



## Handbook 2023-2024

Please read through the following handbook and discuss it with your child/children. Get familiar with what our policies are and what it means to be a participating family.

We are excited to have you as part of our co-op and we are looking forward to sharing the next school year with you! Our hope is that your family finds inspiration, as well as an extended love for homeschooling and all that it has to offer. By definition, co-op is short for cooperative; mutual assistance in working toward a common goal. Our goal is to help families grow in their faith while building friendships, connections and strong communities.

In the following pages you will read more about our mission, policies, procedures, and what you can expect for the upcoming year. Please read through carefully, and reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sound Life Homeschool Co-op

## Statement of Faith

“Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are my God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:25

The Sound Life Homeschool Co-Op (SLHC) exists to provide a safe and supportive community for like-minded homeschooling families in south Pierce County. Sound Life Homeschool Co-Op is a ministry of Sound Life Church where our mission is to help people flourish through knowing Jesus. We hope to build community, and nurture Christ-centered devotion, mission, and growth within our children as a foundation for flourishing as God intended. We believe God is constantly shaping and stretching us as we take steps to learn and grow. We desire that God will use this co-op to foster healthy relationships that challenge people to grow with their children, and create a community that those involved can all rely on.

Our goal is to be a welcoming place where kids can develop and maintain their faith and friendships, have fun and learn alongside other homeschool students. SLHC is not a rigorous academic program, nor a school, but rather is meant to supplement education taught at home through enrichment style classes. We are open to all home-school students and families who have at least one school aged child ages 5 and up by September 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.

While we do not require every member to sign a statement of faith to attend, we do ask that every member evaluate if their values align with those of the co-op. We want to welcome the community with respect and love, but will guard our co-op against divisive ideologies or participants.

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love,  
a tender heart and a humble mind.” 1 Peter 3:8

## Mission & Vision

### Mission Statement:

Our mission at SLHC is to provide fun education in a Christian community setting while focusing on meeting the challenges of today's world by equipping students with the ability to think for themselves with GOD'S WORD as the standard. We are a group of parents collectively working to create a faith- based community that enriches our children's education and social connections throughout all phases of the homeschooling journey. We learn a lot, have a lot of fun, and make life better for each other.

### Vision Statement:

We believe in fostering and protecting a community that allows faith to form our thoughts and responses to every situation, and a safe place where our children can grow into who they are, learn their God-given identity and begin walking that out within a community that will guide them in love and grace. To carry this out, we provide various opportunities to organically influence, inspire, and improve each other's quality of life through both faith and action. We endeavor to create an environment where the Kingdom of God is actively at work, and our children are equipped to change and transform the world around them.

## Admission Process

Sound Life Homeschool Co-op is excited to begin, and we are glad to have lots of interest, but we also acknowledge that we may not be an ideal fit for every family.

Families can use the Sound Life Church website to register for classes (<https://soundlife.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1869932>). All fees must be paid, and handbook signed, on or before the first day (September 5<sup>th</sup>), and all fees/costs are non-refundable after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of co-op.

## Student & Parent Participation

It is expected that all students reach for the highest standard of participation. Students are not expected to be perfect, but it is vital for the health of our fellow participants that students adhere to all safety rules and have the ability and desire to follow instructions and guidance from instructors. We ask that parents support our teachers by allowing them to guide our children in proper behavior, but also reinforce instructors when needed. Please instruct our students not to talk while their teacher is talking and to engage in class in every way they can.

All parents will be assigned to teach or be a classroom helper during one of the two-hour sessions, and at these times are expected to be assisting with activities, student engagement and participation. Please be mindful of side chatter and visitations that could be distracting to the class activities. The alternate hour, parents are encouraged to gather in the lobby area and enjoy coffee, with the hope that this time will allow you to meet other parents, enjoy deep conversations, and the opportunity to seek fresh ideas to address any struggles with homeschooling.

## Co-Op Schedule

Morning Opening	9:00-9:10
Social/Community Building	9:20-9:30
Elective Classes Hour 1	9:30-10:30
Hour 2	10:30-11:30
Large Group Activity	11:30-12:00
Lunch (optional)	12:00-1:00

We ask that you be prompt and arrive 5 to 10 minutes early to avoid disruptions. During co-op classes and activities, the facility doors will remain closed and locked. Parents in the lobby area will be able to open the doors when needed.

After classes are completed, families are welcome to bring a picnic style lunch, and stay to enjoy some extra fellowship time. For lunch time, families are expected to stay downstairs, and children are the sole responsibility of their parents.

## Code of Conduct

Students of Sound Life Homeschool Co-op are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in exciting activities and experiences. We want to instill in each participant a respect and reverence for Biblical commandments while creating a positive experience for everyone. Our hope is to enforce and inspire a strong moral compass as a foundation for training them to be strong protectors and stewards of their families, their communities, and the world we live in.

We expect students to follow these three rules which encompass, but are not limited to, the following aspects:

1. Respect themselves and each other.
  - We treat each other with kindness, using our manners.
  - We work to include and encourage each other.
  - We use our words to solve problems and ask for help. We strive to say what we mean, mean what we say, but not say it mean.
  - We do not use swear words of any kind even when we are upset.
  - We try to build trust through integrity and building a good reputation.
2. Respect the instructors.
  - We listen and obey the instructor's guidance, and strive to not be a distraction to those around us.
  - We respond with respect, even to correction.
  - We ask permission to leave the room.
  - We participate in class with effort and attention.
3. Respect the property.
  - We always clean up after ourselves and leave a place better than we found it.
  - We never draw, carve or damage tables, chairs or walls.
  - We walk in the hallways.

While these are our expectations, we also understand that our students are learning. With reminders, redirection, compassion and grace we will help guide them toward a level of integrity that will make their parents and communities proud.

## Facility Rules

1. Respect church property.
2. Administrative offices, and stage and sound booth are off limits.
3. Teachers and students alike will speak and act respectfully and in a manner that builds trusting relationships.
4. Participating families are responsible to help students understand and follow the code of conduct.
5. Participants will use gender appropriate restrooms, and only school-age children will be present in upstairs restrooms during classes. Adults will use downstairs restrooms.
6. Preschool children needing assistance with toileting will be assisted by their parent, or work with the preschool teachers to form a plan.
7. Students must be under the direct supervision of a background checked leader/adult at all times (except when in the bathrooms) while on church grounds.

We ask that you review this code of conduct and facility rules with each of your children (separate document), and have them sign it and return it by the end of our first co-op day.

## Discipline Procedures

Consequences for behaviors that are not following the stated rules of respect will generally be suited toward the infraction. These may include taking a cool down, shadowing an instructor, or practicing kindness with directed help. Instructors will strive to offer gentle reminders to help build an awareness for more appropriate behaviors. Our ultimate goal is to teach life skills to our participants, and a vital life skill is learning to be a respectful and responsible human. We understand the nature of children is to need multiple reminders and redirections. The most important aspect of learning the skills of discipline resides in the heart. If your child struggles in this area and after three self-correction opportunities, they are unable to work it out, they will be notified to assist in further instruction at home. If after an at-home opportunity to self-correct is given, and your child is still unable to self-correct or continues to choose to make poor decisions, we will facilitate a parent meeting to discuss further actions. At that time a child may be removed from the co-op for a limited time or permanently if no improvement or effort has been made.

We know that most of our families will have no issue. We are blessed to work with amazing families. We are here to help each other and are willing to work on any issues as long as we have all parties' cooperation and an invested interest from the parents.

We have a no tolerance policy for violence, hate speech, or blatant destruction of property or purposeful harm to another person. If a parent or guardian participates in any of these behaviors, we will immediately terminate enrollment of their child/children for the remaining session without refund. If your child participates in any of these behaviors, they will automatically receive a parent meeting with the expectation that it is addressed at home. A second offense will result in termination of the remaining sessions. Any property that is damaged will be the responsibility of parents/guardians to pay for repair or replace with an approved item of equal value.

## Attendance, Illness, & Withdrawal Policy

We understand that illness, trips and opportunities arise for families during the semester. We do not offer reimbursement for missed days or withdrawal. As a courtesy, please inform your child's teacher if they will not be attending classes.

## Sick Policy

Please be respectful of the health of others.

### **Come back next week if...**

- Your child has a fever (within 24 hours)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea (within 48 hours)
- Strep Throat, eye or ear infection (unless child has been on antibiotics for 24+ hours)
- Cough that is deep, congested, or frequent
- Any ailment that can be transmitted through direct or indirect contact

### Consider carefully if...

- A family member in the home has dealt with any of the “red zone” items
- Rash or sores from unknown cause that a doctor has not evaluated

### Welcome to stay if...

Child is active, playful, and well rested, but has:

- Sneezing, red eyes, or runny nose that is clear in color and associated with allergies or teething
- Fever below 100 degrees caused by teething or vaccines
- A lingering cough from a past sickness, but a health professional has given all clear

## Communication

Primary communication with parents will be through emails, and the Facebook group.

On the rare occasion that weather is severe or in the case of extenuating circumstances, we will issue a cancellation notice with as much notice as possible. This notice can be found on the Facebook group. While we will try to make sure everyone receives the notice, it is ultimately the parent’s responsibility to check and be aware of postings.

## Semester Costs/Supplies

- \$25 Semester Family Enrollment Fee (includes background check for participating adult)
- \$30 Preschool child: includes all supplies and snack
- \$50 School-age student: includes all supplies for 2 classes

## Sound Life Homeschool Co-op Contact Information

SLHC Coordinator: Tara Gould 253-342-8272 [tarag@soundlifechurch.org](mailto:tarag@soundlifechurch.org)

SLHC Oversight: Pastor Shannon deVries 253-531-1412 [shannond@soundlifechurch.org](mailto:shannond@soundlifechurch.org)

Leadership Team as of July 2023

Tara Gould  
Abigail Onley  
Kelsey Theodoran  
Lindsay Grove

Any and all decisions regarding the rules, procedures, etc. of the co-op are voted on and approved by the above listed people.

**We reserve the right to amend these policies as needed.**



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