

Christian Home Educators of the Fresno Area (CHEFA)

Membership Manual

Christian Home Educators of the Fresno Area (CHEFA) is a network of home educating families who have an organized system for getting information out to the home schooling community. Our purpose is primarily to be a network of communication and support which allows multiple families to get together and be involved in the organization of various activities in order to support local homeschooling families

CHEFA is an organized not-for-profit group of Christian families which incorporated in 1995 and established, through by-laws, a Board of Directors and officers with voting rights. The leadership is made up of those who have volunteered their time to organize activities and oversee the organization. Participation in any event is strictly voluntary. No members are required to attend any meetings or events, however, new member applicants must attend a CHEFA Informational Meeting. Alumni are exempt, but may attend if they wish.

CHEFA is governed locally by a volunteer Board of Directors (consisting of three to six married couples) who serve CHEFA in various capacities of leadership, as well as, in the functions of a board member.

Statement of Faith

As CHEFA is a Christian organization, CHEFA and its leadership proclaim the following statements of faith:

- 1) We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- 2) We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 3) We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- 4) We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- 5) We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- 6) We believe the Biblical view of sexuality, marriage and gender and endorse the [Nashville Statement](#).
- 7) We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Membership

By becoming a member of CHEFA you agree to abide by the policies and standards set forth. CHEFA is a vine with many branches; whether someone uses one small aspect of what we offer, or whether they use many, we are one. CHEFA is a source of encouragement and we consider membership a privilege. One way to encourage one another is to have an attitude of cooperation. The spirit we wish to maintain is that of being available to the area home educators while remaining in the spirit of Christian unity. ***“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6***

We understand that you may not agree with the standards set by CHEFA, but to participate in CHEFA events, you must abide by them. We wish to support God’s work and remain as a ministry to unify the homeschooling community, and to be of help to new home schooling families. We hope to serve you as you serve others. Together, we can work to build God’s Kingdom.

Membership Agreement

Each applicant and/or member must agree to the following before membership is granted. If a member is in violation of the agreement, membership can be revoked without refund.

- 1) I am a Christian. I am a believer in and a follower of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.
- 2) I will cooperate with CHEFA in engaging only Christians in positions of responsibility and leadership.
- 3) I understand that CHEFA will operate as a Christian organization according to the principles of Scripture.
- 4) I will support CHEFA by conducting myself in a Christian manner while participating with and/or serving members of CHEFA.
- 5) I understand that to be a member I must provide a minimum of 51% of my children's education at home.
- 6) I understand that CHEFA does not accept students as members who participate in, or are enrolled in, a public school system, including Independent Study Programs and/or Charter Schools.
- 7) I understand that I am solely responsible for my children's conduct at ALL CHEFA events.
- 8) I embrace the [Nashville Statement](#), which affirms God's design and intent regarding sexuality, marriage and gender identity.
- 9) I agree to hold CHEFA, its leadership, and its members harmless in the event of any damages or injuries to myself, my children, or property.

Release of Liability

As a Christian group, we seek to follow the biblical mandate, which disallows bringing charges against Christian brothers in civil courts. We also seek to be good stewards of the resources and blessings the Lord has provided. Our organization has never had an instance of injury or damages being charged to the group, yet we believe it is best to be sure all members understand our position prior to any mishaps.

We are an organized not-for-profit group of Christian families. The leadership is made up of those who have volunteered their time to organize activities and oversee the organization. Participation in any event is strictly voluntary, with no member ever being required to attend any meeting or event (however, new member applicants must attend a CHEFA "Informational Meeting"). **Neither CHEFA as an organization, nor its leaders, nor its members are liable for any injuries or damages, whether connected with a CHEFA event or not.**

Student Supervision: At every event, parents are responsible for their own children. Occasionally a member will desire to send his/her child(ren) to an activity with another adult member. We suggest that if you find it necessary to send your child(ren) to an event with another adult, it be one who is comfortable enough with your child to correct him/her if necessary. We encourage you to send a MEDICAL RELEASE form with your child(ren) in case of an emergency. There is a release form provided on the CHEFA website.

Any special guests (grandparents, relative, etc.) who accompany members to any event are under the sole responsibility of that member for behavior, damages, injuries, etc.

When you sign the membership application, you are agreeing to hold CHEFA and its members harmless in the event of any damages or injuries to you, your children, or to your property.

Homeschool Basics

It is the policy of HSLDA and CHEFA that a student's parent or legal guardian must administer 51% or more of the student's education, an exception is held for juniors and seniors in high school.

School Enrollment Options - Most home educators in California enroll their children in a home education school that has

been established by the filing of a **Private School Affidavit (PSA)** with the county Office of Education. Below are three different options for enrolling your children.

Individual Private School (One family filing own affidavit): To do this, you will **need to file your own Private School Affidavit (PSA)** and keep records that are required by the state. If you choose this option, An Introduction to Home Education (available from CHEA) has all the information you need about how to begin your private home school.

Private School Satellite Program (PSP) (One private school affidavit is filed on behalf of multiple member families): These are private schools which have been established by a homeschooling family, as stated above. In addition, they have met other requirements for administrating a private school, and are allowing other families to enroll in their private school. You will be responsible for purchasing your own curriculum (none of these schools provide it), and you will be teaching your child(ren) in your own home. The school will provide support, record keeping, and some socialization opportunities such as park days, field trips, holiday parties, etc. Most of these schools charge tuition to cover such costs as newsletters, insurance and record keeping services.

Support Group (Each family is responsible for filing its own affidavit, but support is offered to member families): This is a group of families who have each filed their own private school affidavit and keep their own records, but still desire to get together occasionally for organized activities. These are usually smaller groups and charge little or no tuition.

Public School Independent Study Program (ISP) are publicly funded or subsidized programs where parents can teach their children at home or the student can complete a self-study public school curriculum with oversight from public school administration. These study programs are not eligible for CHEFA membership.

Charter schools are publicly funded elementary or secondary schools that have been freed from some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools, in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each charter school's charter. State laws and regulations governing charter schools vary widely. [National Education Association (NEA) website].

Public School ISP's & Charter Schools

It is CHEFA policy that **students enrolled in publicly funded independent study program or Charter schools are not eligible for CHEFA membership or participation in its events. We do not want to risk public school officials having power and control over our educational decisions.**

Legal Protection

Home educators in California have enjoyed considerable freedom educating their children. However, the legal climate in California can vary from school district to school district and could change statewide at any time. **We highly recommend you join Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)**. Members of CHEFA are eligible to receive a discount for HSLDA dues. Learn more about HSLDA at their web site, www.hslda.org

CHEFA Events

Because we are a network, CHEFA depends on its membership to volunteer in various capacities to make events possible. Being a CHEFA member entitles you to receive our newsletter and the ability to participate in CHEFA sponsored events.

All-Member Meeting

An all member meeting to discuss the upcoming year is held in June, July or August. At this meeting the yearly financial

report is presented by the leadership team.

Public Events

Some of the events offered by CHEFA are open to the greater home educating community. You are welcome to invite fellow home educators who may not be members to attend or take advantage of these events/functions of CHEFA. CHEFA also encourages families who are considering home educating their children to attend some of the “Open” events.

Services and Activities that are currently offered

There are several activities and services that CHEFA offers every year. Most of the activities only exist if someone volunteers to lead them. Here is a list of the activities and services currently offered by CHEFA:

Informational Meetings_____Open	School Pictures_____Members
Used Curriculum Sale_____Open	
Attendance at Creative Arts Faire_Open	Creative Arts Faire_____Members
Attendance at	Mom’s Luncheon/Tea_____Members
Graduation_____Open	Glow Theater_____Members
	12th Grade Graduation_____Members
HSLDA Discount_____Members	Newsletter_____Members
Sports Saturdays_____Members	Yearbook_____Members
	CYF Activities_____Members
	Robotics_____Members

Code of Conduct & Dress (See Attachment A)

We, the families of CHEFA, represent the home educating community and, most importantly, our Lord Jesus Christ, to those around us. In recognition of that, we should behave in a manner consistent with the instruction presented in God’s Word. To participate in CHEFA and CYF activities you must abide by these standards.

All students are expected to maintain high standards of conduct. They shall comply with all CHEFA regulations and submit to the authority of any adult in charge, teachers, and board members. **All parents and students, by virtue of membership, have accepted the Code of Conduct and Dress, and have agreed to comply.** Students are expected to dress modestly at all CHEFA related events.

In situations where the nature of dress is not specifically covered in a detailed manner, the adults in charge, who have been given authority by the CHEFA board, reserve the right to use their own discretion in determining the appropriateness of the attire or behavior. CHEFA reserves the right to ask anyone to leave a CHEFA event upon the violation of these standards. Parents are expected to enforce these standards at all CHEFA functions.

CHEFA reserves the right to refuse or revoke membership/privileges/activities to any students or parents based on the discretion of the board.

CHEFA Youth Fellowship (CYF)

CHEFA Youth Fellowship (CYF) offers additional opportunities for CHEFA member students in Grades 7 thru 12 to fellowship and build long-lasting relationships. These activities have included the following in the past (activities vary based on student participation and parental involvement):

Bonfire (fall), a Christmas season event, Broomball or Aerozone , Game Night, Boomers, Square Dance (spring), and Banquet (spring). Occasionally, CHEFA will organize special classes for CYF students. CHEFA does not always publish CYF classes or activities.

In order to participate in CYF activities, the student's family must be a current member of CHEFA, be in Grades 7-12, and must not be enrolled in a public school system program, either traditional, independent study, or a charter school.

Even though CYF is an entity of CHEFA, students must acknowledge they agree to adhere to the CHEFA Code of Conduct and Dress. This form is available in the CHEFA membership packet.

CYF Leadership Team

The CYF Leadership Team is small group of CYF student representatives who work with parent sponsors and CYF Directors to brainstorm, plan, organize, and implement CYF activities and events. These student representatives act as liaisons between their fellow classmates and the CHEFA board members, providing activity ideas of the students. The CYF-Leadership Team consists of 6 to 8 students, preferably 1 boy & 1 girl from the Senior, Junior & Sophomore Class who represent the larger CYF group (7th – 12th grades).

Qualifications of Student Leaders

- Must be in high school (9-12th grade) next school year.
- Must be previously active and involved in CHEFA CYF activities.
- Be available to help and participate in the functions of CYF and follow through until completion.
- Must be willing to work in a team of student leaders.
- Must be a positive role model and adhere to the CHEFA Code of Conduct and Dress.

CHEFA Board and Leadership (See Attachment B)

As a ministry, CHEFA is completely run by volunteers, and the leadership team is filled with individuals who desire to further the cause of private Christian Home Education. The role of the leadership team is to help those volunteers who have accepted responsibility for the different events, to administrate CHEFA funds, set and enforce CHEFA policies, to oversee CYF activities, and to help new home school families seeking information about home education in the Fresno area. The leadership team is comprised of husband and wife teams that volunteer to take responsibility for board positions. As positions become available, opportunity will be given for others to volunteer. If you would be interested in filling a position, please contact someone on the leadership team.

Requirements for CHEFA Board and Leadership:

- Both husband and wife must be Christians, believers in and followers of Jesus Christ. They must be members of CHEFA. They must be able to make decisions. Some decisions will not always be popular with everyone. They need to be open-minded enough to hear each side of every conflict of policy change, and yet allow the Holy Spirit to guide in each decision. The team comes together to make all final decisions.
- Commit for a minimum of two years after a 6 month trial period.
- Agree to attend all meetings that require their presence.
- Have the capability and the knowledge to manage the responsibility of the positions they will be filling.

CHEFA SuccessThe ultimate success of CHEFA will depend on God's purpose for it and the quality of its volunteers.

“Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Attachment-A

CODE of CONDUCT and DRESS

The families of CHEFA represent the home educating community and our Lord Jesus Christ. In recognition of that, we should behave in a manner consistent with the instruction presented in God’s Word. To participate in CHEFA and CYF activities you must abide by these standards.

Goal Statement – All parents and students are expected to maintain high standards of conduct. They shall comply with all CHEFA regulations and submit to the authority of any adult in charge, teachers, and board members. **All parents and students, by virtue of membership, have accepted the Code of Conduct and Dress Code, and have agreed to comply.** Students are expected to dress modestly at all CHEFA related events.

As a member of CHEFA/CHEFA Youth Fellowship:

- I will strive to be an example of Christ-like character in word, deed and conduct.
- I will act and speak in a manner worthy of God who calls me. I understand that unkind remarks, profanity, coarse jokes, conversation involving occult or sexual situations, or other language unbecoming of a Christian is unacceptable at CHEFA activities (1 Thessalonians 2:12; Eph 4:1; 5:4).
- I will encourage wholesome friendships.
- I will look upon fellow students as brothers and sisters in Christ and refrain from demonstrating romantic personal affection at all CHEFA activities. I understand that all CHEFA activities are non-dating events. (Gal 5:24; Rom 12:10; Eph 5:3).
- I will have an attitude of compassion for the differences, needs or disabilities of others. (Matt 7:12; James 2:1-9; Gal 5:22-23).
- I understand that the use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or weapons during any CHEFA activity is prohibited (I Cor. 6:19; Matt 5:16; Gal. 5:19-21).
- I will arrive on time for classes offered by CHEFA.
- As a young man\woman, I will purpose to dress in a way that will bring glory to God and my family. I will strive to conduct myself in dress and deed in a manner that will not cause my brother to stumble. Clothing should draw attention to the face, not the body (I Tim 2:9-10; I Cor. 8:9, 6:20; Exo 20:12).

GIRLS:

- Dresses and tops must be worn that cover undergarments.
- No backless or strapless tops, spaghetti straps, bare midriffs, or revealing necklines. At no time should skin be visible on the front or back of the midriff.
- Girls are allowed to wear shorts which are longer than her extended fingertips when her arms are at her side. All skirts and dresses should touch any part of the kneecap, regardless of leggings or shorts, with no slits revealing leg above the knee. Sheer material is not considered coverage. *Why can shorts be shorter than skirts?* A skirt that hits above the knee is liable to twirl up at dances or be too short during certain movements such as bending over or sitting on the floor. Many of our events involve games, such as volleyball, or dancing.

BOYS:

- Pants must cover undergarments. Also, for boys, shorts may be worn which are longer than his extended fingertips when his arms are at his side.
- Shirts must be worn at all times during CHEFA classes or events.

BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS:

- No clothing articles, belt buckles, or pins advertising tobacco, alcohol, or that suggest lewd, violent, or improper language or gang related symbols are allowed.
- No gang or punk-like attire.
- Hair should be neat, clean, and well groomed.

Swim and Beach attire

- Boys – please wear a rash guard or t-shirt with swim trunks (board shorts are okay, but no Speedo-type suits)
- Girls – please wear a modest swimsuit that covers the midriff with a skirted bottom or board shorts.

In situations where the nature of dress is not specifically covered in a detailed manner, the adults in charge, who have been given authority by the CHEFA board, reserve the right to use their own discretion in determining the appropriateness of the attire or behavior. CHEFA adults should address dress code concerns only with students of the same sex. Parents of the youth involved should also be spoken to by the concerned adult, preferably at the time of the infraction. Any student who violates the dress code, and especially those who do so repeatedly, may be temporarily suspended by the board from CHEFA activities in order to keep chaperoning a pleasant experience for adults involved. CHEFA reserves the right to ask anyone to leave a CHEFA event upon the violation of these standards. Parents are expected to enforce these standards at all CHEFA functions.

CHEFA Banquet Attire and Conduct Code

We look forward to hosting the High School Banquet honoring our seniors this year! The purpose of the Banquet is to provide an opportunity for our students to come together while honoring the Senior Class. It is our sincere desire to provide a safe and wholesome atmosphere for this event.

In keeping with the purpose of the Banquet, wholesome friendships are encouraged between young men and young ladies. Students are to look upon one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and refrain from demonstrating personal affection. **As with all CHEFA events, this is a non-dating event.**

We would like to thank those parents who, year after year, go to considerable lengths to make sure that their son or daughter is appropriately dressed. The CHEFA Board does not desire to set our standards unattainably high. Please know that we have prayed at length over this dress code.

Gentlemen's Attire: A button-down, collared dress shirt, necktie, dress pants, dress shoes (no casual shoes allowed.) A jacket would be nice, but is not mandatory. No ball-caps, visors, beanies, or jeans.

Ladies' Attire: A dress is recommended. Please keep MODESTY in mind with these guidelines:

If you choose a shorter dress over a long dress, it must long enough to cover the knee with no slits revealing leg above the knee. If material needs to be added to your dress, it must be a solid fabric. Sheer or nude (skin-colored) material is not considered coverage. No tight-fitting, strapless or backless dresses. At no time should skin be visible on the front or back of the midriff.

If you need to add straps, they must be a solid material. Sheer or nude (skin-colored) material is not considered coverage.

Spaghetti straps will be permitted.

No backless halter dresses.

No off-the shoulder dresses

No plunging necklines or low-cut dresses that reveal cleavage.

Appropriate undergarments must be worn.

Dresses must meet these standards without a shawl or wrap.

Dress shoes are required- no sneakers or flip flops.

*In order to keep the evening a positive experience, we ask that all attendees adhere to the above standards for dress. For the sake of all CHEFA members, these standards will be enforced by asking any "non-adherent" student to change before the event. CHEFA is a Christian organization, and our dress and conduct should reflect what we believe. **If you are in doubt regarding your student's attire, please contact any Board member.***

The use of electronic devices is prohibited at the Banquet. The use of cell phones is discouraged. Please encourage your student to refrain from using them at any time during the evening. They are very distracting, and out of courtesy, we ask that they remain out of sight and set on "vibrate" or turned off.

This event is chaperoned and we are looking forward to a wonderful evening! Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Attachment-B

CHEFA Board and Leadership 2019-2020

Board of Directors: Not less than 6 (3 couples) and not more than 12 (6 couples) Directors

President/Treasurer:

Kevin & Jacie Shields
9135 E North Ave
Sanger, CA 93657
president@chefa.org
treasurer@chefa.org

Board Members:

Scott and Niki Feistel

membership@chefa.org
secretary@chefa.org

Board Members:

Cort and Jeanette Fleming
(559)681-3155
cjfleming@hotmail.com

CYF Directors:

Open position
CYF@chefa.org

Other Leadership Positions:

Newsletter Editor

Open position
newsletter@chefa.org

Sports Saturday Coordinator

Kevin Shields
CYF@chefa.org

Yearbook

Paula Hall
yearbook@chefa.org

School Pictures

Naomi Kent
Deeply Rooted Photography
naomi@deeplyrootedphotography.com

Librarian

Sarah Garcia & Allie Lang
sarah_garcia@live.com

**History or Science Faire
Coordinator**

Open

Webmaster

Open

New Member Coordinator

Elizabeth Hiett
hietts@chefa.org

Creative Arts Faire Coordinator

Open

Facebook Administrator

Open
CHEFA - Christian Home Educators
of the Fresno Area (Official)

When making calls to the above-named people **please call after 2:00 p.m.**
Learn more about CHEFA at www.chefa.org