

5 Ways to Find HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY *in Colorado*

By homeschool grad
and curriculum author
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CHEC.org

Christian Home Educators of Colorado



Defending your family's freedom and helping you homeschool with confidence

We've been here since 1990, and our team of homeschool parents and grads have helped tens of thousands of families to successfully homeschool. We've been through it and we're ready to help you, too!

Let's go!

Clickable links
throughout this guide!



“Homeschooling?”

“How will your kids be socialized?”

“You’re doing what?”

Announcing the decision to homeschool can be daunting, and sometimes, we can feel quite alone. No matter how many seminars we’ve attended, books we’ve read, and pep talks we’ve given ourselves, it’s easy to still have that nagging question in the back of our minds:

Am I doing the right thing? Am I alone in this?

That’s why finding homeschool community is crucial. It’s hard to do anything alone, not to mention embarking on the bold journey of homeschooling

Homeschooling will change your life. And that’s a beautiful thing.

But it’s a whole lot easier when we have other parents reaching into our lives and reminding us, *You can do it. It will pay off.*

It will be these friends — the ones that have committed, like you, to educate their children at home, the ones that you can fight shoulder to shoulder with for the hearts and minds of your children — that will prove the most invaluable blessings of all.

I’ll never forget the life-long friendship my parents built when they bumped into another newly-married couple who had also decided to homeschool their kids. “You’re going to homeschool too? Let’s be friends!” Back when homeschooling wasn’t as common, this couple provided the community my parents needed to encourage them in the day-in, day-out of homeschooling four little ones. Our families took field trips together, put on “recitation nights,” and showed up at each other’s music recitals. Over two decades later, those relationships developed early on are still as strong as ever.

Whether you’re new to the homeschooling journey or have a number of years under your belt, finding a local homeschooling community where you can make these kinds of quality friendships will be invaluable to helping you stay the course through the long-haul. I’ve designed this practical guide to point you to five ways you can find (or build) that kind of community.

Julianna Dotten

Julianna was homeschooled K-12 and desires to see a new generation take hold of a vision of Christ-centered education. She has a passion for encouraging young women through writing, and she writes at WholeHearted.blog. Julianna is also the author of CHEC’s US & Colorado Civics Curriculum.



1 Connect with your state homeschool organization.

Yes, that's us! CHEC is Colorado's state organization, helping families to homeschool with confidence and a Christ-centered worldview since 1990.

And wherever you are in your journey, CHEC is here to provide you with the support you need to homeschool well. We're also passionate about supporting a strong homeschool community, and we host events throughout the year to provide both practical training and opportunities for relationship-building.

Here are a few things you should check out:

- **The Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference.** If you haven't come yet, you're missing out! This is an amazing weekend of learning from incredible speakers, shopping, and meeting other like-minded families. I can't tell you how many "CHEC Conference" friends we've made over the years, and 20 years later, we're still making new friends! If you're looking for community and support, the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference is a must!



RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com

- **Other CHEC events.** Every CHEC event is designed to help you connect with other families and build friendships around a common purpose.



CHEC.org/events

- **The Colorado Homeschool Discussion Facebook Group.** Hosted by CHEC, this private group is designed to connect you with other Colorado homeschool parents and provide a place where you can share ideas, ask questions, and get to know other homeschoolers.

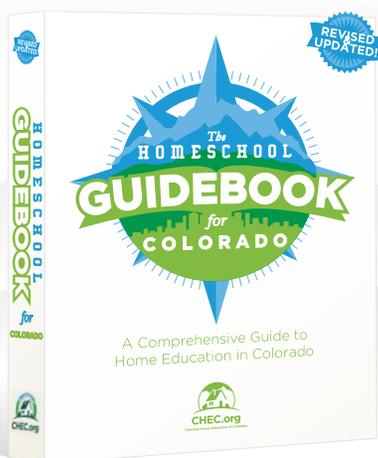
CHEC.org/FBgroup

2 Connect with your local homeschool group.

Local groups are the best place to build long-term friendships, find weekly fellowship, and give kids a way to build relationships with other homeschooled children. Plugging into a group will not only encourage you, it will also help your kids be more excited about homeschooling through the varied opportunities these groups offer.

Groups can provide everything from weekly co-op classes to field trips to moms' night outs and more. You can find the group closest to you by checking out the **CHEC Homeschool Group Directory**.

[CHEC.org/groups](https://www.chec.org/groups)



DIG DEEPER!

Chapter 9 of the *CHEC Homeschool Guidebook* brings you a thorough walk-through of how to make the most of participating in a group, plus a section on how to efficiently launch your own group.

View an excerpt & purchase now:

[CHEC.org/guidebook](https://www.chec.org/guidebook)

3 Plug into a local church that will support your vision.

When your local church supports you in your decision to homeschool, it goes a long way toward providing the encouragement and community you will need through the tough times. The local church is God's plan for community, and it's a growth-strategy that, as believers, we simply can't afford to miss out on.

I'll never forget my professor at Bible college emphasizing to me as a homeschool graduate, "Everything that homeschoolers gained by pulling their children out of school was lost when they deserted the local church. You've got to be part of the church."

We'll never find the perfect church (because we're not perfect either), but we can discover where the Gospel is being preached and then dig in and get involved. Local church relationships are not only the ideal means to support us in discipling our children, **they're also the best way for our children to see for themselves the ability of the Gospel to transform lives.**

And isn't that the very goal of homeschooling itself?

4 Plan your own field trips!

Colorado is an amazing place to plan fun and educational outings for your family ... and why not bring some friends along as well? Together you'll discover that learning can be a ton of fun, especially as history or science come alive through attending a historical reenactment, visiting your local aquarium, or taking a tour of an engineering firm.

We've created an easy way to make these field trips affordable with our **Community Calendar**, where you can find upcoming free and discounted days, special homeschool events, and more. Plan your next outing now! Here are a few things you can find on the calendar:

- [Littleton Historical Museum](#) (always free!)
- [Free Entrance Days into National Parks](#)
- [Homeschool Science Days by the Rocky Mountain Bird Conservatory](#)
- [HSLDA Contests for Homeschoolers](#)

[CHEC.org/calendar](https://www.chec.org/calendar)



5 ... and books!

What kind of “book friends” are your kids hanging out with? One of the beauties of homeschooling is that we can find community with the most fascinating and inspiring people of history right in our living room ... all through books.

Books will allow your children to travel to distant places and times, to acquire heroes, and to dream big.

And the best way to build an appetite for “book friends” in your family is to read aloud. If you're looking for some great read-aloud starters, check out the following posts on the [CHEC blog](#):

- [7 Autobiographies Your Family Will Love](#)
- [Recommended Readings: Historical Fiction](#)
- [Reading Aloud](#)
- [6 Practical Books: Skills Your Kids Must Learn](#)

Don't forget!

If you ever need someone to talk to about homeschooling, have questions, or need some encouragement, we're here to talk on the CHEC phones 5 days a week. We'd love to help you!

Give us a call at 720-842-4852.
(Or 800-842-2432)

