

Orangeburg Christian Home Educators Association

“Encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thess 5:11

www.ochea.net

OCHEA Mission Statement

We purpose to nurture, educate, and lovingly discipline our children according to the Word of God. We intend to do this by teaching them spiritual and moral values and to lead them by consistent lifestyle example. We believe that God ordained marriage as the unity of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children are a blessing and gift to that union and are to honor and obey their parents. **We recognize home schooling as the privilege of educating our children at home, using the curriculum of our choice, free from public, private or governmental control of any kind.** Each member family has the responsibility of portraying Christian values in their homes and to one another by displaying respect, courtesy, honesty, fairness, understanding, guidance, patience and brotherly love towards one another at all times.

(References: Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 22:6, Mark 10:6-9, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 6:1-3, Philippians 4:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15)

Group Information and Policies

OCHEA is a support group for home schooling families in the Orangeburg area. **We are not an accountability group!** (You must be part of an accountability group to be compliant with SC homeschool laws.) Our members vary in experience from new to veteran and teach children of all grade levels using their own choice of curricula and scheduling. While many different Christian denominations are within this group, our focus remains the same--working together to do what is best for our children.

OCHEA can be joined at any time during the school year for families to join in on OCHEA hosted activities, field trips planned by OCHEA members, holiday parties, school pictures (when available) and access to communication with all OCHEA members through Heylo. Co-op, however, can only be joined before the registration deadline.

Our group has one mandatory planning meeting at the start of the school year at which we schedule opportunities for our children to learn and grow together. **The planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:00pm at Cornerstone Church.** Members are required to attend this meeting. We communicate initially via email and then via Heylo to make announcements concerning this meeting and other planned gatherings.

Communication

Since we only have one meeting at the start of the year, it is vital to be an active participant in our Heylo communication app. Heylo can be accessed via web browser on any computer or via mobile app. Members are encouraged to download the mobile app and turn on all notifications to stay informed about OCHEA topics and events. Heylo does give users the ability to join (or not join) relevant discussions, so that you are not overloaded with notifications of posts that do not interest you. Only major announcements will be sent out via email, so keeping up to date through Heylo is essential to your OCHEA experience. It will be expected that all members keep informed via Heylo.

Activities offered by OCHEA

Without member involvement, our group cannot remain productive. Our group is only as good as we make it. With the exception of first year members, you are required to host (or co-host with one other person) ONE event, field trip, or serve on a committee. First year members are not *required* to host any events, but are encouraged to help and participate whenever possible. Potential activities and committees are listed below. Please prayerfully consider how you will contribute this year.

Social Studies/History Night	Spelling Bee
Science Night	Family Talent Night
Mom's Night Out	Holiday Parties
Field trips	Age-based Gatherings (i.e. Middle School Madness)

Members are asked to plan and host these events. The host(s) are responsible for securing a location for the event, making a plan for potential activities and/or food, and set-up/clean-up. Holiday parties can be held at any location suitable for a crowd, on any date/time desired. If food will be served, please provide details so other members know what they should bring or to contribute money to a meal. OCHEA provides the paper goods for these events. (Please check our supply before purchasing more.) Once plans are made by the host, they should create an "Event" on Heylo so all OCHEA members get an invitation and can respond with questions or RSVP.

Committees

Listed below are volunteer committees that need your help. Each position is for one school term.

Yearbook- on this committee, you will be responsible for helping organize OCHEA's annual yearbook. You may be asked to submit photos, layout pages, help sell ads, etc. High school aged students are encouraged to volunteer for this committee as well.

Graduation-Parents of graduates as well as OCHEA board members make up this committee. Committee members meet and help plan all of the following for our graduation ceremony- meeting dates, securing a convenient location, printing programs, setup, and serving refreshments, clean up and any other areas which help alleviate some of the responsibilities of the parent of graduates.

OCHEA Leadership

Our Board is made up of five volunteer members. Board members offer advice and provide information to members and prospective members, provide and moderate a platform for members to communicate within, lead planning meetings, schedule classes, handle fundraisers and monies, provide an internet support platform, help plan graduation, and lead the various aspects of the group. Board positions should be held no less than 2 consecutive years, but will be voted upon should a member wish to join the board before a current board member steps down. The board members for the 2026-2027 term are as follows:

Allison Bates 803-308-1630

Annie Garvin 803-682-2090

Catherine Roberts 803-378-4732

Joy Dekker 803-466-6566

Pamela Morse 803-347-4328

Parent Responsibility/Discipline Policy

As homeschoolers, anytime we are together as a group in public, we represent the entire homeschool movement as well as our families, and it is our desire for OCHEA members to always be viewed in a positive light. All members should respect the hard work and effort it takes to organize an event and encourage their children to participate. Please thoroughly consider an event before signing up for it. Cancelling at the last minute may cause a problem for the organizer or event. We respect the right of each family to discipline their children according to their own consciences, providing the children are not disruptive or disrespectful in their language, dress or behavior. We seek to promote the happiness and contentment of each family without offending one another. However, we will not permit the obvious disregard of rules or regulations to affect the activities provided for the group, or cause us to lose privileges at any given facility. Parents are responsible for the actions of their children and will be asked to appropriately handle any disruptive conduct that may prevent members from enjoying group events. There should be no “dropping off” of children at an event unless proper consent of an attending adult is obtained beforehand. OCHEA cannot accept liability for injury or neglect at group functions. Your signature on the application form attests to your notification and agreement to the above policies.

To join OCHEA, please complete the “OCHEA ONLY” online application found on our website at www.OCHEA.net. Mail check payment to PO Box 2498 Orangeburg, SC 29116 or email info.ochea@yahoo.com to arrange in-person payment. Plan to attend our mandatory planning meeting to help create an amazing year for our children. **The planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:00pm at Cornerstone Church.** When you join OCHEA, you will be invited to join OCHEA’s Heylo group.