



The Homeschooler

March 2017

WHY GO TO CONVENTION?

“It helps me get motivated.”

“To check out my options for curriculum.”

“To learn how to homeschool high school.”

“To shop!”

“I get an idea of how big the homeschooling community really is.”

“To stock up on art supplies.”

“To spend time with my friends!”

These are just a few answers to the question, “Why go to convention?” Some of these may be your reasons, but regardless of your answer, attending convention can fulfill so many needs. It can also be overwhelming, so how do you achieve a balance with so many feelings?

First of all, prayer is a staple for all of life, but especially necessary for the upcoming convention. Asking God for His wisdom and guidance in preparing for convention will help with any anxiety one may feel. All homeschoolers need wisdom concerning curriculum choices and workshops to attend. God knows your family’s needs and what will help you in your homeschool throughout your journey.

Planning for convention is a good idea. After all, we plan everything else in our lives, so shouldn’t we plan for convention too? This may include looking over our curriculum and supplies that we already have (you don’t want to duplicate things like I have been known to do), deciding which workshops to attend (these are posted at www.teachingparents.org), deciding where your children will be during the convention (Adventures in Character is offered for ages 6 – 12), and hopefully making the time as a couple to discuss your homeschooling needs.

Planning also means registering for convention (this is done online at www.teachingparents.org). What about spending a night or two at a hotel, either because the distance between convention and home is too much or just to have a special time with your spouse? The Hyatt offers a discounted rate for homeschoolers during convention (www.teachingparents.org has the link).

Plan to attend our free movie night on Thursday evening. The movie *The Defense of New Haven* will be shown for free at 7 pm for all families registered for convention. This movie was made by a homeschooling family with the cast being homeschooled students. Bring your entire family for a movie night on us! (Sorry, the Hyatt does not allow snacks in the conference rooms.)

For first-time attendees, plan to attend the “Starting Point” workshop offered for free on Thursday, March 9 at 7 pm. This is a great overview of homeschooling and will help prepare you for the next 2 days of convention. Also, all first-time attendees to convention get in free, so why not register?

There is a lot to do at convention, so come check out:

- 3 keynote sessions
- 48 workshops available (CDs and MP3s of these will be available for purchase at the Resounding Voice booth)
- over 80 vendors in vendor hall
- a mentoring table of experienced homeschoolers ready to answer your questions
- package-check at the Trail Life USA tent so you don't have to carry around those heavy items
- homeschooling friends

And remember these key items for convention: comfortable walking shoes, a jacket or sweater, paper and pen for making notes, money or cards to make purchases, a friendly face.

TPA wants you to be “Equipped for every good work”, so we look forward to seeing you at convention on March 10 - 11!



2017 TPA MEMBERSHIP NOW AVAILABLE! 2017 TPA Membership is now available online. TPA offers programs, workshops and events to support your family throughout the year, and we travel anywhere in the state if your group needs help. Our programs and services are open to all homeschool families, not just TPA Members. TPA Membership gives you a discount at most TPA events. Don't forget, your TPA Membership offers you **free admission** to the 2017 TPA Convention, a \$20 HSLDA discount, a \$15 high school graduation registration discount, and a \$5 ITBS testing discount! Remember: Your TPA Membership is valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Go to www.teachingparents.org to become a 2017 TPA Member.

2017 CONVENTION SPECIAL PRICING – This year anyone may pay the early-bird price of \$40 to get into convention, even at the door! Because of problems with registration on our website, TPA is continuing the discounted price through the end of convention. This price will allow you access to all the keynote sessions, workshops, and vendor hall. Please try to register online at www.teachingparents.org. If you encounter difficulties in this process, please email our registrar at registration@teachingparents.org with your name, your spouse's name (if attending), address, phone number, and number of children attending AIC. You will then be pre-registered and may pay at the door. Cash or check is preferable for payment but cards will be accepted. Remember: TPA members get in free to convention, but they must register.

2017 CONVENTION FEATURED SPEAKERS

Note the New Keynote Session Times!



CAROL BROWN
Friday Morning 9 am
Keynote Session
"Equipping Minds"



STEVE LAMBERT
Friday Evening 7 pm
Keynote Session
"Becoming Your Child's
Favorite Teacher"



LEAH NIEMANN
Saturday Morning 9 am
Keynote Session
"Guiding Kids Through
Social Media"



Let the TPA LIBRARY help you do your homework before the TPA Convention!

- Are you unsure about what to purchase at the TPA Convention?
- Do you often purchase homeschool curriculum and then find that it is not a good fit for your family?
- Do you wish you could spend more time viewing items before purchasing?
- Would you like to visit one-on-one with a seasoned homeschool mom who uses the curriculum you are thinking of purchasing?

The TPA Library can help!

Borrow items from the TPA Library before purchasing them at the TPA Convention! Arrange for a free meeting with a seasoned homeschool mom to help you before TPA Convention.

Our entire catalog can be accessed online through <http://tpalibrary.info.tm/>, or access the catalog from the www.teachingparents.org website - choose the TPA Library tab and follow the information on the TPA Library page. Join the library, search for items, place items on hold, renew items...All available online. Borrow curriculum for the school year or evaluate curriculum before purchasing. Find great fiction and non-fiction for all grade levels.

Open Thursdays 11am – 1pm

Located at Pathway Church, 2001 N. Maize Road in the basement next to the kitchen.

For more information, contact librarian@teachingparents.org.



ADVENTURES IN CHARACTER

Don't forget to register your children for AIC when you register for convention! AIC is a program **for children 6-12 years old** held concurrently with the TPA

Convention. This year's theme is "Coram Deo", which is Latin for "in the presence of God" or "before the face of God". The story and curriculum will focus on the importance of living every day for Jesus Christ – seeking Him, serving Him, and proclaiming Him to the world. Registration includes a t-shirt with this year's theme.

FREE STARTING POINT WORKSHOP

Do you know someone who is considering homeschooling? Are you new to homeschooling? Are you teetering on the edge, contemplating giving up?? If any of this describes you or a friend, please join us at STARTING POINT- Teaching Parents Association's **FREE workshop** offered the evening before convention begins! This workshop will cover the basics, but it will also equip you with TOOLS for success, PERSPECTIVE for the JOURNEY, and will include a mom's panel, dad's panel, and grads' panel- find out how they did it! So come, bring your spouse and your friends to **STARTING POINT, Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.** at the Hyatt in the Cypress Room. Registration is not necessary but is appreciated. Register on the convention registration form at www.teachingparents.org.

ITBS ACHIEVEMENT TESTING, APRIL 20-21

TPA will be offering the ITBS test to 1st-12th graders again in 2017. This is a standardized test which is not required by the government but may prove helpful in assessing a student's strengths and weaknesses relative to his peers. The results are for parental use only and are not given to any other entity.

Testing will run over two mornings, approximately 8:30 – 12:30 each morning. Subjects covered will include Vocabulary, Reading comprehension, Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation, Usage and Expression, Math Concepts & Problem Solving, Math Computation, Social Studies, Science and (for high school only) Sources of Information. The test results show where a student falls in national percentiles and grade equivalents for each subject.

One parent will be required to assist with testing and remain on site each morning (exceptions made for nursing mothers). Parents with bachelor's degrees will be needed to be test readers, and others will assist in various ways. All students will test April 20-21, 2017, **at Riverlawn Christian Church, 4243 N Meridian Ave, Wichita, KS.** Cost is \$45 for 1st-2nd graders, \$35 3rd -12th. (\$40/ \$30 for those who have purchased a TPA membership). **Registrations must be received by March 15, 2017.** Questions may be directed to Charlotte Durkee at crdurkee@gmail.com.

**AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS**

It has been an incredible year so far for American Heritage Girls Troop KS0281! We had a blast at our annual mini brick race! Competition was fierce, but everyone had a wonderful time. We have many events in our near future as well.

The first is the fast approaching TPA Convention. We are so proud of all the girls who have volunteered to be pages this year, not only to help out TPA, but also to represent AHG. Our troop is working on some wonderful badges and awards this year including Emergency Preparedness and Nature & Wildlife. Our entire troop is diligently working on earning the PRAY Award. Also, these young ladies will learn self-defense and how to be well prepared in emergency situations. In addition, we will be visiting the Great Plains Nature Center to explore some of Kansas' beauty and earn a badge. If you are interested in visiting our troop or have any questions, please contact Angie Ray at mrsangieray@yahoo.com

**TPA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY 2017**

Friday, May 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Central Christian Church, 2900 N. Rock Road, Wichita, Kansas.

TPA is pleased to announce: **State Representative Kevin Jones from the 5th District of Kansas** will be the keynote speaker!

Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony and reception celebrating this year's homeschooling class of 2017 – **TPA's 25th!**

**TRAIL LIFE USA**

Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered, outdoor adventure, character, and leadership program for boys and young men in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Trail Life Troop KS-0281 (Troop 281) of Wichita is chartered by Teaching Parents Association. We have our **Package Check** available during the convention again this year. Each day of the convention you can bring your packages, baggage, books, and bags to the tent at our booth and we will store them for you while you shop or attend workshops. Don't forget to pick up your items before the exhibit hall closes each day.

One way to support our Trail Life Troop is through our **BBQ Brisket and Pulled Pork Dinner** on Saturday, April 8th. Stop by our convention booth for more information or to purchase DISCOUNTED tickets. Tickets will only be discounted during the convention. Be sure to tell us which Trailman talked to you so they get credit for the sale, or just tell us it is for the troop. We are raising money for our Summer Adventure Camps and would appreciate your support. You can also buy online at <https://troop281.eventcube.io/>

We meet on Monday nights 7:00pm-8:30pm at Riverlawn Christian Church, 4243 N Meridian (just north of I235/K96). For more details about our Troop or any of the information above please stop by our booth and talk to our families or contact Scott Durkee at tpatroop281@gmail.com or 316-518-0948.

AREA EVENTS:**PROM ALTERNATIVE – APRIL 28, 2017**

Formal wear dinner – Levenue

Concert – Vrose

Trampoline Park – Aviate at Sports Forum

Bowling & Go-Carts – The Alley

Breakfast – McDonalds

\$45/person, Open to 7th – 12th Grade Students

Details and registration at www.promalternative.com

16th ANNUAL TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 8 am – 1 pm

Sedgwick County Extension

7001 W 21st Street North (at Ridge Road)

Wichita, KS 67205

Trees are an investment in our landscape, for both financial and aesthetic reasons, and choosing, planting, and maintaining the best trees for our local conditions is important. Tree Fest will feature information on choosing, planting, and maintaining trees that provide an important element for our quality of life and that are well-suited for our area of Kansas.

Tree care professionals will be on hand at the 2017 Tree Festival to share their advice on these topics and more. Seminars include appropriate topics for both the homeowner and commercial audience. Plant vendors from around the region will have unique trees and plants for sale.

Admission is FREE!

Seminars in the 4-H Hall:

9 am Tree Selection for Sedgwick County

10 am Techie Tree Selection

11 am Best Pruning Practices and Other Aspects of Tree Care

Demonstrations

9:30 am Composting 101

10:30 am Pruning Roses

10:30 am Tree Planting, Mulching, and Watering Demonstration

A Pancake and Sausage Breakfast (\$5) will be available; there will be a craft for children; Master Gardener Volunteers will be on hand to answer your tree and gardening questions.

For more information contact Matthew McKernan at mckernan@ksu.edu or 316.660.0140.

**WICHITA AREA HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Wichita Warriors Spring Sports

Teams Are Forming Now

Elementary Basketball Camp Begins

Wednesday March 22nd, 1-3 pm

Email AD Jeff Masterson for more information

wichitawarriorsad@gmail.com

HS & JH Track and Field - Coach John Murphy

jmurphy41@cox.net

HS & JH Ladies Soccer - Coach Renita Terrell

renita.terrell@sbcglobal.net

High School Boys Baseball - Coach Kirk Day

dawg58dt@gmail.com

High School Coed Golf - Coach Mike Riffel

mike.riffel@wildblue.net

Wichita Warrior Cheer Try-Outs / Camp Dates

Head Coach Candice Bauer - vb.coach12@yahoo.com

High School Try-Outs: April 11th and 12th, 1-3pm

Parents' meeting at 1:00 pm on April 11th

High School Cheer Camp (Mandatory) June 27th-29th

8am-4pm

Camp Cost \$184 plus Camp Clothes / Fundraising

Opportunities Available

Junior High Try-Outs: Thursday August 3rd 1-4pm /

Parent Meeting 1pm

Junior High (5th-8th Grade) Mini's (6-11 yrs old)

HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS

Wichita Riding Academy, Inc., is an equine facility located in Derby, KS. WRA has been serving the Wichita community and surrounding areas for over 20 years! We take pride in offering a safe & fun learning environment for riders of all ages and skill levels! We stay active in our community by offering our unique services to many groups and clubs in our area!

We offer horseback riding lessons, boarding, training, youth programs, various riding camps, fun shows, trail rides, clinics, barn tours, AND MUCH MORE!

Wichita Riding Academy, Inc.

10727 E 39th Street South

Derby, KS 6703



WICHITA DEFENDERS

The Wichita Defenders exists to provide home school athletes with a competitive sports program that uses athletics as a tool to disciple young men and women to pursue godliness and excellence in every aspect of their lives.

TPA Conference

Stop by Booths 97 & 98 to visit us at the TPA Conference.

Basketball

- National Christian Homeschool Championships week of Mar 13 in Springfield, MO.
- Visit our website for high school and middle school game schedules.

The Wichita Defenders will continue to offer Elementary basketball mini-camps throughout the year. Visit our website www.wichitadefenders.org for news on upcoming camps.

U14 Girls Soccer

- Parent's meeting Thursday, Mar 2 at 6:30 pm at Evangel Presbyterian (Kellogg & 135th West).
- Practice begins week of March 13 and will be at Stucky Middle School.
- Contact Eric Nordberg (316-619-4653, wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org) or Kendi Fiscus (bkfiscus@gmail.com) for more details.

Track & Field

- Parent's meeting Thursday, Mar 2 at 6:30 pm at Evangel Presbyterian (Kellogg & 135th West).
- Practice begins week of March 20 and will be at Stucky Middle School.
- Contact Eric Nordberg (316-619-4653, wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org) for more details.

Golf

- Practice begins week of March 6.
- Practice rounds will be at Sierra Hills (143rd and Pawnee).
- Contact Rod Martin (rod.martin@legendseniorliving.com) or Marci Laffen (mmlaffen@gmail.com) for more information

Annual Wichita Defenders Golf Classic Tournament

- Friday, April 21, 2017 at Sand Creek Station Golf Course in Newton.
- Participate as player (\$125) or team (\$500) in our annual fundraiser golf tournament. Players and teams can register online at www.sandcreekgolfclub.com/Defenders.
- Sponsorship and contribution opportunities are also available. Contact Jenny Rackley (316-305-9740, jennyrackley@sbcglobal.net) or Eric

Nordberg (316-619-4653,

wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org) if you are interested.

Visit The Wichita Defenders on Social Media

www.wichitadefenders.org

Facebook : [Wichita Defenders](https://www.facebook.com/WichitaDefenders)

Twitter: @WichitaDefender

Instagram: Wichita_Defenders

Contact Us

For inquiries of the Wichita Defenders please contact Eric Nordberg, WichitaDefenders@wichitadefenders.org or visit our website www.wichitadefenders.org.

BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS

Fine Arts Auditions

Butler offers activity scholarships that cover in-state tuition and books for students who participate in music, theatre, art, and mass communication activities.

Auditions are Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4. To register, go to: www.butlercc.edu/facscholarships

Early College Academies

Early College Academy students earn Fall 2016 academic awards from Butler Community College. Cameron Duncan made the Dean's Honor Roll in the Early College Engineering Technology Academy and Gideon Wiley made the Dean's Honor Roll in the Early College Health Sciences Academy.



Mark Your Calendar:

- Fall 2017 enrollment begins Monday, March 27.
- High school juniors are invited to Grizzly Junior Day on Wednesday, April 26, at our El Dorado Campus. Online registration will begin in April.
- Orientation & Enrollment Days, call 316.322.3163 to register:
 - Friday, March 17, Butler of El Dorado
 - Friday, April 21, Butler of El Dorado
 - Friday, April 28, Butler of Andover
 - Wednesday, May 17, Butler of Andover
 - Wednesday, May 24, Butler of El Dorado
 - Friday, June 9, Butler of Andover
 - Friday, June 16, Butler of El Dorado

**Crazy Little Thing
CALLED
Marriage
CONFERENCE**

FEATURING DR. GREG & ERIN SMALLEY

With humor, frankness and grace, Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley explore 12 biblically based strategies to help couples work around roadblocks, create successful communication patterns, and build a romance that lasts a lifetime. Whether couples are preparing for marriage, are thriving after 45 years and still seeking improvement, or are feeling hurt and hopeless, the Smalleys are here to help you feel refreshed and to enjoy a stronger, healthier, and more satisfying marriage.

April 1, 2017

Location: Hesston High School
Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Cost: \$25 per couple
\$15 per individual
*No childcare provided

To Register

Please Register by
March 19
Scan here or visit
www.gardencommunitychurch.org

YOUTH LAWN MOWING CLINIC

Sedgwick County Extension Education Center
7001 W 21st St. N, Wichita, KS (21st & Ridge Rd)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Two sessions will be offered.

Morning session: 9:20 –11:30 am; Check-in starts at 9 am

Afternoon session: 1:20–3 :30 pm; Check-in starts at 1 pm

This clinic is designed to assist youth in earning summer income by mowing lawns. Information presented will acquaint youth with types of lawn grasses and their proper care. In addition, the training will acquaint youth with knowledge of lawn mower safety, mower maintenance, and business practices.

Who should attend: Any youth in grades 5 – 9 who want to learn a way to earn summer income or gain lawn mower safety knowledge.

Graduation: Upon attendance at the training session, each youth will receive an information packet, business cards, and a certificate of completion of the clinic. Cost is \$10 for advanced registration until March 10th or \$15 after that date. Space is limited so please register early. Deadline for registration is March 20 or a full class, whichever is first. Register online at www.sedgwick.ksu.edu. For more information call 660-0100.



KANSAS JUNIOR GOLF SCHOLARSHIP

The Kansas Golf Foundation awards academic scholarships to deserving Kansas young men and women through the Kansas Junior Golf Scholarship. Applicants must have participated in high school golf or in other junior golf activities such as those sponsored by the Kansas Junior Golf Association, the Kansas Women's Golf Association, The First Tee, the Wichita Junior Golf Foundation or the Native American Junior Golf Foundation. This \$1,500 per year scholarship is renewable for four years and may used to defray expenses at any accredited college or university in Kansas, including community colleges.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must be a high school senior in good standing enrolled in, or graduate of, a Kansas state high school.
2. Applicant must be enrolling as a full-time student in an accredited Kansas college or university for the coming fall semester.
3. Applicant must have participated in high school golf or junior golf programs sponsored by Kansas organizations. These may include, but are not limited to: KJGA, KGA, KWGA, The First Tee, Wichita Junior Golf Foundation and Native American Junior Golf Association. Participation – not playing ability or performance – is the criterion

Or for more information contact:

Kansas Golf Foundation
1201 Wakarusa Drive Suite B5
Lawrence, KS 66049
785.842.4833 ex.205

Email: foundation@kansasgolf.org

JR. HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR SALE

We have a variety of curriculum, including Teachers Editions and supplemental materials, for sale. These include:

- Apologia Science, various courses -- all 2nd edition
- BJU World History and Cultural Geography -- 3rd edition
- Also Chalk Dust Math Algebra 2 DVD and text, Starting Points Worldview curriculum, and James Madison Critical Thinking.
- A variety of books for literature studies
- Most items are in good or very good condition.

To receive a list and description of items, contact Diane Bostian at drbostian@yahoo.com.

**MARK ARTS**

Mark Arts is an artistic hub. We'll keep your kids' minds and hands busy and engage their creativity! Workshops are for ages 6-12, and classes are for ages 3-18. Advance registration is required, and all supplies are provided. Workshops cost \$30 each.

KIDS' DAY OUT WORKSHOPS

February 20, 9 a.m. - noon | [Presidents Day Paintings](#)

February 20, 1 - 4 p.m. | [Presidents Day Sculptures](#)

February 27, 9 a.m. - noon | [Harry Potter Paintings](#)

February 27, 1 - 4 p.m. | [Harry Potter Mixed Media](#)

April 17, 9 a.m. - noon | [Easter and Spring Projects](#)

SPRING BREAK STEAM CAMPS

Mark Arts STEAM Camps are all about creativity and innovation, linking art to concepts in science, technology, engineering and math. Students ages 6 to 12 will explore mixed media, drawing, painting, clay and experiments. At the end of the week, students will display their work.

Ages 6 – 9: March 20 - 24, 8 am - 12 pm

\$120 / Members \$110

Ages 9 – 12: March 20 – 24, 1 – 5 pm

\$120 / Members \$110

SPRING WEEKLY CLASSES

Our spring weekly class session will be April 3 - June 10 with evening and Saturday options for youth.

www.MarkArtsKS.com | 316.634.2787 | 9112 E. Central Ave.