



Annual Home Educators' Day at the Capitol & Celebration "Under the Dome" Event

Thursday April 9, 2009

Hosted by:

Christian Homeschool Network & Christian Heritage Home Educators of Washington

In order to stand up for our homeschooling freedoms we need to stand together, we need to be informed, and most importantly, we need to come to Olympia and let our voices be heard!

Now is our chance to honor the men and women of the legislature who serve us. They enact laws that impact our families and our future. Homeschool laws can have a more direct effect on our families than any other legislation. It is important for us to share how much we value the freedom they have helped us to preserve.

Take a break from your regular school day and join us in Olympia to honor the hardworking men and women of the legislature.

The Home Educators' Day at the Capitol is a great educational experience for the whole family. We offer special presentations with legislative updates, tips on meeting with your legislators, civics workshop (youth to adult), a message of encouragement for home educators, tour of the Capitol and time to meet with your legislators.

Come and celebrate with us "Under the Dome."

We will be meeting "Under the Dome" again to celebrate our freedoms and stand united. We will hear from key legislators, present an annual legislator appreciation award, and hear from homeschool leaders, etc. We also hope to introduce a Resolution in the Senate honoring the hard work of home educators and our success. In the past home educators have been invited to watch the passing of the Resolution from the gallery-very exciting for the whole family!

Thank you to all who have attended past events. Your support has enabled us to be very effective in the legislative process. Most importantly, your attendance and support has raised awareness of how much we value this choice in education, and your wonderful children have demonstrated how successful home education can be!

Preserving homeschool freedoms for today and tomorrow!

Courtesy of

**CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL NETWORK (www.chnow.org) &
CHRISTIAN HERITAGE HOME EDUCATORS OF WASHINGTON (www.ChristianHeritageOnline.org)**

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Why attend Home Educator's Day at the Capitol?

1. To let your homeschooling family shine its light before the legislators and government workers of this state:

- Coming to Home Educators' Day at the Capitol gives state workers an opportunity to see and meet real homeschooling families, and that is important.
- If people working in our government never meet homeschoolers, it is difficult for them to relate to us as real people with genuine concerns.

2. To bring a blessing to those who serve us in our state government:

- Hardworking legislators are at work in Olympia before, during, and after the close of each legislative session.
- The Bible tells us that they are appointed by God to govern us.
- And whether we agree with our representatives on all their decisions or not, it is important for us to show Christian love to them and express to them our sincere appreciation for all they do.

3. To briefly share your joys and concerns:

- Our legislators need to meet and visit with honoring, polite, interested homeschooling families to hear how homeschooling is benefiting their families.
- They also need to visit with homeschoolers to learn their concerns and know how best to represent them.
- See the section below for tips on meeting and visiting with your legislators.

4. To learn more about the workings of our legislature:

- Home Educator's Day Tours of the Capitol give families a close up look at the historical and present-day seat of state government.
- You will also get a glimpse of government workings in progress.
- But remember, if you do at least a brief study or review of Washington government before you arrive, your family will benefit even more from this valuable experience.

5. To learn more about the Christian Homeschool Network and the crucial, behind-the-scenes work this organization continually does to safeguard our freedoms to homeschool in this state.

- They will be giving a brief presentation on their work during the Home Educator's Day at the Capitol.
- So, because freedom isn't free—it takes lots of time, energy, and financial resources to maintain it—and because the laborer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7), please seriously consider contributing to the vital ministry of the Christian Homeschool Network.

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Tips for Visiting Your Legislator

1. Make an appointment in advance to visit your legislator.

- They are very busy people, especially during the legislative session, meetings last 5-15 minutes.

2. Be ON TIME!

3. Dress as if you were going to meet someone important. You are!

- Legislators always dress professionally. We should dress professionally when we visit the Capitol & our legislators, as well.
- A trip to the Capitol is more than a field trip. It is our opportunity to be ambassadors for Christ and Christian home education to our government officials. This is very important.
- We may be the only homeschoolers some legislators ever see.
- Therefore, our dress should reflect the care, thoughtfulness, and attention to detail that we apply to every area of our homeschooling ... and all of life.

3. Be gracious, courteous, and honoring in everything you say and do.

- Through your actions, also, you are representing Christ to this person who is representing you in our government.
- Discuss with your family the importance of communicating with our words, facial expressions, actions, and attitudes only what is honoring to Christ and others.
- Be brief!

4. Have a plan.

- Be prepared with several brief but important things you wish to communicate to your legislator.
- Introduce each member of your family. Then begin by expressing your gratitude for his/her work on your behalf.
- Be informed on issues effecting home education this session, CHN will have a paper prepared for you to pick up at the registration table.
- Express also your sincere appreciation for the legislature's consistent protection of our freedoms to homeschool in this state.
- Share one or two important benefits of homeschooling in your family.
- Express briefly any concern you might have.
- And/or—if time permits—have a child or two ask a significant question that has been thought through beforehand.

5. Be relaxed and friendly.

- Although legislators are governing authorities, they are also people just like you. They appreciate genuine friendliness like everyone else.

6. Be grateful!

- Before leaving, again express your genuine gratitude for the time your legislator has spent with you.

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Agenda

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& Christian Home Educators of Washington www.ChristianHeritageOnline.org

9:00 - Check in at the Christian Homeschool Network (CHN) table at the South entrance of the Legislative building upon your arrival.

9:30 - 11:15 Presentation in the Columbia Room (by reservation only)

- 9:30-9:45 Welcome and introductions
 - 9:45-10:30 Vision for Home Education- TBA, Christian Heritage Board
 - 10:30-11:00 Legislative Update- Scott and DiAnna Brannan, CHN
 - 11:00-11:15 Tips on Meeting with Lawmakers- DiAnna Brannan, CHN
- * Attendees will receive instructions on meeting with their legislators along with a packet of information to give them.

11:30 – 12:30 Home Educators' Celebration "Under the Dome" in the Rotunda (open to all)

- Welcome and prayer- Scott Brannan, CHN (5 minutes)
- Issues affecting our freedoms- Scott Brannan, CHN (10 minutes)
- The Strategic Calling of Homeschooling- TBA- Christian Heritage Board (10 minutes)
- Presentation of the Senate Homeschool Resolution
- 2-Legislative speakers- TBA (20 minutes)
- Special music- TBA (15 minutes)
- Closing remarks

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch break and time to meet with legislators

1:30-3:30 Tour of the Capitol begins (by reservation only)

- OR -

12:30- 2:30 Presentation in the Columbia Room (by reservation only)

- 12:30-1:10 Lunch break (bring a sack lunch)
- 1:10 -2:30 Civics 101 What Every Citizen Needs to Know Workshop. (for youth and up)

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Pre-registration Form

To cover our expenses for this event, we would appreciate a minimum per family donation of \$15.00 payable to Christian Homeschool Network (CHN).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Number Attending: _____

E-mail: _____

Note: Please include all contact information. This is needed to send out confirmations.

Legislative District _____

Are you signed-up for our free legislative e-alert network? Y / N If no, would you like to be added? Y / N

We will be attending (please check all that apply):

9:30 – 11:15 Meeting in the Columbia Room Y / N

11:30 – 12:30 Presentation in the Rotunda Y / N

1:30 – 3:30 Tour of the capitol? Y / N

Number of adults attending: _____ Number of children attending: _____

Will you need wheelchair or stroller assistance? Y /N

OR

12:30 – 2:30 Civics workshop in the Columbia Room Y / N

Space is limited. Please send in your form and donation by March 31, 2009 to:

Christian Homeschool Network

10638 SE 236th St

Kent, WA 98031

Preserving Homeschool Freedoms for Today and Tomorrow!