# CHNM Membership Policies

## Mission Statement

A Christ-centered support group established to provide fellowship, encouragement, and to enhance the ability of Christian families to home-educate their children.

## Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be inspired of God.

We believe that there is only one true God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the virgin birth and sinless life, literal death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and His ascension into Heaven.

We believe that all have sinned and are lost without salvation. Salvation is offered to all mankind through the shedding of Christ’s blood on the cross of Calvary (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:8-10, 13; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

## Family Policy

While we do realize that each family may differ in beliefs, CHNM recognizes a biblical interpretation of family.

We believe that God has Wonderfully created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman within an exclusive union (Genesis 2:18-25). God intends sexual intimacy to occur between a man and a woman who are united in marriage (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God directs that no intimate sexual activity occur between persons outside the boundaries of marriage. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexuality, bestiality, incest and using pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

## Membership Requirements

CHNM membership is open to any homeschooling family who has read the information in the membership packet and indicated their agreement with the stated Mission,

Statement of Faith, Family Policy, CHNM Behavior Principles, General Policies, and any other applicable policies by submitting an application form online as well as membership fees.

CHNM offers a yearly membership, starting July 1 and expiring June 30. The fee strictly for membership of the group (excluding associated class day fees) is $60.

Membership in CHNM requires the participation of at least one legal parent or guardian.

Class day membership is open to any homeschool family who is a CHNM Member as enrollment space is available. (See Class Day Policies for additional information.)

# CHNM Behavior Principles

These are the expectations of any student participating in CHNM. These behavior expectations apply on Wednesday classes and at any CHNM function.

Students will pay attention in the classroom, listening and participating appropriately and without disrupting the class.

*Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40*

Students will be respectful of teachers, instructors, coaches, helpers, and adults. This means refraining from all back-talking, eye-rolling, disputing, complaining, etc.

*Do all things without murmurings and disputings. Philippians 2:14*

Students will be respectful and show kindness for one another. Older students should remember that CHNM classes and most functions involve children of many ages, and should remain a safe and appropriate environment for all.

*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Romans 12:10*

Students will treat others’ property with respect (this includes church facilities, locations of any CHNM functions, other students’ items, etc.).

*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Philippians 2:4*

Students will not engage or participate in any fighting or bullying behavior.

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. Ephesians 4:31*

Students will not engage or participate in any inappropriate language.

*But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Colossians 3:8*

## Principles for Correction

*Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. I Thessalonians 5:14*

Overall Principles:

Age and ability of the child should always be taken into account. A well-behaved six-year-old looks and acts differently than a well-behaved sixteen-year-old.

Rebellion or willful misbehavior should be treated differently than immaturity or childishness.

The teacher should be given wide latitude in the classroom.

Parents must be diligent to correct any behavior issues of their own children.

Board involvement should be a last resort.

In The Classroom:

Helpers should take notice of any student who is engaging in any misbehavior, and attempt to correct / redirect that student. Helpers and teachers should attempt to distinguish between rebellious or purposeful misbehavior, and childishness or inattention. When deciding whether to remove a student from the classroom, helpers and teachers should take into account the age and abilities of the child. Helpers should take the initiative to do this to allow the teacher to focus on the classroom instruction.

If a student does not correct the behavior, then the helper or the teacher should bring this to the attention of the student’s parent after class. The teacher may request a helper to remove a student and bring the student to his or her parent. The helper should defer to the teacher’s wishes in the classroom. This should only be done when the student’s presence is disruptive to the class continuing properly.

Outside the classroom (i.e., hallways, group gatherings, CHNM functions):

Any adult who observes a student or group of students engaging in any misbehavior should intervene and bring correction to that student or group.

If any student persists in the misbehavior or is disrespectful to the correction, then the adult should bring that student to his or her parent to address the situation.

If the misbehavior witnessed was of a serious nature, then the adult should address it with the student’s parent even if the immediate correction seemed effective.

Parent Expectations:

Parents should discuss student expectations with their children and reinforce the need to treat all adults and fellow students appropriately.

Parents will make diligent efforts to correct any misbehavior by their children that is brought to their attention by a teacher, helper, or another adult.

If a student is removed from a classroom for misbehavior, then the student’s parent will keep that student with him or her for the duration of that class, and will speak with the teacher about the situation after class. The parent and the teacher may resolve the situation as they see fit.

Board Involvement with Parent:

If parental involvement does not correct the student’s misbehavior, or if repeated instances of purposeful or rebellious misbehavior continue to occur, any teacher, helper, or adult may bring this concern to the board’s attention.

The Board will meet privately with the parent of the student at issue, to discuss ways to correct the concern.

Board Involvement with Student:

This should be a last resort.

This step should be reserved generally for middle-school or high-school students, except in very rare circumstances, well beyond youthful or childish inattentiveness or distraction (even if repeated).

If the Board / parent discussion has not corrected the situation, then the student (accompanied by his or her parent) will meet with the board to explain his or her behavior, and commit to a plan to correct the situation.

If this does not work, then the Board may suspend the student from further CHNM classes or activities until convinced that the situation has been corrected.

# General Policies

## Honor Christ

CHNM is a Christ-centered organization.

We aim to honor Jesus Christ at any CHNM Event in the form of actions and prayers, both collectively and individually.

Golden Rule/ Conflict Resolution **(**​​**in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18)** Treat others as you wish to be treated. Show respect to each other.

If you have an issue with someone, take it to him or her.

If they do not listen, take someone as a witness and help.

If someone comes to you speaking badly about someone, ask him or her if they have gone to that person. If not, speak not.

If you are unable to resolve a problem, please go to a member of the Board of Directors.

## Visitor Policy

Visitors should notify the Chairperson, Committee Member, or Event Host for prior approval to attend any event associated with CHNM (including but not limited to Teen Events, sports practices, class day, etc...)

Upon arriving, visitors need to check in with the Event Host.

It is expected that all visitors adhere to CHNM’s expectations and general policies for all members.

## Alcohol, Tobacco and Substance Use

Use of any tobacco products, vaping, marijuana, alcohol, or illegal drugs during

CHNM’s child related activities – including but not limited to class time at E-free Church, all church facilities, teen events, tween events, field trips, picnics, and archery – is prohibited. Tobacco products, vaping, marijuana, alcohol, or illegal drugs are not to be consumed on the premises while the event is taking place. Tobacco products, vaping, marijuana, alcohol, or illegal drugs are not to be around and/or used while transporting CHNM children to/from CHNM events during carpools.

## Dress/Modesty

God’s Word tells us in Ephesians 2, verse 10 that “we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” And as His handiwork, we believe it is important to honor God in all that we do, including our actions, words, and attire.

We find ample guidelines in the Bible, regarding the heart behind making God-honoring choices, and we’re told in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that our bodies are temples of the holy Spirit; that we have been bought at a price, so we’re to honor God with our bodies.

It is with this in mind, that the policy for Christian Homeschoolers of Northern Michigan events, including Class Day, all (leaders and students) must do their best to dress in an appropriate manner, including adequate covering for areas of midriff, cleavage and thighs; Shorts, skirts and dresses, at least mid-femur in length; And sleeved shirts, that do not expose the midriff or back.

It is important to note that we’re instructed by God in His Word, to “not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2) Even if a fashion trend is widely accepted and popular, if it doesn’t line up with God’s directives toward modesty, we’re not to conform to it.

It is understood that part of our human condition is having differing viewpoints on a variety of topics, including what someone deems “modest.” Coming back to the heart of the matter, God’s Word instructs us in Romans 14:13b, to “make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.” It is important that we have a desire to protect one another from stumbling, or being a stumbling block.

This policy is not designed to cause strife, nor to create hardship for students or parents in the area of attire. It is designed as a guideline, to remind us of the very first chapter of God’s Word, that we are created in His image; "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them". (Genesis 1:27)

In the event that a question regarding a student or leader’s attire arises, we look to Matthew 18:15-18, as God’s instruction in accountability and resolution of conflict. It is important that we understand that an adult is to express their concern to a child’s parent, and not directly to the student.

Promptness

Please be prompt to all CHNM events and activities.

## Privacy

The information in our directory and class day roster is for use by its member families only.

Student Personal Info Policy

Leadership/Student

A person in any leadership position (teacher, teaching assistant, temporary teacher, stand-in teacher, classroom helper, coach, assistant coach, coordinator, and chaperone) shall NOT request personal information from students; including but not limited to: phone number, email, and social media. Leadership has the responsibility to refuse personal information offered by a student.

Communication between leadership and students will only be through the CHNM website.

If communication is desired outside of CHNM, student information and contact will be granted by and through parents/legal guardians/responsible parties only.

*Note to Parents: All information that is published in the Family Directory on the CHNM website is public knowledge and accessible to all CHNM members.*

Older Siblings/Students

Older siblings of CHNM families shall NOT ask for any personal information from students; including but not limited to: phone number, email, social media information.

If communication is desired outside of CHNM, student information and contact will be granted by and through parents/legal guardians/responsible parties only.

Older Sibling is defined as any sibling/family member of a student/CHMN family that is no longer in school i.e., a graduate.

Student/Student and Member/Member

No person shall pursue or obtain personal information from or about a member who is not interested in a further relationship beyond CHNM activities.

Cyber bullying and/or stalking will not be tolerated.

Cyberbullying is bullying that happens through text messages or online. It could be through emails, social media, forums, or gaming. The list of examples shown below is not an inclusive list, therefore not limited to these specific examples:

* Posting rumors on social media
* Sharing embarrassing pictures or videos online
* Sharing someone else's private information online (doxing)
* Making threats against someone online
* Creating fake accounts and posting information to embarrass someone

**Any violations of this policy will result in immediate dismissal of the offending person(s) from all CHNM events until he/she has met with the Board.**

CHNM Bylaws Article VIII Section 5: Termination or Suspension of Membership Membership in the organization may be suspended pursuant to bylaws procedures, and policies in accordance to Matthew 18:15-18. Suspended members may remove themselves from membership at anytime by providing notice of that to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may suspend a member by unanimous vote. Membership of any member may be involuntarily terminated only by a vote where 2/3 majority of the votes cast (including absentee votes) by the membership.

*I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Matthew 10:16*

# Field Trip, Special Event, and Class Day Etiquette

As homeschoolers we are viewed at times with critical eyes. People want to know what we are about and if we are different from the rest of the world. Homeschoolers are generally associated with devout Christianity, so we aren’t just representing homeschoolers, we are representing Christ. We make a big impression when we show up late or not at all and when our children are disrespectful during a class or tour. Let us make sure we do not make that bad impression. We want to shine for Him.

Everyone is expected to be respectful of others’ property, including, but not limited to: structures, directions provided by the event host/property owner, church buildings, and landscaping, etc.

Please read and follow these guidelines:

## Fee Payment

If there is a cost involved with an activity, field trip, or other special event, the fee must be paid at the time of your registration, unless otherwise specified by the event coordinator.

Please do not consider yourself registered for an event until you have paid the fees. Those first to pay will be first to be registered.

Refunds because of your cancellation are dependent upon your giving proper notice of not being able to attend, the refund policy of the field trip destination, and/or if there is someone on the waiting list who is willing to step into your place.

## Promptness

Please arrive 15 minutes before a field trip is scheduled to begin. This provides us the opportunity to give last minute instructions and to get organized before entering the facility quietly.

## Courtesy

Please be attentive, courteous, polite and prepared with good questions for our tour guide.

Remember to thank the tour guide at the end of the field trip. We encourage all families to follow up with a thank-you letter. What an added blessing to our host!

## Attendance

It is a privilege to partake in a field trip.

We understand that children will misbehave or just have a bad day occasionally; however, this should be corrected and inappropriate behavior addressed.

Dangerous, belligerent, or blatantly disrespectful behavior may result in immediate expulsion from field trips for a set amount of time deemed appropriate by the coordinator or event host.

Your field trip coordinators will do their best to provide fun and educational field trips and provide information in a timely manner.

If there are any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the Event Host, Field Trip Coordinator, or Committee Members as appropriate.

**Event Posting Procedures**

**Member Only Events**

Events posted on the calendar are for CHNM members only.

We can be an autonomous group meeting in a public venue.

i.e. ice skating at the Sportsplex

After posting on the calendar, add event to the forum for the appropriate group –

the calendar does not send out notifications.

**Non CHNM Community Events & Activities**

Events in our community, that are outside of CHNM, where we would meet with other people that are not members of CHNM, can be posted on the forum only, not on the calendar.

i.e. joining your Youth Group for an event

These events are to be posted on the forum through the “Non CHNM Community Events & Activities” category.

**Available CHNM Planning Committees**

Committees include and are not limited to:

Tweens (Ages 10 to 13)

Teens (Ages 13 thru Senior year; 13-year-olds can choose which group to participate in)

Field Trips

All members – age minimums can be added depending on the event

All Member Events/Family Events

All members

All members are welcome to join the Planning Committees.

All members are welcome to post CHNM events on the calendar.

All members are welcome to inform the CHNM of events in our community by posting on the forum through the “Non CHNM Community Events & Activities” category.

**Flow of Operations:**

**The Board Oversees-**

Treasurer, Secretary, Class Day Liaison, Class Day Committee, Membership Registrations, Safety Team, Communication Team, Field Trip Team, Christmas Program Team, Spring Performance Team, Curriculum Sale Team, Fundraising Team, Gatherings Team, Graduation Team, Academic Fair Team, Teen Events Team, Tween Events Team, Raise Right, E-Free Church Liaison, Mom’s Night Out, Archery Team, Martial Arts, Picnics, Yearbook, Website, and any other team, committee, or entity within CHNM.

**Class Day Committee is responsible for-**

Class day classes including 5th hour, registration for classes, meeting minutes

**All CHNM Membership $60-**

Have the ability to join/participate with field trips, performance nights, sales/fundraisers, academic fair, teen events, tween events, picnics, mom’s night out, archery, and any other CHNM sponsored activities.

**Class Day Membership $120-**

Has the ability to participate in class day classes, martial arts, any 5th hour classes (additional fees may apply).

\*Revised on 3-26-25