Cypress Inclusive Homeschoolers
New Member packet



Thank you for your interest in Cypress Inclusive Homeschoolers! Our diverse group has been going strong since the summer of 2012 thanks to awesome parents like yourself!

Cypress Inclusive Homeschoolers is a unique group. Our approach is based on equity, non-hierarchy, and volunteerism. What exactly does this mean?

- We do not require membership fees, we wish to remain accessible to anyone that wishes to be a part of our group which means we ask for people to give in other ways.
- We do not have leaders, only active members that attend regularly and lend a hand in making our events and classes possible.
- Everyone volunteers. This is the foundation of our group! If you are a part of us you will be giving and receiving at each gathering. We use each parents skills, experience, talents, and resources.

I'M NEW TO THE GROUP....WHERE DO I START?

First things first, we want to meet you! We take every safety measure to screen each new member of our facebook group. We ask that new comers commit to attending 1 event in their first three months of joining the online facebook group.

We do not require attendance every week but do require participation monthly to ensure your membership. This not only helps us plan out activities appropriately but also ensures the safety and trust of all members.

After we have met you, you are welcome to volunteer and sign up on the events you are able to attend. We have lots of affordable and free events to choose from every week!

Volunteerism

As a member you will volunteer your time to organize and delegate duties involved in creating a class or event. Members are happy to volunteer and assist you as needed. We like to keep things affordable so that we can be as inclusive as possible. Our group is secular in nature which means our activities/field trips/lessons are without religious affiliation. We welcome the study of all topics within this secular approach.

BEFORE proceeding with creating events: please view our events tab in the CIH facebook group. We try to avoid having conflicting events so that everyone has an opportunity to attend. Another useful tool is the facebook post Poll option. You can poll the group by asking what time/date would be best and give out a few options. That has worked great for us especially with trips that require registration and a commitment.

Members/volunteers are responsible for:

~Booking the location- call, fill out reservation forms, e-mail, etc. (the members can assist you in giving you ideas for free locations)

~Brainstorming- Choose a theme, ask members for feedback if you like, create a relaxed agenda, most of our classes/clubs are 1-2 hours.

~Supplies- You can either ask everyone to bring their own supplies, or provide inexpensive supplies for everyone. Due to not being a registered non-profit organization we prefer to minimize exchanging money but have used paypal in the past as needed.

~Presentation- members have used powerpoint, youtube, etc. to throw together presentations, be as creative or simplistic as you like!

It is easy to be a host or simply lend a hand and get your feet wet. Let us know how you would like to be involved and we will help you find your niche!

C.I.H is

Non-hierarchical

(there is no leader, only members that attend, host, and volunteer)

All ages

All learning abilities

Secular

How to create an event for Cypress Inclusive Homeschoolers

1. Become a member- simply attend an event and meet everyone face to face, boom you're a member!
2. Join the members only group- after you attend an event and you decide you would like to volunteer let a member know so that we can add you to the secret facebook group where we plan events. Our planning group has many files with ideas to choose from.
3. **Poll**<<<<<< depending on your event/idea you may want to check and make sure members can attend the event. You can simply poll and ask everyone in the secret group what their availability is.
4. Create the event in the public facebook group. Anyone can do it! Just go to the events tab > +create event > then enter in the info > done!

If you have any questions the members are happy to help!

Venue options

C.I.H meet ups and classes are typically in or near the Cypress area. At different times throughout the year we book field trips or attend public events as a group. Here is a list of free venues we regularly use or have had success with in the past

H.E.B fairfield- Call Ashley at 713 585 5512, she will e-mail you and application and start the process of reserving a date/time.

Harris County Community centers http://www.pct3.com/community-centers/

HCPL Lonestar college Cy fair- call to check if there is availability 281 290 3210 then fill out the application here http://www.hcpl.net/about/meeting-room-policy

HCPL Fair banks library- call to check if there is availability 281 890 2665 then fill out application here http://www.hcpl.net/about/meeting-room-policy

Huskys copperfield location (great for parties, there is an arcade in the same area)- Call 281 858 1750

~Parks: Telge Park, Deputy Darren Goforth park, Dyess park, Cypress Top park, neighborhood parks, Bane park (no need to reserve just arrive early to grab a pavillion)

CIH Cooperative Classes

Our group of active members can vary each year. We have many different ages and parents often have differing schedules. Each semester we create classes considering these various factors. If you are interested in committing to attend classes on a bi-weekly or monthly basis we would love to have you join our cooperative classes.

Here is a sample of classes we have created in the past

Date/time: tuesday 10a-2pm

Location: Bane Park

Description of facebook event:

Who is available this week to host/teach?

Each person can bring their own supplies or ask a fee, whatever works best

Depending on the class/es we can either have everyone bring their own lunch or have a cooking portion.

Brainstorm in the comment section

Maximum capacity is 20

class-A..... bane park

science...10:15-11am paper rockets..... please bring a empty two litter bottle IF u have one laying around .....

class-B.....Fairbanks library (in same parking lot) 11:30-1:30pm

Class C: A-Z Awesome Women in History with Heather: Amelia Earhart and Paper Airplanes

As a member you will volunteer your time to organize and delegate duties involved in creating a class. Seasoned Members are happy to volunteer and assist you as needed. We like to keep things affordable so that we can be as inclusive as possible. Our group is secular in nature which means our activities and lessons are without religious affiliation. We welcome the study of all topics within this secular approach. You will be responsible for:

~Booking the location- call, fill out reservation forms, e-mail, etc. (the members can assist you in giving you ideas for free locations)

~Brainstorming- Choose a theme, ask members for feedback if you like, create a relaxed agenda, most of our classes/clubs are 2-3 hours.

~Supplies- You can either ask everyone to bring their own supplies, or provide inexpensive supplies for everyone. Due to not being a registered non-profit organization we prefer to minimize exchanging money but have used paypal in the past as needed.

~Presentation- members have used powerpoint, youtube, etc. to throw together presentations, be as creative or simplistic as you like!

It is easy to be a host or simply lend a hand and get your feet wet. Let us know how you would like to be involved and we will help you find your niche!

*****You are not required to attend the entire day (10a-2p) only what you and your child are interested in. We simply ask that you volunteer your time/skills/supplies/food when you are present.