

**SOARING EAGLES
CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL COOPERATIVE
(THE CO-OP)**

BYLAWS AND POLICIES

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of Soaring Eagles Co-op is to provide support to Christian home educators in Coweta, Fayette and their surrounding counties. Support includes but is not limited to:

- a. Planning field trips,
- b. Planning family activities
- c. Providing information on the legal status and climate of education in the State of Georgia

2. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership shall be open to Christian home-educating families. For the purposes of this organization, a family is recognized as a husband and wife, male and female, with one or more children. Single parent family situations may also be recognized. Membership in the Co-op requires at least one parent to teach or assist in a class offered by The Co-op for the duration of the year.
- b. Members must be in full compliance with home education laws in the State of Georgia. Failure to comply may result in expulsion from The Co-op.
- c. The quality of The Co-op is directly related to the common values shared by its members. To maintain cohesiveness, the Board reserves the right to deny membership or revoke membership of any individual or family who does not subscribe to the values or comply with the requirements set forth in these bylaws.
- d. The Board may set a limit on the maximum number of members allowed to enter The Co-op if the size of membership adversely affects the quality of the programs.

3. STATEMENT OF FAITH

- a. The Soaring Eagles Co-op is a Christ centered organization, all aspects of which seek to honor biblical principles and bring glory to His name.
- b. All classes will be taught from a conservative Christian viewpoint
- c. We, the members of The Soaring Eagles Co-op, in order to encourage the body of Christ, strengthen the family, spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, promote Christian ethical and moral behavior, secure the blessing of the covenant of the Lord

Jesus Christ by obedience to His commandments, and ensure that our children will be a godly legacy, do ordain and establish this statement of faith:

- i) We believe that God has existed for all eternity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - ii) We believe that Jesus Christ is the only eternally begotten Son of God, who took on human flesh, remaining fully God and fully man, yet without sin, and that He is the image of the invisible God.
 - iii) We believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God.
 - iv) We believe that salvation is offered as a gift, free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to individually, by faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.
 - v) We believe that our children are gifts from God and that, as parents, we are fully responsible for educating them, instilling godly character within them, and training them by instruction and example to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves.
- d. In all co-op matters the bible is the final authority. Any questions regarding this statement should be directed to a board member.

4. THE SOARING EAGLES CO OP LEADERSHIP

- a. The Co-op Leadership will consist of 1-3 volunteers per age group to handle issues that arise in the group. Larger problems can be brought before the entire leadership board for advice and support. Questions shall be brought before the Co-op for discussion and a vote at a monthly meeting: The last Monday of the month after class.
- b. The Board shall appoint the following officers as a minimum:
 - i) Treasurer
 - ii) Parliamentarian
- c. Each age group will possess the following roles: Parent organizer, Social organizer, behavior coordinator.

5. FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- a. All Soaring Eagles field trips and activities must be approved by the Board. An activity event request form must be submitted by the field trip coordinator to the director a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the planned field trip.

- b. Every student participating in a field trip must present a signed Co-op permission slip to the trip coordinator, whether or not his/her parent is in attendance
- c. Field Trip participants must read and comply with “The Co-op Field Trip Guidelines” which are included in the application package.
- d. Parent child ratio of two non-related adults per 10 students and one additional adult for every five more students must be adhered to.

6. CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES

All adult co-op members shall be familiar with and comply with the Soaring Eagles Child Protection Guidelines included in the application packet. Adult Co-op participants will pay the fee to have a background check conducted. Any consistent behavior issues or disciplinary action should be reported to the director.

7. FINANCE

- a. The Co-op Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the current account status and providing financial reports to the Board.
- b. Monthly facility and maintenance fees shall be established by the Board and adjusted as necessary. Class fees are determined by the individual teachers. A \$5 late fee will be assessed if payment is not received by the end of month.
- c. Reimbursable expenses must be submitted to the treasurer within 30 days from the date the expense was incurred and should not exceed the amount collected for the class fees.
- d. All fundraising events and activities must be approved by the Board.

8. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

In keeping with our statement of purpose, The Co-op strives to instill in all of its members exemplary conduct both in and out of the classroom. It is of the utmost importance that students report misconduct to adult leadership so that effective corrective action can be taken. Failure to report unacceptable behavior will only serve to weaken the organization and to set a poor example for the other students. Violations of the conduct and discipline policy are grounds for disciplinary action as described herein. Our conduct reflects on The Co-op and the Homeschool community in general. Serious cases of misconduct could potentially result in suspension or ejection from The Co-op.

Behavior:

- a. Students are not permitted to bring firearms, knives, bb-guns, to any event or activity unless special permission from the board is made.
- b. Students are not permitted to bring water pistols, sling shots, or similar toy-weapon items to any event or activity unless by prior approval of teachers (for special events).
- c. Students are not permitted to bring electronic devices (i.e. radio, walkie-talkie, MP3 players, Game boy, pager, laser pointer, etc.) to the Co-op unless by prior approval of the board. Personal cameras are encouraged as long as they are not a distraction to class time (cell phone cameras are disallowed). Cell phones should be in off position and can be checked between classes.
- d. Students are not permitted to bring fireworks or other flammable materials to activities.
- e. Use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are not permitted at any Co-op event.
- f. Neither adults nor students will use or permit the use of obscenities, racial slurs, of course, foul inappropriate or abusive language or gestures.
- g. Students will use manners and respect in all aspects of behavior to one another and to adult leadership. Display of poor manners will not be tolerated.
- h. Soaring Eagles students are expected to use good judgment and not to engage in any activity that will endanger themselves or another individual.
- i. Co-op students and teachers are expected to show respect for the facility, and any damage to the facility by a student must be reimbursed by his/her family.
- j. If a child is deemed a danger to himself, a parent must be notified.

Disciplinary Action:

In order to maintain orderly and effective classes and outings, certain disciplinary actions may be occasionally necessary. Discipline issues will be brought to the parent initially. If the problem persists, the co-op will use the following disciplinary actions to correct behavior when the behavior is judged inappropriate or disruptive. A three strike policy is in effect for more serious infractions with the third strike signifying expulsion. Depending upon the severity of the problem and the student's behavior history, the following disciplinary actions may be considered by adult leadership:

- *Verbal warning and apology requested

- *Removal from class or activity

- *Written work

- * Parent required to attend with student
- * Student loses privileges (i.e. temporary restriction from classes/activities)
- * Co-op membership revoked (after Board vote)
- * The director reserves the right to have disciplinary cases heard before the Student Council judges who have the power to issue a strike in addition to any disciplinary action. The Board maintains final say in the use of a strike for expulsion.

The above detailed action steps may be accelerated based on the severity of the discipline problems, at the discretion of the Board.

9. DRESS CODE

Our academic classes are first and foremost a place of learning and thus we want to minimize the number of distractions. For all Co-op classes and field trips students should wear their Soaring Eagles T-shirt with jeans, khakis, bermuda shorts or a skirt that hits the top of the knee.

For social events such as “hang times” the following dress code applies (unless otherwise specified):

Girls

- i) Modest shorts are permitted but must not be shorter than four inches from the knee.
- ii) Modest tops
 - * have necklines that are within three fingers from the center of the collarbone
 - * Are made from fabric which is not transparent or too thin
 - * To determine if shirt is long enough to provide modesty, raise hands over head. If skin is showing the shirt is not in dress code.
 - * Are not excessively tight. Be able to pinch an inch of fabric on either side of shirt without gaping or pulling too tightly across chest
 - * Sleeveless shirts are not permitted
 - * Camis are not permitted to show in the front of a shirt. They can be used to extend the length of the shirt.
- iii) Pants (or skirts) should not be tight, form fitting or clinging. Holes above the knee are not permissible.
- iv) No hats allowed unless specifically stated

Boys

- i) Pants should fit without being pulled up constantly. Wearer should not be subject to exposure due to loose fitting pants. A belt remedies this situation. Underwear should not be visible so as to offend innocent eyes. No holes above the knee
- ii) No sleeveless shirts
- iii) No hats, caps, or bandanas as a show of respect to the church

12. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- a. Academic performance will be assessed every half semester
- b. 85% of work for the semester must be turned in, in order to receive a passing grade. We recognize that special circumstances often exist and should be discussed with the teacher to be exempt. Any disabilities should be discussed with your teachers to better serve your student. In the circumstances that a teacher notices any possible learning disabilities, the parent should be notified.
- c. If the student fails to turn in 85% of his/her work, they will be placed on academic probation for the next half semester.
- d. Failure of a class signifies a problem in the mastery of the subject material and will require a repeat of the course the following year.

Academic Probation

Students on Academic Probation may not participate in social events including Hang Times or any other planned events and will be relieved of any leadership positions.

If the student's performance does not improve the following 1/2 semester he or she will be required to withdraw from the Co-op.

11. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

- a. Bylaws can only be amended by a unanimous vote of the Co-op membership, meaning those present at the monthly meeting.
- b. Any co-op member may submit suggested bylaw changes to the Board.