

## **NWACHEA of Fayetteville Q & A**

### ***Can I join the Fayetteville NWACHEA group in the middle of the year?***

Yes. You can join at any time. Our membership year begins in August, and lasts through the following July. The fee is not pro-rated, so it will cost the same (\$25/year) no matter when you join, and is non-refundable if you later decide not to participate in the group.

***Can I visit your group to check it out before committing to become a member?*** YES, you are welcome to come to one of our park days or moms nights to meet us! However, because of group liability insurance restrictions, non-member visitors cannot attend our planned field trips and holiday parties.

***How do I join your group?*** To become a member, go to [nwachea.org](http://nwachea.org) and locate the "Join" tab. Select "Fayetteville" from the drop-down menu, then print and fill out the membership form. Mail your completed application to the address on the form, with a \$25 check payable to NWACHEA.

If you wish to be a member of both the Rogers and Fayetteville groups in order to participate with both groups' activities, you can join the second branch at a reduced rate of \$12.50 per year. You still need to choose a primary branch — the one you will likely be most involved with — and send them their form and \$25 payment. For the secondary branch, you will need to print and fill out their form, then mail it with a check for \$12.50 to the address listed on the form. Please note on the forms that you have joined both branches.

### ***How do I find out about the activities you're doing?***

Our members communicate with each other through a private e-list hosted through Yahoo Groups, and through a private Facebook page. This is where we share the when/where details of our activities.

General announcements are posted at [nwachea.org](http://nwachea.org). There is not a separate website for NWACHEA of Fayetteville for posting its activities.

You do not need to have a Yahoo email address to subscribe, but you will need to set up a Yahoo account if you want access to online features like archives, files you may wish to download, or the group's event calendar.

### ***How do I get on your e-list?***

After you submit a Fayetteville/Springdale membership form and payment, you will be emailed an invitation to join the private Yahoo group.

Sometimes people get our e-list confused with another Yahoo e-list that NWACHEA hosts. It is called HOMESCHOOLS (sometimes referred to as "the loop") and is open to ALL homeschoolers in the area. The list currently has over 700 subscribers. If you would like more information about that not-so-private list, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeschools>

### ***Does or will your group ever have classes?***

In our history, we have had quite a large offering of classes for all ages of kids, at times when the volunteer manpower was able to keep them going. However, at this time, the current membership does not seem interested in adding classes to its itinerary. Every year, the possibility of holding classes is discussed. If enough people volunteer to administrate the endeavor, teach the classes, and participate in the classes, it could happen in the future.

That being said, our field trips, park days, and holiday parties are numerous and meet many social and educational needs, without the heavy prep-work that classes necessitate.

### ***How do I sign up for a field trip?***

Invitations to each field trip are posted on our private e-list. Most field trips to places of business will have a group size limit. Because of this, signups (by email) would be required. If there is a limit to the group size, priority is given to the moms who have volunteered to organize a field trip. So, signups will be limited to these families for three days, via our email list. After the three days, if there is room, the non-volunteer families can sign up.

If for some reason you are unable to come to a field trip you have signed up for, please call the coordinator so the group doesn't needlessly wait for you to show up, and so other families who are on a wait list may fill your spot. When you sign up, be sure to tell the coordinator how many will be coming from your family, including adults and wee ones.

### ***How do I organize a field trip?***

You call the place, and you decide which day and time you want it to be.

Our intent is to have multiple options per month for our members to choose from. Not all events will appeal to all families, nor work with everyone's schedule. Even if only 1/4 of our members attend your field trip, it would be well-attended. We currently have over 50 families on our membership roll.

It only takes you organizing ONE field trip, party, or park day to make yourself a "volunteer," to get priority signup status.

-- If it is a field trip without number limits, you can post the details immediately on our Fayetteville co-op e-list.

-- If it is a field trip with number limits, please submit the information first to one of the administrative members. They can make sure you have a current list of volunteers to assure those families get a three-day sign up priority.

-- Some things to include in your post are: 1) Place, day and date, beginning and ending times, directions/address/website; 2) Whether there is a group size limit; 3) Whether an RSVP is needed; 4) Which ages it is appropriate for; 5) Whether there is an entrance fee; 6) Your name and cell phone # so people can call you last minute to get help finding the location or to tell you they cannot make it or are running late.

-- It is OK to schedule a field trip on the same week or same day as someone else's field trip. However, if you wish to gather as many attendees as possible, it would be wise to check the group calendar to avoid conflicts. You can access the calendar on our Fayetteville group e-list page, in the "Events" section. At the bottom of any one of our emails, click on "Visit Your Group," sign in to your yahoo account, click on "More" at the top of the page, then click on "Events."

-- You will be responsible for keeping a list of those who sign up, if it is a field trip with a limited group size or a timed tour. Please ask each parent to provide a contact number when signing up, in case you need to communicate a last-minute change or call someone who hasn't shown up on the day of the field trip.

-- It is OK to plan a field trip that will appeal to a narrow group (i.e. only preschoolers or only high schoolers.) There will likely be enough interested to make it happen.

-- It is OK to set a deadline date for signups as a means of gauging interest, to decide whether to go forward with the plans.

-- If you find that the interest far exceeds the number of attendees allowed, consider setting up more than one time slot so that more people can participate. You could arrange with other moms to be present/oversee during additional time slots so you don't have to stick around the whole time.

-- Please note that if you are planning an event where you want a high number of teens to attend, it would be wise to avoid the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, due to a popular high school class series that occurs on those days, that is not related to NWACHEA.

-- If you need ideas for field trips, the 'Files' section of our Yahoo group has a list of field trips going back to the 2005/2006 school year. There are plenty of activities on the list that are worth repeating!

***Can I bring preschoolers/babies along to field trips?***

For most places it will be fine to bring along all of your children. For other places, like the Washington County Jail, it may not. The field trip coordinator is supposed to tell you about age-appropriateness. If you wish for your older kids to attend an older-children-only field trip, consider arranging with someone else where one of you watches little ones at a park or house while the other takes the older kids to the field trip.

***Can I invite a friend to field trips?***

Because of limitations set by our group liability insurance carrier, we cannot have non-members attend our holiday parties or join our field trips by entering as a part of our group. Your friends can show up as a family at a public location (like the zoo) on the same day/time as we do, but they cannot receive the group rate for entrance fees or join any activity reserved for our group (such as classes or tours that are arranged for us). Exceptions to this are grandparents/aunts/etc. who attend to help supervise your kids on a field trip. Any other guests must be approved in advance by the Fayetteville steering committee.

For our park days and moms night outs, you may invite any other homeschoolers you think would like to join us.

***Do you have teen activities?***

At this time, we do not have regular activities that are specifically for teens. Whenever we plan holiday parties or park days, they are intended for whole families. There are quite a few teens in our group, and they will naturally congregate at these events. Some of the field trips that are organized might be specifically geared for teen interest.

***When are your moms nights?***

Amy Calhoun currently coordinates these. They occur every 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm throughout the calendar year. We go to various restaurants, mostly in the Fayetteville and Springdale areas. It is for moms and infants only. They are announced every month on our private e-list. Because the attendance varies so greatly and we need to tell the server how big a table we need, RSVP's are required, but it's OK to RSVP at the last minute. You can email, call, or text Amy to let her know to expect you. If you told her that you're coming, and then cannot, please let her know so the group doesn't wait on you.

***Who are the leaders of your group?*** We do have a small number of moms who carry out some administrative tasks for our group, who are referred to as the steering committee. For the 2018/19 year, they are: Amy Calhoun, Beth Gildner, Jennifer Thompson, and Tina Leonard.

The steering committee members do not plan all of the activities. Our group relies primarily on the other moms to do the work of planning most of our activities. We hope that some of you may be gifted (or just willing!) for administrative tasks and might fill one of those roles in the future.