was our first year with two in school. As the year wraps up, Ellie will have survived third grade, and we will have survived teaching Elijah Kindergarten. Everett will get his turn soon, but for now, he will enjoy all the perks of being a one year old.

We have to admit, from the day it began to the present, God has been our main source of motivation, inspiration, and wisdom. Homeschooling would be so much harder without His guidance.

Now it seems, He thinks, we are ready for the next phase of our homeschool journey. "Leadership" was even further from our minds than homeschooling was, but yet here we are, out of our comfort zone. However, we know that God wouldn't take us to a place where He couldn't sustain us.

We feel excited, challenged, and privileged. We hope to be the support you need. With that in mind we ask that you seek God as to how you can help us help you. Keep us in your daily prayers as we are praying for you.

-- Chris and Bobbi-Jean Cascarella 2006

## *How do I find out who the members of Living Water are?*

**Directories:** The member directory is an alphabetized list of member families with addresses, phone numbers, children's names and ages, and the curriculum they are using. You will find this list helpful for learning about curriculum and for getting to know group members. Please use these lists only when communicating to one another. Please do not distribute or solicit these lists. Copies of the current Member Directory, and the Leadership and Support Directory are e-mailed to members twice a year (August and December).

## *How is information communicated to members?*

- **Our website** [www.lwhe.org](http://www.lwhe.org)
- **Weekly Enews** Look for LivingWater Enews from [LWHEnews@lwhe.org](mailto:LWHEnews@lwhe.org). This is an email sent to all members once a week. **Checking your e-mail often is very important** as info may be sent more often for emergency purposes.
- **Yahoo Discussion Group** created exclusively for Living Water members! Share and receive information and encouragement (including prayer requests). Visit it as often as you like or set up "Weekly Digests" to be sent directly to your inbox.

## *Who can send information to the group and publish articles in the Enews, on the website or Yahoo Group?*

Anyone can send information to the group. Please contact the appropriate coordinators first then send it to the webmaster. Ideas to consider sharing:

Helpful websites	Book suggestions or reviews
Local places to visit	Contests you have become aware of
Articles	Helpful hints for home or teaching
Encouraging quotes	
"feelers" to find out if other members would like to meet for many different types of gatherings	

## *How can I submit something to the Enews or website?*

Once you have your article, event, or other submission ready you may send it to the webmaster.

## *Does the group conduct fundraisers?*

Yes. In addition to the following chart, we also receive funds when you purchase items through the **Market Place** link on our website.

Fundraising	
Pamela Jones <a href="mailto:nathansmommy@comcast.net">nathansmommy@comcast.net</a>	<b>Box Tops for Education</b> Email for more info or go to <a href="http://www.Boxtops4education.com">www.Boxtops4education.com</a>
Jeanette Saville <a href="mailto:wayneandjeanette@comcast.net">wayneandjeanette@comcast.net</a>	
Wayne and Jeanette Saville <a href="mailto:wayneandjeanette@comcast.net">wayneandjeanette@comcast.net</a>	<b>Adopt-A-Road</b> Email for more info
Heather Zampino <a href="mailto:hzampino@comcast.net">hzampino@comcast.net</a>	<b>Used Curriculum Sale</b> Email for more info or to help with planning

## ***What does membership include?***

- **Membership in Living Water Home Educators entitles you to the use of our newsletter, website and e-mail.** Through these forms of communication you can organize events and stay informed about events our members are offering.
- **You are also entitled to attend all Living Water members' only events and participate in the Inner Circle Support groups.**
- **And, you receive our membership directory** which is a valuable tool for networking with other families.

## ***What are the responsibilities of a Living Water member?***

Members are expected to –

- 1. Attend the general meetings (2 per year)** We especially encourage husbands to attend so we can include a male perspective and strong male leadership.
- 2. Follow established procedures** for communicating to the group and for facilitating activities.
- 3. Respond to e-mails in a timely fashion and honor deadlines for participation in events.**
- 4. Maintain discipline standards** for their children – We are being watched by the rest of the community and are responsible for their impressions of us as homeschoolers and most importantly as Christians.
- 5. Maintain a valid family e-mail address:** Our primary method of reaching families is through e-mail. Families are responsible for maintaining their email address current in our database. Please let Brook Gall know if your email address has changed by emailing her at [rivergirl72@comcast.net](mailto:rivergirl72@comcast.net)
- 6. Check e-mails often** since much of the event planning is via e-mail.
- 7. Prayerfully consider and decide how you can contribute** to the group in one of the following ways....
  - Organize a field trip for K-5 (pick a month) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Host the Ladies Tea in January (about 15 ladies attend)
  - Help with younger Kids Parties \_\_\_Christmas or \_\_\_\_\_Valentines \_\_\_\_\_other
  - Work with Newbies
  - Write a book review, on a book about home schooling, that you have read (also can be a student) to be placed on the website.
  - Take digital photos for the website from home school events you attend
  - Make Meals when a family is in need
  - Help with older kids activities
  - Plan family events
  - New ideas you may have (approved by leadership)

## *What is the parent's responsibility during Living Water Events?*

### **Parent Responsibilities regarding activities and discipline:**

- 1. Read and discuss with your family the policies and procedures pertaining to discipline and participation in group activities.**
- 2. Follow all guidelines for activities and the Living Water Dress Code.** Set a good example. If our children see we don't obey those in charge, they will come to the conclusion they don't need to either. Take appropriate measures to be sure you comply. Especially on field trips or visits to other's homes we need to show respect for the people who are hosting us.  
  
If food is not permitted, don't bring it. If strollers are not allowed, leave them home or outside the building. If the event is not appropriate for your younger children, make other arrangements. **When in doubt ask the event organizer.**
- 3. When you observe good behavior, please do give positive reinforcement or praise!**
- 4. If you observe your child not following the rules, please kindly ask him or her to behave appropriately.**
- 5. If your child is noisy or distracting, please take him or her away from the event.**  
Ask another parent to watch your remaining children until you return.
- 6. If there is a problem between your child and another child,** please do make the child's parent aware of the behavior. Be respectful. Don't make it into an attack on parenting skills. All children misbehave and have off days.
- 7. Please respect the correction of the person leading the activity.** If your child is asked to sit in a time out, be sure the correction is enforced. You are responsible to stay with your child unless you have another adult take your place. Be sure he or she is reentering the activity with an improved attitude toward behavior.
- 8. If repeated behavior problems occur please contact one of the leaders** and make it known to him or her, also make him aware of the steps you have taken to address the situation.

**Do not send your child to any activity during the contagious stage of an illness or if he or she has: green nasal discharge, communicable disease, pink eye, fever that needs medication to control (child must be fever-free for 24 hours), head lice, chicken pox, ringworm, etc.**

*"Because, whatever you do, eating or drinking or anything else, everything should be done to bring glory to God". I Corinthians 10:31  
Best guideline ever!*

## ***Do we really need to have specific behavior guidelines for activities?***

**Yes.** Because group activities require a higher level of organization than home activities, many behaviors that are not a problem in the home can be very disruptive during a group activity. This means that anyone participating in a Living Water event (which includes all classes, co-ops, field trips, parties and other events) will be expected to conduct themselves according to our guidelines for Discipline and Behavior, Dress code, and Building use.

**We want our activities to be enjoyable for all those participating!**

**We also want to make parents comfortable knowing that their children are being taught in an environment that upholds Christian morals.**

**And, we want you to be able to volunteer to teach or organize an activity** knowing that you have some guidelines and standards to follow, and that we value the time dedicated to volunteering for our group.

***\* So, please read the following pages carefully\****

## **Statement of Behavior and Discipline:**

**Living Water Leadership expects that our families will strive to behave in a way that glorifies God and sets a good example to others in the community.**

**1. We hold parents responsible for the behavior of their own children during classes and co-ops and any other Living Water activity.** Because LW is a Christian group, we ask that you help to represent Christian homeschoolers as responsible, respectful, kind and obedient families who are a pleasure to be with.

**2. We assume that parents are providing sufficient oversight** to ensure their students

- ...prepare for a class or event and remain attentive.
- ...manage any assignments or deadlines that apply.
- ...remain respectful and considerate during activities.

**We may occasionally require that parents be present with their students, to help us with a recurring problem.**

**3. We also expect that families will respect our volunteers by accepting any corrections.** We rely on volunteers to organize classes, co-ops, field trips, parties and other events. We especially want to show our respect for those dedicated individuals who take the time to organize and teach for our benefit. We want them to continue providing our children with outstanding and enjoyable opportunities.

## ***What should I tell my children about behavior expectations at Living Water events?***

The following lists apply to most Living Water events, although some physical or unconventional activities may not be as strict regarding seating and raising hands.

### **Basic Behavior Expectations**

1. Children are expected to obey an adult in charge and to follow directions respectfully.
2. Children are expected to speak to adults respectfully. Children are not permitted to interrupt or talk over an adult in charge.
3. They should raise their hands and wait to be called on.
4. Please discuss with your children the need to ask appropriate questions. Inappropriate questions can be amusing and funny, but they can also waste time and be annoying. We don't want to be annoying on a field trip.
5. Children are not permitted to leave an activity without permission from an adult.
6. Children should remain seated and keep hands and feet to themselves. Teasing, bullying, hitting, kicking, or harming another person will not be tolerated. Rowdiness, fooling around, making unnecessary noises, are not permitted.
7. Inappropriate conversations, gestures, or aggressive physical contact will not be permitted. This includes references to bombs, guns or other weapons. We cannot tolerate even joking about these subjects which are such a serious threat in today's world.

### **Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior**

Disruptive, disrespectful, discourteous students, and students who continually interrupt, will typically be given three opportunities to stop and correct their behavior.

- (1) The child will be spoken to by the teacher, or adult in charge.
- (2) The child will be asked to sit out of the activity for a time.
- (3) The teacher or adult in charge will find parent and meet with child and parent to determine if child should stay at the activity or event.

Because of the adverse impact on other students, we cannot continually accommodate a child with a behavior issue. No refunds can be offered to students asked to leave any activity or event.

*Are members expected to follow a dress code?*

### **Living Water Dress Code for Parents and Children**

- a. All girls' shirts must have a cap sleeve – no tank tops or spaghetti straps.
- b. T-shirts and blouses on young ladies and women must have a modest neckline.
- c. No tank tops for boys.
- d. All girls' shorts must be at least as long as the student's finger tips, skirts must be a bit longer and not have slits that open when seated.
- e. Girls and women are not allowed to show belly or lower back skin, even when arms are lifted.
- f. No underwear showing, anytime – boys and girls, men and women.
- g. Girls' and women's pants may not gap at the back to show the lower back.
- h. All students and adults must wear shoes.
- i. Boys' pants are to fit at the waist.
- j. No violent pictures or rude slogans or offensive stuff on clothing.

**Any children or parents who disregard this dress code will be asked to go home to change. No refunds can be made for missed time due to inappropriate attire.**

*Are there guidelines for building use?*

## **Building Use Guidelines**

1. Children age 9 and under cannot be at the designated Church without a parent on the premises.
2. Children age 10 and up may be dropped off, HOWEVER, parents must come in and sign the child in with the teacher/facilitator of the class.
3. Children cannot be dropped off and signed in early. Parents, please wait for the teacher or facilitator to show up before leaving.
4. Children must be picked up within 15 minutes of their last class, except for the last course of the day. Students in the last course of the day must be picked up promptly at the end of that class.
5. No chewing gum, no exceptions.
6. No heelies, roller-skates, skateboards or balls in or around the building.
7. Students with cell phones must put them on vibrate. No text-messaging during class. Cell phones that ring during class will be confiscated and held until the end of class.
8. No toys, or game boys in the classrooms.
9. No child under 12 will be permitted outside without a parent.
10. We are required to put all rooms we use back into clean and tidy conditions, without exception.
11. All students are encouraged to pick up after themselves.
12. All students not attending classes are required to attend a mandatory quiet study hall. A monitor will oversee the study hall to help ensure the peaceful study atmosphere.

*Other rules and guidelines specific to the church or building being used may also apply.*

## *Who may organize a field trip, co-op, class, or other activity?*

**Anyone who has an idea for an activity of any kind.** Just be sure to check with the appropriate Living Water leader before advertising your idea. We are counting on the creative ideas of our members to enrich the homeschooling experience.

**Living Water activities cannot happen unless members are willing to volunteer time to organize them. Becoming involved is an important part of being a member.** When the burden of planning activities falls on just a few people they are likely to become burnt out.

## *What types of activities are organized by Living Water Members?*

**1. Field trips** within the Living Water group happen almost every month. Some have a cost associated with them, while others are free. We rely on members for field trip ideas and organization. If you would like to organize a field trip but need some ideas for places to visit, contact our K-5 or 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Coordinators. They can help you get started. **Detailed instructions for organizing a field trip begin on p.15.**

**2. Parties and casual get togethers** are held for both younger and older children throughout the year. There is an Older Kids Pizza Night held in various members homes. Members have also organized parties for various holidays throughout the year.

**3. Co-ops & Classes** (Refer to information for Living Water Enrichment beginning on p.21)

**4. Seminars** are two hour gatherings on a specified subject. Seminars are held at area churches or in members' homes. Childcare is not available at seminars, unless specified.

**5. Support and Encouragement Nights, Workshops, and Social Activities for parents** (including a Ladies Tea) are held several times throughout the year. We rely on members to plan and organize these activities. If you have an idea for an activity contact our leaders and they will help to get you started.

**There are specific Event Guidelines (p. 15-20) determined by leadership including a Statement of Discipline and Behavior, and Dress Code (see p. 8-12). These guidelines need to be referred to and followed for all Living Water activities.**

## *How do I organize a field trip, class, or co-op?*

**Detailed instructions about how to plan activities are given in another section of this handbook.** (See p.15-20 of this handbook to see how to organize an activity and what is expected of participating members.) The appropriate leader must be contacted for approval before you announce your activity as a Living Water event. Refer to our leader directory (p.4) for the age appropriate Activity Coordinator to contact.

## *Where are activities held?*

Living Water leadership will provide a location in the local community (usually a church) for Living Water Enrichment co-ops and classes. However, members have also held classes and co-ops in their homes when enough families were interested. You may also wish to use your local library or church. If you are in need of a location for an activity, contact one of the leaders.

## *How can I find out what activities are being offered?*

**Read your e-mail and check our website regularly. Activities are advertised in the Enews and on the Living Water website.**

**Living Water Enrichment Class and Co-op information** is announced via Enews and on the website prior to each semester.

## *Who may attend Living Water events and activities?*

Participation in a homeschool group reduces the occasional feeling of being isolated. As a member you are entitled to participate in various activities planned by other members throughout the year.

**Our field trips and parties are for members only. Refer to the FAQs on our website for age and grade requirements.** Some events are held specifically for parents who are members too.

We occasionally open events to nonmembers; this is on a case by case basis and is left to the discretion of leadership. Please contact a leader if you have questions about who may attend.

## *What do I need to know about attending Living Water Activities?*

**1. Be on time.....**Please be respectful of the persons who are giving their time to organize and host a field trip or activity. Leave yourself enough time to allow for traffic, or for finding your way in an unfamiliar area. Carefully read all information provided by the person organizing the field trip---**especially directions.**

**2. The Behavior and Discipline policies, Dress Code, and Building Use guidelines apply to all Living Water Events. They are located in another section of this handbook. You should read them to your children and be sure that they understand them. These guidelines must be followed for a family to continue to participate in events.**

**3. Absences--**If, for some reason, you cannot attend an event or activity, contact the facilitator as soon as possible by e-mail. Your spot can be offered to someone else. Monies may not be refunded.

**4. Weather concerns:** The facilitators will contact you either the night before or the morning of the event if the event is cancelled because of weather. **Always check your e-mail before leaving for an activity.**

Field trips are arranged to enhance our education and for us to enjoy events with other members. However, keep in mind that we are being watched by the rest of the community. Let's leave them with a favorable impression of homeschoolers.

## ***Are there guidelines for parents who wish to organize a Living Water Event?***

**The following guidelines apply to all events planned for Living Water Home Educators. This includes coaching sports, teaching a co-op or class, organizing a party, field trip or other LW event.**

### **Event Planning**

**The following pages are provided to assist you in planning activities and field trips.**

**These guidelines have been written to make organizing easier and to make activities more consistent for the children participating. It can be difficult for our children to know what to expect when a different person is leading each activity. We have also attempted to make it easier for parents and organizers to understand their roles at events.**

**When planning an Event be sure that:**

- You follow the established procedures for Living Water Event planning. These are located in the next section of this handbook.**
- Your event does not include any methods or materials that might be offensive to a Christian group. Materials used should be available for parents to examine.**
- It follows all the guidelines set forth by Living Water including:**
  - Discipline and Behavior Guidelines**
  - Living Water Dress Code**
  - Building Use Policies (these may vary depending on location of the event)**
- You advertise the event in the Enews and on the website.**
- You check to be sure that all those attending are Living Water Members. (Exceptions may be made. A Living Water leader must approve an exception. Examples of exceptions are: grandparents or when we need a larger head count)**
- You e-mail all event guidelines several days prior to the event and you are conscientious about communicating to those who are participating in your event.**
- You follow established procedures for organizers on the day of the event.**

## *How can I successfully organize a Living Water Event?*

When planning an event or field trip, refer to the questions below. The person organizing the event is known as the 'organizer'. We have Activity Coordinators to generate ideas and offer assistance to the organizers. It is very helpful if you have a few dates to work with when contacting the Field Trip or Activities Coordinator.

### **Step #1 Planning an Event or Field Trip**

Think ahead. Try to identify problems that may arise and plan accordingly. The Questions below should assist you in planning an event or field trip that will be enjoyed by all. These may not apply to every event or field trip. *All of the following should be included in your event description if they apply.*

- What is the cost per student/per group?
- Is payment required in advance?
- Who is the payment given to?
- Is a check required for payment? How should it be made out?
- Is there an age requirement?
- Can younger siblings come along?
- Can parents come? How many?
- Are parents and siblings extra \$?
- Are strollers allowed?
- Are there rules or guidelines for the planned location (so you can let those interested know before they choose to go)?
- Is there a group max. or min.?
- Do parents and siblings count in that max./min.?
- Can we be seated as a group?
- Is food permitted?
- Is there a place we can eat our lunch?
- Will there be a rain date or cancellation, or will the event proceed even in inclement weather?
- How long will the field trip or event last?
- Where should we park? Is enough parking available?
- What are the best directions to follow?
- Where should we report once all those participating have arrived?
- To whom should we report?
- Should students or parents bring anything with them?
- Are there any advance materials available that could be distributed before the trip?
- Where can we send our thank you notes?

## *Event Planning (cont')*

### **Step # 2 Get Approval For your Field Trip or Activity**

**If the event is a field trip, contact the Activities Coordinator** for the appropriate age group and let her know of the idea. You can work together to plan this activity. If the event is something other than a field trip, you may contact a Living Water Leader with your idea and submit it for approval.

**Step # 3 For Field Trips: Contact the Treasurer to make her aware of incoming checks. If the trip needs a deposit she will write one out and send it directly to the place of business.** Choose a “pay by date” (8 days prior to trip) in the description that will go on the website and into the newsletter. This allows time to send checks to Treasurer. Be sure checks are made payable to Living Water Home Educators with the function noted in the memo.

### **Step # 3 For Other Events**

Once a leader has approved your idea, set a date and list all the important information using the list from step 1. Consult the calendar on our website and consider what other events are planned when setting your date. Contact a leader if you need a location.

### **Step #4 Advertise**

**Write a detailed description** to send to the webmaster to be posted on the Enews and website. Once it has officially been posted you may then post it yourself on the yahoo group. Those interested will contact you for more information, or e-mail you to sign up. Keep a list and notify the Webmaster if you have reached your limit so we can mark your event “closed” or “full”.

### **Additional Step # 4. For checks**

**Collect checks** from participants until the “pay by date”. **Send all of the checks to the LW Treasurer.** She will issue a check for the organizer to take to the field trip provider. Anyone who does not meet the deadline cannot attend the trip.

**See sample e-mails p. 18**

### **Step # 5 Continue to Communicate with Participating Members**

**The event or field trip organizer should e-mail a reminder of all event guidelines a few days prior to the date of the event.** Parents should be reminded to review and discuss with their children the LW discipline policy and dress code, along with any special instructions prior to the event. If the organizer has a cell number and is willing to give it out, this could help folks that get misdirected. You will need to send an e-mail the night before or the morning of the event if weather may be a concern.

## Sample Event Advertisement for Enews or Website

**Name:** April Field Trip

**Age Level:** for K-6th Graders

**Where:** The Old School House

**When:** Wednesday, April 25th: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. {give time parameters so families can plan}

**Location:**

**Brief description** of the field trip. Include answers to questions on p.16.

**Cost per person:** \$/or FREE **PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Living Water Home Educators with the function/event written in the memo.**

**Send checks to:** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE.

**Deadline:** pay by \_\_\_\_\_ If the funds are not in by the "pay by date," that family will have to forfeit their spot on the field trip or activity. If they pay but can't make the trip, money will only be reimbursed if another family can take their place.

**Special Instructions:** ..such as, **NO STROLLERS, NO FOOD, etc.**

**Who to Contact:** PLEASE CONTACT LARISHA DICKERSON@  
[LADYDICKERSON@VERIZON.NET](mailto:LADYDICKERSON@VERIZON.NET) if you are interested in attending.

## Sample 2nd E-mail (to be sent several days prior to event to those attending):

**Include all of the info from the above box.**

**Please arrive 15 minutes early to review guidelines. We will begin on time at \_\_\_\_**

**Where we will meet:**

**Where to send Thank You notes/ or a reminder to bring them along**

**Please review the dress code and dress appropriately. Review the following guidelines and discuss them with your children before attending. A second reminder on the way in the car is also helpful. Quizzing to have them tell you is a good way to see if they know what is expected.**

### **Guidelines Reminder:**

- **don't speak out; raise your hands**
- **stay in your seat unless teacher indicates otherwise**
- **sit quietly....no tapping, humming etc.**
- **Don't interrupt.....Instruct your children to wait till the appropriate time to ask their questions or share information. Teachers should have a question and answer time after the teaching.**
- **Ask appropriate questions (a few examples may be necessary)**
  
- **Parents will be asked to remove disruptive children from the activity for a time out**
- **Continued disruptive behavior may mean not being allowed to participate in future activities**

## The day of the Event: Organizer's Responsibilities 10 Steps to Hosting a Great Event!

These are important steps to follow before the activity begins. If you are not comfortable presenting these guidelines ask a friend who is comfortable. Or simply read the guidelines aloud. You must discuss specifics. Saying "be good" or "behave yourselves" is not helpful and does not ask for specific behavior. Remind the group that we are representing homeschoolers and, more importantly, as Christians, we are ambassadors for the Lord to our community.

**The event organizer is responsible for making sure each participant is following the guidelines for the event.**

- 1. The event organizer should always have on a name tag.** You may wish to give out name tags to participants.
- 2. The event organizer should choose to meet families at a specific spot** at the event/field trip. Instructions about where to meet should be given in an e-mail to parents with other important information.
- 3. Everyone should arrive 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the event** to ensure that you are able to begin on time. This allows time to go over guidelines and fill out any consent forms that may be necessary.
- 4. Call the group to attention.** You can use a hand signal, a bell, or just ask for attention. **Introduce yourself as the leader of the event.** You may want others to briefly introduce themselves if it is appropriate to the activity.
- 5. Remind parents and children of the Living Water rules/guidelines.** This should be done in a friendly manner and it is important so everyone has an understanding of what is expected. Be sure to remind everyone of the consequences for misbehavior. **A simple list for you to read aloud is listed below.** **Additional rules specific to the place you are visiting may apply.** (Also see the Statement of Discipline and Dress Code beginning on p.9)

### List of Guidelines to be read before an Event or Activity Begins

- **don't speak out; raise your hands**
- **stay in your seat unless teacher indicates otherwise**
- **sit quietly....no tapping, humming etc.**
- **Don't interrupt.....**Instruct your children to wait till the appropriate time to ask their questions or share information. Teachers should have a question and answer time after the teaching.
- **Ask appropriate questions (a few examples may be necessary)**
  
- **Parents will be asked to remove disruptive children from the activity for a time out**
- **Continued disruptive behavior may mean not being allowed to participate in future activities**

**6. Remind parents to monitor their children's behavior**, and to assist you in monitoring the group. A little reminder before the activity often prevents behavior problems and can be more effective than corrections. Ask them to please remove their children if they are not following guidelines or if they become a distraction to others. Don't forget to give praise when appropriate.

**7. Although it is not always possible, it is desirable to begin most events with a prayer.** You can even pray that we leave a good impression on the host.

**8. You may wish to direct parents where to send Thank you notes following the activity.** You can have a small slip of paper to hand out, or e- mail the address and name of the person to whom the note is to be sent.

**9. Continue to monitor the group and redirect parents and children who are not following guidelines. Praise those who are.**

**10. Thank the parents and children for their attention. Be sure to personally thank the presenter.** You can have the entire group give a "thank you" in unison.

**During Field Trip/Events: Should there be any concerns, or the Coordinator needs some assistance, contact Chris/Bobbi Cascarella either at home or on their cell phone. 856-802-0629/609-790-0172**  
A Living Water leader needs to be notified if there are repeated misbehaviors, serious incidents (such as fighting or bullying), or a refusal to respect authority.

**Don't Forget: to Consider bringing these helpful items!**

- A list of those attending, a clip board is helpful
- Phone number of the place/person hosting the trip or event
- Phone number of a Leader
- Name tags – one for you, possibly for all those participating
- Behavior & Event Guidelines to be read allowed
- Dress code to be referred to if you think you need it
- Cell phone
- Information about where to send Thank you notes
- A first aid kit

**Organizer's Day of Event To Do list:**

- 1. Meet & Greet Families (fill out forms)**
- 2. Call to attention**
- 3. Remind of rules & guidelines (use p. 19)**
- 4. Remind parents to monitor children**
- 5. Prayer**
- 6. Monitor behavior**
- 7. Thank presenter and the group**
- 8. Direct parents about thank you notes**

## ***Can you explain Living Water Enrichment co-ops and classes?***

**Co-ops and classes do not happen without volunteers to organize them.** We are always striving to improve our classes and co-ops, and we need new ideas. Please speak to a leader about becoming involved. Living Water Support group is a cooperative effort; each family plays an important role. We want all of our families to enjoy a successful year. Your efforts can help make our classes and co-ops enjoyable for all.

*LW Enrichment classes and co-ops do not in any way substitute for home education, private school education or public school education. We do not undertake to substitute any formal schooling for any family in any way.*

### **Class and Co-op Definitions:**

#### **Co-op:**

- shared teaching arrangement.
- you will teach at least one(1) time per semester
- Teachers may have a helper or two, if needed.
- Materials may be purchased by the teacher, or parents may be notified of materials students need to bring with them

#### **Facilitator:**

- has responsibility for the organization of a co-op class.
- communicates with students and their parents for the duration of the co-op.
- arrive before the opening of the day to help in guiding the teacher as needed.
- Maintain Living Water's Statement of Discipline and Dress Code

#### **Class:**

- taught by one individual for the entire semester.
- parent is responsible for the follow up of class work
- parent may also be responsible for monetary reimbursement for materials, etc.

#### **Teacher:**

- organizes and presents a class (for the day, semester or year depending on whether it is a co-op or class).
- arrive 15 min. before the start of each day
- Begin your class on time whether all have arrived or not.
- Maintain Living Water's Statement of Discipline and Dress Code

**Moderator:** keeps order and quiet in some defined space, such as: Hallways, Study Hall or Gym.

#### **Classroom Helper:**

- assist the teacher in a classroom
- works to keep order,
- ensures classroom guidelines are enforced
- gives assistance to children in the class, where needed.
- arrive 10 min. prior to the opening of the day.

*What is expected of parents who teach Living Water Enrichment classes or co-ops?*

## ***Class and Co-op Commitments***

This section summarizes our commitments to and expectations of our families.

***Our Commitments:*** LWE teachers and facilitators will . . .

- 1. provide all courses from a biblical worldview.** In all classes the Bible will be assumed to be true and authoritative, and all proposed truths will be evaluated against the Bible and empirical evidence, which shall be assumed not to contradict one another.
- 2. provide effective feedback on exams, essays, and class performance. This may be done via email.** Families can expect some feedback that identifies student weaknesses and, where it is not readily apparent, suggests a path to improvement. A struggling student who requires regular extra assistance should make arrangements with a family member or a private tutor.
- 3. provide a question and answer time after teaching,** so instruct your children to wait till the appropriate time to ask their questions or share information.
- 4. make frequent contact via email or through the LW website ([www.lwhe.org](http://www.lwhe.org)) on any schedule changes or important announcements including weather concerns.**
- 5. will follow established disciple and dress Code guidelines.** They may post them in the classroom if desired.

*Do you have any materials to help teachers of classes or co-ops?*

Yes. “Tools for Teachers” is a separate packet of information to help those who are volunteering to teach a class or coordinate a co-op. It includes ideas for managing behavior and tips for lesson planning plus two sample lesson plan formats. You may request a copy from one of our co-op coordinators.

## *What is expected of parents who have signed up for Living Water Enrichment classes or co-ops?*

### Parental Commitment: You, the parent, will ensure that.....

- you arrive on time. Set a goal to be at class 10 minutes early (or earlier if you need to drop off little ones). This will help you to be on time. It is very important that we be considerate of others time.
- you do not allow your child to go outside without adult supervision.
- contact the facilitator the night before if you will not be at class the next day.
- Find a replacement for your position, from the substitute list or contact the volunteer coordinator
- You and your children will abide by our rules of conduct** with regard to LWE matters and discussions, and treat the Bible as the final authority in evaluating ideas during class discussions and assignments. We do not require enrolled families to adhere to our statement of faith. However, we require all families to honor a biblical worldview approach in each of our classes.
- You will thoroughly review the scope, sequence and standards of each desired course prior to enrollment.** Review intended texts and talk to the teacher or facilitator as necessary, so you can ensure that what your child will be studying supports your educational goals.
- You will proactively supervise your students' progress in each course.** In the spirit of home education, we assume that parents will supervise as necessary all due dates, evaluation results, and other performance issues. If an academic problem develops, we will attempt to notify parents to assist with resolution, but we will generally assume that you are supervising your child's education as necessary to achieve your objectives.
- You will check your email daily, go to the LW website ([www.lwhe.org](http://www.lwhe.org)) to find out about any schedule changes and notify the teachers when the family email address changes.**
- You will notify the teacher or facilitator when feedback is not timely enough, so the problem can be resolved.** Contact the teacher or facilitator if you desire more specific feedback or suggestions for improvement in a particular area. Obtain other outside assistance if regular tutoring becomes necessary.
- You will make your LWE Building Use Fee payments before their due dates, and pay your teachers and facilitators in a timely fashion for any extra fees they required.**

- You will volunteer to help in some area of LWE. All parents are to have a volunteer position. Socialization should be kept to the lounge or outside after classes only.

## *Parent Volunteers*

If you are not volunteering to teach at LWE, you will be asked to make a contribution to the enormous effort it takes to offer this opportunity to your children. This may include, but may not be limited to:

Study Hall Monitor  
Hallway Monitor  
Gymnasium Supervisor  
Nursery Worker  
Circle Time Assistant  
Clean-Up Crew  
Classroom Helper

## *Missed or Cancelled Class*

It is incumbent on the family to get any missed information from the teacher or facilitator of a class, if their child misses a class. We cannot refund any monies due to missed classes. Because we do not meet every Friday of the month, any student that continually misses classes may be asked to withdraw from the class. This is up to the individual teacher or facilitator of the class.

## *Are there fees associated with Co-ops and Classes?*

Fees and Tuition This section explains our fees and payment options.

**Membership Fee:** This is a one time \$15 charge paid to Living Water to join LW so that you can participate in the LW Enrichment Classes. All families participating in LWE must pay the \$15 annual membership to LW and complete a Family ID Form. We want to know who you are. You are not required to participate in LW activities, but we sure hope that you do! The membership form can be downloaded from our website [www.lwhe.org](http://www.lwhe.org). This \$15 fee does not apply toward tuition or class fees, and it is non-refundable.

**LW Building Usage Fee:** This will be about \$5 per week per family payable per semester. Easton Bible Church charges us to use their building. That is what the \$5 per family per week charge is meant to cover. In an effort to keep our administrative time manageable, and to get a true commitment from you, that fee will be collected per semester. Depending on the length of the semester, it may be as small as \$45 or as large as \$65 (per semester, per family). The building usage fee does not change with enrollment in classes. Enrollment each semester may vary; going up or down. The charge to LW by Easton will not vary. LW leadership reserves the right to use any overages as a buffer to cover building rent if enrollment goes down; or to create a scholarship fund for needy families; or to host holiday or end of year parties for LWE participants.

**Extra Fees:** This is a dollar amount that a teacher or facilitator may request from you in order to cover supplies for the class or co-op. It is a one time, small fee paid directly to the facilitator or teacher.

Some teachers will have a nominal fee for their class to cover cost of photocopying and supplies. This will vary and it is payable directly to the teacher and facilitator. Some teachers of high school or higher level classes will have tuition. They may ask you to pay monthly, per semester, or for the full year. You must make all arrangements for paying tuition or fees directly with the teacher or facilitator. LW leadership will not intervene, collect, or assist in the payment of these fees and

**OC Tuition:** Outside class tuition – this is payable directly to the sub-contractor teacher and may be small or large, depending on the level of instruction, experience of the teacher, etc. Classes with “OC Tuition” are being taught by a non-Living Water parent.

## *Are there any groups for parents of children with special needs?*

**C.H.I.L.D.** (Creative Homeschooling for Individual Learning Differences) is a Special Needs support group. They organize Support type meetings and offer Phone/email support.

For more information contact Wendy Reuther, [wdr@cleanweb.net](mailto:wdr@cleanweb.net).

## *What does New Jersey Law require for parents to homeschool?*

**The following information is provided by Homeschool Legal Defense Association to clarify legal issues about homeschooling in NJ. From the HSLDA website---**

“In a paper dated September, 2000, the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) published a five page document entitled "Frequently Asked Questions about Home Schooling in New Jersey (FAQHS)". This is the DOE's new policy statement containing its views on how local school districts should administer New Jersey's compulsory education law in the home school context. FAQHS replaces and is a tremendous improvement over the April 30, 1997 Klagholz guidelines.

Under this new New Jersey policy, **home school families will no longer be expected to submit a written, annual assurance or a curriculum outline.** No longer will superintendents be expected to review and accept or reject home schoolers curriculum.

Amazingly enough, most public school officials don't know about these questions and our home school rights.

The electronic copy of the New Jersey FAQHS is available at [http://www.state.nj.us/njded/genfo/overview/faq\\_homeschool.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/njded/genfo/overview/faq_homeschool.htm).

A summary of the New Jersey law can be found at <http://www.hslda.org/laws/default.asp?State=NJ>.

The HSLDA web site is <http://www.hslda.org>. This site contains more information about the law and home schooling.

<b>New Jersey Legal Home Schooling Options: <u>1</u></b>	
	<b>Option: 1</b>
<b>Legal Option:</b>	Operate a home school
<b>Attendance:</b>	None specified (180 days required for the public schools)
<b>Subjects:</b>	Must provide instruction academically equivalent to that in public schools
<b>Qualifications:</b>	None
<b>Notice:</b>	None
<b>Recordkeeping:</b>	None
<b>Testing:</b>	None

# Home School Legal Defense Association

*Advocates for Family & Freedom*

Each year home schooling families across America receive unfriendly legal contacts from government officials. Whether those contacts lead to court or not, families who fight their legal battles alone face the threat of staggering the legal expenses - mostly the attorneys' fees. Rather than pay the price of resisting, many families are intimidated into abandoning home schooling.

The purpose of the Home School Legal Defense Association is to bring together a large number of home schooling families so that each can have a low-cost method of obtaining quality legal defense. The HSLDA gives families the freedom to home school without the fear of facing legal threats alone.

The president and vice-president of this organization are both attorneys who have home schooled their children for over a decade. HSLDA was founded in 1983 as a service to the entire home schooling community.

At a cost of \$115 per year ( a discount is available if you are a member of an organization like Tri-County ), your membership will include "The Home School Court Report". This newsletter is published bi-monthly. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for a \$15.00 annual fee.

HSLDA provides experienced legal counsel and representation by qualified attorneys to every member family who is challenged by government officials in the area of home schooling. All attorneys' fees and costs are paid in full directly by the Association.

Visit their web site [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org) for complete information.

**Address:** P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134

**Shipping Address:** 17333 Pickwick Drive,  
Purcellville, VA 20132

**Phone:** (540) 338-5600

**Fax:** (540) 338-2733

**Website:** <http://www.hsllda.org>

**Federal Hot Line:** (540) 338-1234

## *What information do you have about homeschooling high school students?*

**Schooling through High School and Beyond** Have you checked out HSLDA's site lately? The HomeSchool Legal Defense Association has a huge amount of information to help you home school through high school, and beyond. Check it out! [www.HSLDA.org](http://www.HSLDA.org)

**High School Transcripts** A member of the Living Water group met with the head of the child study team of Shawnee High School ( Medford, NJ ). The discussion centered around high school transcripts. Below is information extracted from that discussion.

For every hour during the week a class meets, the credit for that class coordinates. For example, a class that meets for one hour a day for 5 days equates to 5 credits. A class that meets for one hour a week equates to one credit.

The Lenape School District ( which Shawnee is a part of ) has a minimum of 110 credits to graduate. College bound students really need more than this, as 110 is a minimum number. NJ State minimums for college bound students are:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math
- 2 years of Science
- 1 year of Fine Art
- 4 years of Health and Physical Education
- 2 years of US History
- 1 semester of World Culture
- 2 years of a foreign language -If your child is thinking of attending a state College, is also recommended.

The PSATs are offered in the fall and are recommended for sophomores and juniors. This test contains a lot of geometry. To sign up for the test and find out where the test is being given, one can register through Shawnee HS, or contact the Educational Testing Service in Princeton. Homeschoolers will want to make sure that test results are sent to the home, not the school.

A high school transcript can list the different activities that the child has been involved in each year. (4-H activities for example). Things may be listed that were consistently performed for money, such as baby sitting and part-time jobs.

The SAT is a reasoning test, not a test of general knowledge. The best preparation for this test is consistent study of mathematics, beginning with algebra and continuing with geometry. Of course, reading and English are important as well. There are many SAT programs out there that help with test strategy, but if a student is deficient in basic skills, these programs will not help raise the test score. These programs can not replace carefully planned English and math courses that are completed over a period of time.

The SAT test can be taken in the spring of the junior year. SAT practice tests and registration forms can be acquired from the local library.

PSAT and SAT Tests Information on these tests can be found at <http://www.collegeboard.org>

**IQ Tests** A free IQ test is available at <http://www.intelligencetest.com>

## Help your Child Plan for College

An early start in planning for college can make a big difference. Here's what your child can do:

### **10th Grade/Sophomore Year**

During the fall:

Request brochures from colleges to get an idea of their course offerings, admission requirements and financial aid policies.  
Find out what tests (if any) are required for admission to the college your child may want to attend.

During the spring:

Take the SAT II (if desired) in completed high school subjects.  
Explore different careers/majors.

### **11th Grade/ Junior Year**

During the fall:

Attend college fairs and meet college representatives.  
Request admission/Financial aid info from colleges.  
Take the PSAT (if desired)

During the spring:

Take the SAT or ACT (if required)  
Make plans to visit colleges.  
Request private scholarship info from associations, employers, town committees and church organizations.

## College Financial Planning

Top-flight universities can cost \$35,000 per year, or more. Even state-funded colleges can put a serious dent into your savings. Financial aid packages from federal, state, and institutional sources are keeping pace with rising tuition costs. FamilyPC and PCMagazine each gathered some information to help find financial aid resources. Some of that information is repeated below.

FastWeb ( <http://www.fastweb.com> ) provides a guide of state and federal aid you might be eligible for. It also provides information for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Scholarship information is the main focus of this site. It has a database of over 400,000 scholarships.

CollegeView ( <http://www.collegeview.com> ) has tools for estimating your family's financial aid eligibility. It also contains information on scholarships and state-sponsored grants.

FinAid ( <http://www.finaid.com> ) lists all of the different types of financial aid available, from state- and government-controlled programs to college-specific funding programs to financial aid based on student profiles. This site offers warnings about potential scholarship scams. It also has financial aid calculators to let you project your financial needs.

College Board Online ( <http://www.collegeboard.org> ) is a search-enabled, bilingual site containing up-to-date information on college costs, and a variety of application forms.

U.S. Department of Education ( <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/express.html> ) has a downloadable version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. The instructions are included. Another free application for student aid is available here: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> .

Other student financial aid information from the U.S. Department of Education is available here: <http://www.ed.gov/studentaid> .

Embark ( <http://www.embark.com> ) is an all-in-one online resource for selecting a school to go to. You can find a school based on criteria such as location, major, tuition, religious affiliation, varsity athletics, and more.

Princeton Review Online ( <http://www.review.com> ) also lets you search for school programs and financial aid. It also provides some helpful tips on beating the admissions tests required for each program.

CollegeXpress ( <http://www.collegexpress.com> ) offers a long list of school to which you can apply online.

GoCollege ( <http://www.gocollege.com> ) is another site good for applying to schools. The site offers plenty of information about finding the right college, getting financial aid, and earning higher scores on SAT and ACT exams.

efollett.com ( <http://www.efollett.com> ) is the Amazon.com of college books. It has new and used books matching the courses of nearly 600 schools throughout the country.

More places to look can be found at <http://www.dianehoward.com/grants.htm>

***Are there any classes available for homeschooled high school students?***

**Higher Ground** is an alliance of Christian homeschool families who are joining together to give support to one another, and to help one another to educate their children. The Christian faith based classes are designed to be used in combination with study time every day, at home under parental supervision. Most classes are offered at Easton Bible Church on Fostertown Rd. in Hainesport NJ on Tuesdays, unless otherwise listed. Do not contact the churches directly as they are only providing space for Higher Ground and do not have any further information. All requests for information should be sent to thehigherground@comcast.net .

There are several other high school “for fee” classes in the South Jersey area. Speak to one of the Living Water Leaders for more information.

**\*Don’t Forget—You can start your own High School Class or Co-op!**

***Do you have any other information available for new homeschoolers?***

A New Member Packet is included in the folder with this handbook. It includes valuable articles for those who are new to homeschooling. If you have not received one of these packets please contact one of our New Homeschooling Coordinators (see our directory on p. 4).

Thank you to the following people who have contributed their time and suggestions to the writing and editing of this handbook.

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Ana Williams  
Robin Young

\*Information in this document has been compiled through a variety of sources.

[www.lwhe.org](http://www.lwhe.org)  
<http://livingwater.2ya.com/>  
<http://www.tchea.org>  
[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)  
[www.bcls.lib.nj.us/](http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/)  
[www.wahomeschool.com](http://www.wahomeschool.com)

[www.inchhome.com](http://www.inchhome.com)  
[www.nhen.org](http://www.nhen.org)  
[www.hsconnexion.com](http://www.hsconnexion.com)  
[www.homepatriots.com](http://www.homepatriots.com)  
[www.kmchomeschool.org](http://www.kmchomeschool.org)  
[www.chasesc.com](http://www.chasesc.com)

Every effort was taken to be sure that policies and procedures meet the needs of the group. Many members were consulted during the compiling of this handbook. Should you have further suggestions please contact one of our leaders.

**Notice:** This handbook is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Those in need of legal advice should seek the counsel of Homeschool Legal Defense Association, [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org).