



homeschool iowa

NETWORK OF IOWA CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES HANDBOOK

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HOMESCHOOL IOWA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



WELCOME!

The Homeschool Iowa (Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators) is pleased to present our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives program. Within this booklet you will find complete details to assist you in carrying out your duties and responsibilities as a Regional Representative.



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NICHE CONTACT INFORMATION

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Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/HIregreps

NICHE Website:

www.homeschooliowa.org

NICHE Administrative Assistant:

Julie Naberhaus

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HOMESCHOOL IOWA (NICHE)



NICHE: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In 1991, members of the Dallas County Homeschool Support Group met periodically to discuss the creation of a new statewide homeschool organization. Early in 1992, they produced a flyer and gathered signatures to gauge interest in such an organization at a Department of Education home education hearing.

In February of 1992, eight couples from the Dallas County Homeschool Support Group each contributed \$25 toward the printing and distribution of the first newsletter for the new state homeschool organization. They selected the name Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators (NICHE), coined by Julie Naberhaus.

NICHE sponsored a homeschool history fair in the fall of 1992, with featured speaker Little Bear Wheeler. The first NICHE Capitol Day event was held in March of 1993, with over 200 people attending. Later that same month, the first annual NICHE conference, a Gregg Harris *Christian Life Workshop* event, was held, with Governor Terry Branstad presenting the opening remarks.

NICHE continued to sponsor annual NICHE Conferences and Capitol Day events and to publish and mail monthly member newsletters. NICHE representatives monitored the Iowa legislature and the Iowa Department of Education for homeschool concerns. In 1995, NICHE first submitted a parent-taught driver education bill to the legislature. After continued diligence over many years, NICHE efforts finally resulted in the passage of this legislation in 2013.

A statewide graduation service was added by NICHE in 1996. Seven graduates participated in this event, held at the end of the annual NICHE Conference. Since that time, the graduation service has been held as a separate event, with up to over a hundred graduates participating annually.

In 2000, NICHE unveiled its new website, the-niche.org. Since that time, the website has continually been expanded and improved to its present form, homeschooliowa.org.

With the new website address came an effort to create an easily recognizable “brand” for NICHE (also coined by Julie Naberhaus) – Homeschool Iowa – which has been applied to all NICHE events and outreach efforts.

In 2009, the inaugural issue of *Homeschool Iowa* magazine was published and mailed. Homeschool Iowa continues to distribute this publication free of charge to homeschooling families across Iowa. Eventually, the Homeschool Iowa member newsletter was replaced by a bi-monthly e-newsletter. Homeschool Iowa also expanded its outreach into social media as well, creating Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest offerings.

In 2013, Homeschool Iowa efforts resulted in a new homeschool legal option, Independent Private Instruction (IPI).

While Homeschool Iowa continues to operate with mostly volunteer efforts, the board hired a part-time administrative assistant to manage regular tasks for the organization.



MISSION, END GOAL & GUIDING PRINCIPLES



HOMESCHOOL IOWA MISSION STATEMENT

Homeschool Iowa (NICHE) exists to:

- equip homeschooling families
- encourage home educators
- promote home education
- protect homeschooling freedom.



HOMESCHOOL IOWA END GOAL

The NICHE ministry end goal is to see Christ-centered home education and discipleship become the standard in the body of Christ.



HOMESCHOOL IOWA STATEMENT OF FAITH

The directors, officers and representatives of Homeschool Iowa (NICHE) affirm:

1. The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
4. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
5. That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
6. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
7. In the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal differences which may exist, outside of the aforementioned (1-6), should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.
8. In accordance with the teachings of the Holy Bible as the inerrant Word of God, for all purposes of the corporation and its bylaws, "marriage" means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word "spouse" refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



PURPOSE

As a Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative, your purpose is to serve as a designated representative of Homeschool Iowa (NICHE) within your specified region of the state of Iowa.



DUTIES

As a Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative, your duties include:

- Keeping the Homeschool Iowa Board informed of the needs and concerns of homeschooling families within your designated region by supplying regular reports to the Regional Representatives Coordinator.
- Identifying local homeschool support groups within your designated region.
Maintaining communications with the leaders and members of these local support groups.
Serving as a liaison between local homeschool support group leaders and the Homeschool Iowa Board.
Providing counsel, encouragement, and Homeschool Iowa resources to local homeschool support groups.
- Offering assistance, advice, and Homeschool Iowa resources to new home educators within your region who have submitted inquiries to Homeschool Iowa, and referring them to local homeschool support groups within your designated region.
- Using a variety of available tools, including Homeschool Iowa email and Facebook, to maintain regular communication with other Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives.
- Attending Homeschool Iowa events and offering assistance, if able.
- Other duties as assigned by the Homeschool Iowa Board.



REQUIREMENTS

- Affirmation to the Homeschool Iowa vision/mission and statement of faith
- Faithful to Christ and in good standing with the local church
- Pleasant communication skills, both written and verbal
- Provision of your own equipment (e.g., computer, phone, printer, supplies)

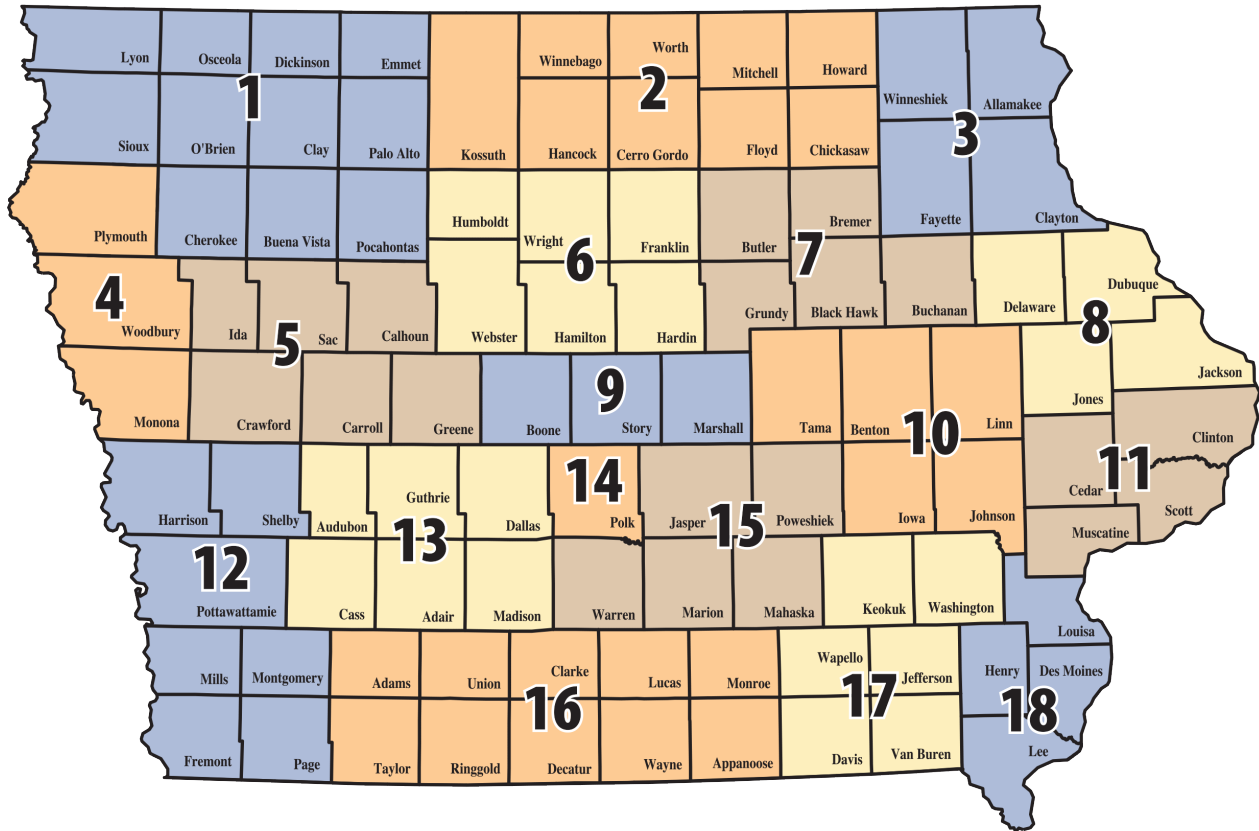


SUPPORT FROM NICHE

- Assistance from our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives Coordinator
- Guidance from this handbook, the Homeschool Iowa website, Homeschooling 101 manual, etc.
- Interaction in our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives Facebook Group
- Complimentary Homeschool Iowa membership and admission to Homeschool Iowa events
(Does not include extra program or merchandise fees at these events, such as children's program fees, t-shirt purchases, etc.)



REPRESENTATIVE REGIONS



18 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REGIONS

Region 1: Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas

Region 2: Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Howard, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Chickasaw

Region 3: Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton

Region 4: Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona

Region 5: Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Crawford, Carroll, Greene

Region 6: Humboldt, Wright, Franklin, Webster, Hamilton, Hardin

Region 7: Butler, Bremer, Grundy, Black Hawk, Buchanan

Region 8: Delaware, Dubuque, Jones, Jackson

Region 9: Boone, Story, Marshall

Region 10: Tama, Benton, Linn, Iowa, Johnson

Region 11: Cedar, Clinton, Muscatine, Scott

Region 12: Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, Page

Region 13: Audubon, Guthrie, Dallas, Cass, Adair, Madison

Region 14: Polk

Region 15: Jasper, Poweshiek, Warren, Marion, Mahaska

Region 16: Adams, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Appanoose

Region 17: Keokuk, Washington, Wapello, Jefferson, Davis, Van Buren

Region 18: Louisa, Henry, Des Moines, Lee



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS

As a Regional Representative, you provide a vital communication link allowing information to flow in both directions between Homeschool Iowa and local homeschool support groups.

Your role as a Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative will include:

- Maintaining a list of the support groups and their contacts in your designated region.
- Updating your list whenever you become aware of changes and notifying the Regional Representatives Coordinator immediately.
- Forwarding alerts and information from Homeschool Iowa to the support group leaders in your region.
- Encouraging local support group members to join Homeschool Iowa and to attend our events.
- Assisting in efforts to start new local support groups in your designated region.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEW HOMESCHOOLERS

As a Regional Representative, you provide a valuable mentoring resource offering experience and wisdom for those who are seeking information about home education.

Your role as a Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative will include:

- Familiarizing yourself with Homeschool Iowa resources, like our website and Homeschooling 101 booklet, to gain a general knowledge of homeschooling how-tos, record keeping, learning styles, curriculum sources, and Iowa law pertaining to home education.
- Answering occasional email and/or phone referrals received by our administrative assistant from inquirers living in your designated region who are seeking further assistance.
- Responding to questions for which you do not have answers by connecting the inquirers with the Homeschool Iowa Administrative Assistant or the Homeschool Regional Representatives Coordinator.
- Referring inquirers to the local homeschool support group nearest their location, when applicable.
- Encouraging inquirers to join Homeschool Iowa and to attend Homeschool Iowa events.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND HOMESCHOOL IOWA

As a Regional Representative, you serve as an indispensable team member connecting Homeschool Iowa (NICHE) with home educators in your designated region.

Your role as a Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative will include:

- Serving as the eyes and ears of our organization in your designated region.
- Communicating local needs and concerns that you identify in your region to the Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives Coordinator and the Homeschool Iowa board.
- Keeping Homeschool Iowa informed as to whether our organization is meeting the needs of Iowa homeschooling families in your designated region.



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THE FUTURE

As a Regional Representative, you serve in a unique position that offers potential in many ways to assist Homeschool Iowa and the homeschooling families within your designated region.

Your future role as a Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative *might* include:

- Providing periodic reports about what is going on in your designated region, which eventually could be published in our member e-newsletter and on our website.
- Identifying a potential candidate to serve as an assistant regional representative in your region, training and mentoring that person to take on your role when you retire.
- Helping us with efforts to sponsor events or outreach efforts in your designated region of Iowa.
- Developing other exciting ideas for our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives program.

We're blessed to have you on our team and ask you to join us in seeking the Lord's guidance as we serve together as Regional Representatives.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Region 1:	region1@homeschooliowa.org
Region 2:	region2@homeschooliowa.org
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