



KIDS TREK

Come for the adventure!

2021 KIDS TREK Volunteer Handbook



Homeschool Iowa Conference
Thursday - Saturday
June 17-19, 2021

Children's Program Coordinators: Scott & Hannah Kratzer
KidsTrek@homeschooliowa.org | www.homeschooliowa.org/conference



BENEFITS & REQUIREMENTS



The Homeschool Iowa Conference would not be possible without our tremendous volunteers – especially our *amazing* KIDS TREK Children’s Program volunteers!

If you have two willing hands and a servant’s heart, we want you to join our team!

Our KIDS TREK Children’s Program theme this year is “Valor: Tomorrow’s Battles Are Won or Lost by the Choices of Today.”

This year’s program will present
VALOR:
Tomorrow’s Battles Are Won or Lost by the Choices of Today

CHOICES
The choices we make shape who we become

THOUGHTS
Our thoughts are shaped by the choices we make

ATTITUDES
Our attitudes are shaped by our thoughts

ACTIONS
Our attitudes determine the actions we take

OUR ACTIONS
SHAPE WHO WE BECOME

Join the KIDS TREK Team to be a part of this effort!

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

- Be 18 or older and either a current Homeschool Iowa member, a homeschool graduate, or an adult who has demonstrated dedication toward homeschooling

OR

- Be at least 14 years old by June 1, 2021, with at least one parent who is a current Homeschool Iowa member and will attend the 2021 Homeschool Iowa Conference

- Attend training and assist with KIDS TREK setup on THURSDAY, June 17, from 11:00am-5:00pm.

- Serve at the Children’s Program ALL day, BOTH days, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, June 18-19.

- Be able to stay for at least ½ hour past the end of the last session on Saturday for tear-down and clean-up

- Complete the volunteer application and background check application on or before June 1.

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

In gratitude for service to homeschool families of Iowa, our Children’s Program Volunteers receive the following :

- Lunches provided for setup and training on June 17
- Lunches provided during the program on June 18-19
- KIDS TREK volunteer t-shirt
- Experience being part of an amazing team of volunteers
- A fun-packed weekend opportunity to serve



DATES | TIMES | LOCATIONS

Conference Dates	Thursday, June 17 (setup, training, & rehearsal) Friday, June 18 - Saturday, June 19 (program)
Conference Site	Grand View University 1200 Grandview Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316
Children's Program Site	To ensure the safety of the children attending the Homeschool Iowa KIDS TREK Children's Program, the program location is only released to conference staff, approved program volunteers, and parents of program children. <i>All KIDS TREK Children's Program volunteers are expected to maintain this information in highest confidence.</i>
Approximate Times	Thursday: 11:00am - 5:00pm Friday & Saturday: 8:00am - 5:00pm

ADVANCE TRAINING & THURSDAY SETUP

The KIDS TREK Drama Team will have eight advance training sessions from April to June.

Thursday, June 17, is a team training day for the KIDS TREK program. This training will be held off-site and will include leadership guidance, team-building exercises, child protection training, and rehearsals of the "Valor" memory verses, songs, and games.

The drama team will have a separate schedule coordinated by the drama director.

Parents of volunteers are welcome to stay and observe the training sessions and setup.

This is a required work day for all Children's Program volunteers.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS

For the safety and security of all Homeschool Iowa attendees and their children, Homeschool Iowa KIDS TREK Children's Program volunteers 16 years of age and older will be required to comply with a third party background check.

Due to the nature of the world we live in, those who refuse to comply will not be allowed to participate as volunteers.

Homeschool Iowa utilizes a secure Christian organization to perform these background checks.

Visit <https://www.ministryopportunities.org/Application.aspx?oid=30015> to fill out your background check application by the **June 1 deadline**.



TEAMS & PROTOCOLS

TEAM ROLES

Our 2021 KIDS TREK format will be as follow:

Teachers and children will be assigned to a team with a designated classroom, but will join with other teams for drama presentations and activities.

Teachers will be working in groups and should come prepared to fully engage as a team during the entire conference.

During our advance online training, we will cover expected teacher roles and classroom guidelines. Teachers will each be expected to teach at least one lesson during KIDS TREK, as well as review lessons and ask insightful questions to help engage students and to help them retain what they are hearing.

Teachers are asked to keep their classrooms tidy and to encourage the children in their teams to do the same.

Every teacher is expected to set a good example for all others, demonstrating a positive attitude, initiative, and dedicated teamwork at all times.

DRAMA TEAM

Every year we produce the highlight of each year's program: an 8-part drama.

The storyline of the drama directly connects with the lessons being taught, so that both the Gospel *and* Christian character lessons are taught throughout the program

Roles for extras may be available; information about this will be sent to volunteers in the weeks leading up to the conference.

Dress Code & Conduct

- **Be neatly groomed in body and clothing. No gaudy or outlandish hairstyles or jewelry. (This applies to Thursday set-up hours as well.)**
- **Wear 2021 conference t-shirts on Friday and Saturday. Refrain from making embellishments or modifications (i.e. rolled sleeves, pins, etc.).**
- **Plan ahead in case the facility is chilly. Sweatshirts and jackets are not allowed over the conference t-shirts. You may wear a long-sleeved shirt under your conference t-shirt, if needed.**
- **Keep name tags visible around the neck at all times. Do not trade name tags with others.**
- **Wear modest denim jeans (no holes) or solid-color pants. Girls may wear denim or solid-color skirts that are below the knee, without revealing slits, and are not tight-fitting.**
- **Consider comfortable shoes a MUST.**
- **Adjust to a more relaxed dress code for Thursday: modest jeans, capris, or Bermuda shorts and loose-fitting shirts. Some returning volunteers wear a previous year's conference t-shirt.**
- **Expect to keep busy and help as needed. If a volunteer does not comply with this protocol, he/she will be asked to leave the conference.**
- **Plan to stay at least 1/2 hour after the end of the last Saturday session to assist with tear-down.**
- **Be prepared for a three long days of fast-paced, intensive work – and lots of fun!**