

## A few of the services that BHEA offers:

- Monthly newsletter
- E-Mail Alert System
- BHEA Yahoogroup
- Members' Handbook
- Members' Phone Directory
- Field Trips
- Achievement Night
- Scholastic Book Club
- Park Days
- Service Projects
- Moms' Overnight
- Parent Roundtables
- Special Interest Clubs & Groups
- New Member Support
- Homeschool 101 Seminar
- Monday Fun Enrichment Classes
- High School Credit Classes
- Yearbook
- Physical Education opportunities
- Kindergarten & 8th Grade Graduation
- 4-H Club
- Scouting program
- American Heritage Girls\* (Affiliated)
- Used book sales
- Members' Library of homeschool reference material
- *And more, as volunteerism allows!*

## A brief summary of Tennessee Homeschooling Laws

- Tennessee has a compulsory school attendance statute. This means that parents and legal guardians are required to see that the children under their care are educated in a manner approved by the State of Tennessee.
- A child who will be six (6) years of age on or before September 30 must be enrolled in a State-approved school at the start of the school year which begins in the calendar year in which the child becomes six. The child must continue in school "between the ages of six and seventeen inclusive" or until obtaining a diploma.
- A parent who intends to home-school a child may register that child with the Local Education Agency (LEA) by August 1st of each year, or with a Church-related school — either under its umbrella or as a satellite campus of a private school.

### More information can be obtained from:

- Our website at [www.bhea.net](http://www.bhea.net).
- Your local school board.
- The Smoky Mountain Home Education Association (SMHEA) at (865) 675-3073 or [www.smhea.org](http://www.smhea.org).
- The Homeschool Resource File at the Blount Co. Library—ask the librarian in the Children's Section for its location.
- Online at Tennessee Home Ed at <http://tnhomeed.com>.
- Or from the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) at [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org).

## Blount Home Education Association

*Blount Home Education Association (BHEA) is an association of independent homeschooling families that was established to promote and encourage home education in Blount County.*

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*"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

*Joshua 24:15*

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**Tel: 865/660-3656**

**156 Leatherwood Drive  
Walland, TN 37886**

**[www.BHEA.net](http://www.BHEA.net)**

## *Our history*

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Established some twenty years ago, BHEA has grown from just a few families, meeting occasionally in each other's homes, to more than 200 families.

**The Purpose** of this organization is to provide support, information and encouragement to homeschooling families. We seek to provide programs and activities that enrich the educational standards established by the family.

BHEA holds an annual "Kick-Off" meeting each August. Members can sign up for enrichment classes and other activities during this meeting.

BHEA keeps members informed and connected through a monthly newsletter, an E-Alert System for urgent notices, and the BHEA Yahoo group for general questions, tips and fellowship.

***We strive to make all our efforts consistent with the following principles:***

- We place a strong emphasis on spiritual maturity and development of Christian character along with the other educational disciplines.
- We seek to plan programs, classes and other activities for our children that support a Christ-centered education with a Biblical-world and life view.
- BHEA is open to all families who choose to homeschool. All members are expected to respect and abide by the BHEA conduct and dress codes.
- BHEA shall actively encourage public expressions of Christian faith such as prayer,

personal testimonies, or Biblical teaching. BHEA shall not encourage public expressions of other religions.

### ***New to Homeschooling?***

Are you just thinking about beginning to homeschool your children? BHEA has several ways to help provide you with the information that you need to make this important decision. First, we invite you to join BHEA. While we are a Christian-based group, we are not "Christian exclusive" -- we just ask that you respect the policies outlined in our Member's Handbook. Our goal is to promote homeschooling and to serve the needs of families choosing to make this important commitment.

BHEA maintains a "Homeschool Resource File" at the Blount County Library. It has a good selection of resources to help you learn more about homeschooling. This file is located in the children's section of the library.

Once you join BHEA, you will also have access to our own BHEA Library of homeschool reference material. There is no charge for members to borrow books from this library.

A member of BHEA will be happy to talk to you to discuss homeschooling and try to answer any questions that you might have. For more information, please leave a message at **(865) 660-3656** or visit our website at **www.BHEA.net**.

BHEA also holds an annual program especially for those just thinking about homeschooling. Homeschool 101 is a free program that is held each spring. Presentations cover the basics of homeschooling, and members bring their curriculum for you to look at and are available to answer your questions.

We host a Used Curriculum Fair each year in May. This is a great opportunity to compare curriculum and save some money while you are at it. There are several similar fairs in the area and we encourage you to take advantage of these.

### ***Enrichment Class Program***

BHEA's enrichment class program is really the heart of BHEA. Becoming involved in this program gives your children an opportunity to take classes that might be more diffi-

cult to teach at home, or are better taught in a group setting. And, it is a great opportunity for both parents and children to meet other homeschoolers.

The program for pre-K through 6th grade will support your homeschooling efforts with a wide variety of fun, yet educational, classes.

High School classes are "credit" classes and usually include classes that are more difficult to teach at home such as biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, and driver's education.

For those of you with middle school age children, there are classes in both the elementary group and the high school group that would be appropriate—we just have things divided into these 2 groups for administrative purposes.

Most of our enrichment classes are taught by parents, many of whom are certified teachers. If you have an area of expertise or special interest, please consider teaching a class. This helps keep costs down and it helps us continue to offer a wide variety of classes.

**For current class schedules and more information, please visit [www.BHEA.net](http://www.BHEA.net).**

## *How to join*

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If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, dues are \$20. If you prefer to receive a hard copy via snail mail, dues are \$25.

Make your check out to BHEA and mail to:

**156 Leatherwood Dr., Walland, TN 37886**

Early bird discounts are available through June 15th of each year. ■