

BYLAWS OF Willmar Area Scholars at Home, Inc.

A Non-Profit Corporation

ARTICLE I NAME

1.1. **NAME.** The name of the organization shall be **Willmar Area Scholars at Home, Inc. (WASH, Inc.**—will be referred to as “WASH” throughout this document)

ARTICLE II OFFICES

2.1 The initial principal office of the Corporation shall be located at 25825 County Road 1 NW, Brooten, MN 56316. The Corporation may have such other offices, within Minnesota, as the Board may designate.

2.2 The registered office of the Corporation may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office in the state of Minnesota, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III PURPOSES

3.1 Our primary purpose is as follows: “To serve the Lord Jesus Christ by providing support for homeschooling families.” We will attempt to fulfill that purpose by facilitating and encouraging excellence in Christian education in Willmar and its surrounding areas. We will strive to promote homeschooling and to help families new to homeschooling by sharing resources, experience, and planning group events. We support one another and educational standards.

ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 4.1 We are a non-denominational, Christian organization that believes in the following:
- That the Bible is the infallible Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
 - That there is one God who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and that His death on the cross paid the penalty of man’s sin for all who believe in Him.
 - The sanctity of marriage between a man and woman and that marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman for life.

- That God has designated to parents the responsibility and the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children and that the marriage relationship is the best environment in which those responsibilities and rights can be exercised.
- When the parents of a child are not married to each other, we acknowledge the difficulties in directing the upbringing and education of the child, and still wish to aid in whatever way we can.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Members must be homeschooling at least one child or have finished homeschooling. Full compliance with Minnesota homeschool law is required of all WASH members. No further requirements of specific curricula, methods or ideals must be met.

5.2 Annual dues will be determined by the WASH Board of Directors each year and announced at the annual informational meeting or via the WASH newsletter. These dues are per family and non-refundable. Waiver of dues, based on financial hardship, will be confidentially considered on an individual basis. Any waiver is granted for a one year term and will be reconsidered in the following year if the hardship continues and is made known to a board member currently holding office. Members will pay annual dues which will be set by WASH's governing body and collected with membership application. This will make them eligible to be members of WASH, whereby they receive a monthly newsletter, a directory of members, a business directory, a membership card, and relevant homeschooling information.

5.3 Members must submit a new membership application by the deadline that will be published each year in the summer issue of the newsletter. New members joining after January 31st of the current year may join for the remainder of the year for half the cost of an annual membership.

5.4 Members are encouraged to volunteer to coordinate, or assist in the coordination of field trips or events. Events not scheduled at the start of the school year should be communicated to the Board of Directors before plans are announced to the group in order to coordinate efforts and alleviate, as much as possible, the duplication of planning.

5.5 Members are invited and encouraged to submit photos, snapshots, and digital images for publication in the monthly newsletter.

5.6 Members are encouraged to support the Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE), the Minnesota state homeschool support group, through membership whenever possible. MACHE's address is: MACHE, PO Box 32308, Fridley, MN 55432; Metro area: 763-717-9070; Greater MN (toll-free): 866-717-9070; Email: info@mache.org. Members are also encouraged to support Home School Legal Defense Association, P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134-9000 · Phone: (540) 338-5600 · Fax: (540) 338-2733 · E-mail: info@hsllda.org

5.7 Membership in WASH requires agreement with and adherence to WASH's written purpose, statement of faith, discipline policy, and bylaws.

5.8 **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** Membership shall be terminated:

when annual registration and dues are not submitted in a timely manner, or when the Board of Directors receives a written or verbal request for resignation, or membership may be revoked by a majority vote of the Board of Directors if a member fails to abide by WASH's written purpose, discipline policy, or bylaws.

ARTICLE VI GUIDELINES AND RULES

6.1 WASH's fiscal year officially runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

6.2 Urgent messages, reminders, and prayer requests are relayed via WASH's email list, our group's private email group. A phone list will be available for those members without email access.

6.3 In a group setting, parents are responsible for and expected to be in control of their children at all times. This supervision is necessary to avoid accidents and to ensure that all persons attending have a safe, positive learning experience.

6.4 For the safety of our children, they are not to be dropped off at any WASH event unless prior arrangements have been made with both another adult and the event coordinator. When a WASH event is planned, participants must respect all of the guidelines for age/grade requirements, number of participants, and requirements for parents to attend as well. All requests for exceptions will be declined in order to be fair to the group.

6.5 A directory of members who choose to be included will be prepared and available to all WASH members. This directory will be held in confidence and may not be given to anyone outside of WASH by either the Board of Directors or any member. Further, WASH will not divulge lists and/or member information to anyone outside of WASH without the express permission of the individual members.

6.6 **CONFLICT RESOLUTION.** In the event there is a disagreement within WASH (between members, members and leadership, or regarding an event) that cannot be resolved on a personal level, the next course of action should be:

The involvement of one or more board member(s) in an attempt to resolve the conflict. If the issue cannot be resolved, the Board of Directors may choose to involve an outside mediator.

In the event that the issue cannot be resolved, the Board of Directors, by majority vote, may choose to revoke membership if the situation warrants.

ARTICLE VII DISCIPLINE POLICY

7.1 WASH supports Biblical teaching concerning discipline. If a child is being disruptive, disrespectful, or causing harm, the parent or other adult responsible for that child will be expected to rectify the problem. Parents are responsible for their children, as well as any and all damages incurred by them, at all times. If the problem continues or recurs, the adult and the child may be asked, by the coordinator, to leave the event. In the event that there is a significant, unresolved behavior issue, the WASH Board of Directors reserves the right to communicate with the offending parties, refuse attendance at WASH sponsored events, and/or revoke membership.

7.2 Profane language, ethnic or racial slurs, off-color jokes, immodest dress, etc. will not be tolerated at any WASH function.

7.3 It is the parent's responsibility to present the best possible example when involved with WASH activities. This includes being considerate to the event coordinator by arriving on time, complying with the requests made by the coordinator, and by being attentive to the program.

ARTICLE VIII THE WASH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

8.1 **The WASH Board of Directors** consists of at least three members but no more than six members who meet regularly to prayerfully plan and oversee the overall activities of the group. The Board of Directors shall have no less than three voting members.

8.2 **RESIGNATION, TERMINATION AND ABSENCES.** The positions held by a member of the Board of Directors will automatically become vacant in the event that such member:

is convicted of any felony while holding office, or
is declared legally incompetent, or
Submits a written resignation to the Board of Directors.

Former board members will be asked to fulfill the remainder of the current school year for any vacated board position. If this is not possible, the vacancy will be filled by appointment from the remaining board members.

8.3 **REQUIRED OFFICES.** The Officers of the Corporation shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Corporation may also have other Officers with titles and duties as delegated by the Board of Directors. The secretary and treasurer positions may be filled by the same person if the Board deems necessary.

8.4 TERMS OF BOARD ELIGIBILITY.

WASH member in good standing for a minimum of 2 years.
Be willing to serve a minimum of a 1 year term.

8.5 BOARD APPOINTMENTS. New board members will be appointed by the existing Board of Directors. The Board will accept input from any WASH member as to possible board members.

8.6 TERMS OF OFFICE. The term of each office is of no set length. The Board of Directors will communicate with incoming board members and agree upon transition time from the current to future board position.

8.7 COMPENSATION. The Board of Directors receives no compensation other than out-of-pocket expenses as approved by the organization prior to disbursement of funds. The Board reserves the right to pay a nominal fee to a student editor of the monthly newsletter.

8.8 BOARD MEETINGS. The Board of Directors shall meet at least annually, at an agreed upon time and place.

8.7 OFFICERS AND DUTIES. There shall be at least three voting officers of the Board. Duties of the board will include: coordinating and leading meetings, recording minutes of meetings, dispersing funds, publishing a monthly newsletter, maintaining a database, communicating with members and prospective members, coordinating a group of volunteers for activities, and any other duties deemed necessary by the Board. Sitting board members will decide how these duties will be divided out for any given year.

8.8 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING. The date of a regular annual informational meeting shall be set by the Board of Directors who shall also set the time and place.

8.9 SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of this organization may be called by the Board of Directors when they deem it for the best interest of the organization.

8.10 NOTICE. Notice of each meeting shall be given to each member, verbally or by e-mail, not less than seven days before the meeting.

ARTICLE IX CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS AND DEPOSITS

9.1 CONTRACTS. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

9.2 **LOANS.** No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board of Directors. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

9.3 **CHECKS, DRAFTS, ETC.** All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

9.4 **DEPOSITS.** All funds of the Corporation not otherwise allocated shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

9.5 A financial report will be available to WASH members upon request and in a timely manner.

**ARTICLE X
AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

10.1 These Bylaws, or any one of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by approval of a number of Directors equal to at least two-thirds of the number of seats on the Board.

**ARTICLE XI
TERMINATION AND DISSOLUTION**

11.1 Pursuant to an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, the termination of the Corporation may be authorized. In the event of such authorization the Corporation shall be wound up and dissolved pursuant to the laws of the State of Minnesota then in effect.

**ARTICLE XII
ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

Duly adopted by the Board of Directors on August 1, 2009.

Secretary