

**BYLAWS of
Champaign County H.O.U.S.E.**

Preamble

In the interests of group harmony, the peaceful pursuit of group activities and the endurance of our group as a community resource for all home schoolers, we the families of Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. enact these Bylaws.

Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. sponsors a variety of activities to educate its children and adult members, and to support the free exercise of their right to homeschool. The group relies on active committees and individual volunteers to organize and direct its activities. We employ consensus decision making to determine what to sponsor, to delegate jobs, establish budgets and plans, and to otherwise organize the group. The group gives individuals and committees the authority to implement the group's plans, all of which must reflect the inclusive nature of Champaign County H.O.U.S.E.

I. Purpose

Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. supports families in exercising their right to homeschool regardless of age, color, creed, ethnic background, family composition, financial condition, learning disabilities, political persuasion, race, religion, or lack thereof, sexual preference, or special educational needs.

II. Membership

A. Anyone interested in home schooling, who subscribes to the above purposes, and whose name is recorded via the current membership form for a household for which dues are paid is a member in good standing.

B. Dues will be established at the annual August meeting each year.

C. Dues will be waived upon request to the treasurer if they would pose a hardship for the family. The responsibility for determining hardship rests with the family making the request. An explanation will not be required and the names of the families receiving a waiver will be noted in the treasurer's records for accounting purposes only.

D. Members have full access to the group's financial records and access to the non-confidential sections of the group's membership roster.

E. Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. reserves the right to terminate a membership.

III. Organization

A. Required Positions

1. Representative to the Illinois H.O.U.S.E. Network Council

Represents the interests and concerns of the Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. at meetings of the statewide coordinating council and reports the Illinois H.O.U.S.E. activities and decisions to Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. Brings urgent issues to the attention of the full membership.

2. State House Contact Person

Receives communications from the Illinois H.O.U.S.E. network and from persons in the Champaign County area who have sought home schooling support through the network's outreach initiatives and responds to those requests for information.

3. Meeting Facilitator

Has sole responsibility for establishing dates and locations for business meetings one of which must occur in August, prepares agendas, and guides group meetings. Delegates responsibility for recording actions taken at the business meeting.

4. Treasurer

a) Collects membership dues, acts as custodian of the group's funds, disburses monies to pay for approved Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. activities, and provides a financial accounting report quarterly and distributes the report to the membership.

b) All expenditures not included in the annual budget and exceeding \$50 must be approved at a general business meeting.

c) No one may sign a Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. check payable to him or herself.

d) The treasurer's detailed record will be available for inspection by any member.

5. Information Coordinator

Organizes information about past and future activities of the Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. and makes it available to all the group's members. Publishes results of each business meeting including reports from members.

6. Membership Coordinator

Receives membership forms and payment, turns payment over to the treasurer, maintains the database of names/addresses, etc., creates the membership list and keeps the information coordinator, activity directors, and membership informed of changes. Sends group bylaws, benefits, rules and other pertinent information to new members.

B. Business Meetings

1. The facilitator will call at least three regular business meetings each year, one of which must occur in August. Notice of each business meeting and the agenda will be provided to members at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The Meeting Facilitator will also provide the agenda to members at the beginning of each meeting.
2. Issues not on the agenda of a business meeting may be brought up for discussion as determined by those present.
3. A summary of the meeting and decisions will be published in a timely manner.
4. The following decisions will be made at the annual August meeting:
 - a) Approval of the annual budget
 - b) Membership dues
 - c) Call for volunteers to fulfill the organizational needs
 - d) Schedule business meetings
 - e) Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. will use the consensus process for making all decisions. All actions must follow the steps of consensus as defined by Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. policy.
 - f) Quorum for a properly called meeting will be equal to those members present at the meeting.

C. Standing Rules

1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year will be from September 1st to August 31st.

2. Committees and Volunteers

As the group grows and changes, the group recognizes that the group's needs will also change. To meet the needs of the group, committees and individual volunteers may be chosen by the general membership.

3. Activities

- a) Members may propose that Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. sponsor an activity. An activity sponsored by Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. is one that is arranged by the group or a committee the group has formed, or financed by the group, or carries the Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. name.
- b) All activities sponsored by Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. must be consistent with the Purpose of Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. An activity should be welcoming to the members of varied backgrounds and reflect the general interest of the group as a whole, which is home based education.
- c) Individuals may sponsor activities in support of home based education, which deal specifically with their own family's personal interest and make these activities available to all members of Champaign County H.O.U.S.E. provided their direct purpose is not for commercial profit.

4. Policies

- a) Issues not covered in these bylaws may be proposed through policy statements. Policy statements under consideration will be consistent with the Purpose of Champaign County H.O.U.S.E and will be accepted as guidelines for the group
- b) Policy statements for consideration must be made available to the general membership two weeks prior to the next scheduled business meeting.

5. Amending the Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended by general consensus of two consecutive business meetings of the membership.