

Oswego Homeschool Association's Membership Agreement

Our Mission Statement:

Our Vision Statement: *The Oswego Homeschool Association is a non-profit group for homeschooling parents and children of all ages. We believe that parents are the primary teachers and are responsible for all lawful reporting, curricula choices, and core subject instruction. OHA aims to support the role of the parent by offering meetings, special events, field trips, and educational opportunities. We are an inclusive, eclectic, local, member-run organization that honors the diversity of homeschoolers and provides a supportive community for our members. Our reasons for homeschooling differ, as do our styles and approaches to education. What we share is a respect for all learners and a desire to support one another.*

We believe that every family has the legal and constitutional right to home educate in New York State, regardless of their philosophy of education or religious affiliation.

About Us:

OHA aims to support the role of the parent by offering meetings, special events, field trips, and educational opportunities. We hope to connect you to the larger local homeschool community, building friendships and social support. OHA is cooperatively run and supported by the parents of the children we serve and supplemented by bringing in outside mentors or instructors as appropriate. Families pay a membership fee and additional fees for LEAP and some extracurricular activities. These fees go towards covering operational costs such as renting space, resources, and supplies.

The Oswego Homeschool Association is a local chapter of Loving Education at Home, Inc- also known as Homeschool NY/LEAH. We are an affiliate of this state organization, but OHA is also our own autonomous entity. Our board developed our own bylaws which are unique to OHA. These bylaws differ from other Homeschool NY/LEAH chapters and have been submitted to and accepted by Homeschool NY/LEAH.

We choose to be welcoming to homeschoolers of all faiths and beliefs, as outlined specifically in our bylaws. OHA is not exclusively secular, we are religion neutral and inclusive in our programming and activities.

Membership Expectations and Code of Conduct:

Our goal is to promote character values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility in all aspects of our program. We ask that OHA members read and agree to this code:

As an OHA member family, we will:

- Be respectful, cooperative, and will contribute positively to the experience of fellow members.
- Be careful and considerate that our actions will not intentionally hurt another member physically or emotionally.
- Be courteous and respectful of the rights and beliefs of others.

- Agree to privately inform the OHA President if anyone in the family who will be attending OHA programming has ever been convicted of any abuse of a child.
- Understand that parent volunteers are essential to the success of OHA. All parents are encouraged to volunteer.
- Respect the property of others.
- Agree to behave responsibly. Horseplay, inappropriate touching, unwelcome teasing/bullying or any unkind behavior is not allowed and will not be tolerated.
- Communicate in an appropriate manner, which means not using foul language, gestures, verbal threats of any kind, or harsh words.
- Understand that concerns or conflicts between members that are unable to be resolved one-on-one and require resolution should be reported to a board member, so that the OHA Board can assist with conflict resolution.
- *OHA is made up of families with a variety of beliefs and values. Because of our diversity, this space may not always feel fully affirming for open self-expression. Discussions, symbols, and expressions in shared spaces must be respectful and appropriate to the program environment. Participation in this program does not require agreement on all beliefs, but does require respectful coexistence.*

Membership Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to Oswego Homeschool Associations (OHA) ByLaws. I have also read, understand and agree to the general information and policies listed above. I agree to be responsible for the behavior and safety of the children in my charge while attending OHA programming. I understand that OHA Board of Directors reserve the right to deny or revoke membership to any child or family who does not abide by the items within this membership agreement.

I agree that by signing this agreement and submitting my non-refundable OHA Membership Fee, I will establish annual family membership in the Oswego Homeschool Association.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____