



welcome
H  **ME**

Homeschool Iowa Conference
Thursday - Saturday
June 5-7, 2025

VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

Conference Volunteer Coordinator: Joylynn DeFord
volunteer@homeschooliowa.org | www.homeschooliowa.org/conference



DATES | TIMES | LOCATIONS

Conference Dates & Times

Thursday, June 5: 3pm-8:30pm

Friday, June 6: 8:30am-8:30pm

Saturday, June 7: 8am-5:15pm

Conference Site

Mid-American Energy RecPlex

6500 Grand Avenue

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Volunteers Needed

Thursday: 9am-6pm

Friday: 7:30am-8:30pm

Saturday: 7:30am-6pm



CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

AV & IT TEAM MEMBER

AV and IT Team Members meet speaker, staff, and attendee needs as they assist with media and recording equipment. You must be familiar with Mac and PC computers (and their connections with display options) and be able to troubleshoot and correct problems.

EXHIBIT HALL TEAM MEMBER

Exhibit Hall Assistants assist our Exhibit Hall Coordinator to ensure that our exhibitors are well cared for before, during, and after the conference. These responsibilities may include: running errands, helping at exhibit booths as needed, and assisting with exhibitor check-in and move-out.

HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBER

Hospitality Team Members assist in our workshop room areas, distributing workshop materials, recording room head counts, etc. At the end of each session, you will check your assigned area, collect loose materials and take any lost-and-found items to the Homeschool Iowa booth.

REGISTRATION TEAM MEMBER

Registration Team Members are the first “faces” people see at our conference. Complete instructions on duties will be provided during the required brief training session prior to assigned shifts. We count on our Registration Team members to wear their best smiles and to be courteous & friendly!

SECURITY TEAM MEMBER

Security Team Members will be responsible to watch various conference entrances, checking each person for required wristbands and directing persons who have no wristbands to the registration area.



REQUIREMENTS & BENEFITS



THURSDAY SETUP CREW INFORMATION:

Our HI Team Thursday Setup Crew is a crucial part of our volunteer team.

- Thursday is a workday to prepare the conference facility and to help our conference exhibitors unload and set-up their displays.
- EXHIBIT HALL setup will begin in the morning on Thursday and must be completed by that evening.
- USED CURRICULUM SALE setup will begin Thursday at 1:00pm.
- Entire families are welcome to volunteer to help with this pre-conference effort. Full-time conference volunteers can assist with Thursday setup, too.
- While the work is extremely important, the atmosphere on Thursday is more casual. Please wear comfortable but modest clothing. Some returning volunteers wear the previous year's conference t-shirt.
- If you will need to leave before setup is completed, please indicate this on the volunteer registration form.
- Set-up volunteers are asked to report to the volunteer check-in area upon arrival.

The Homeschool Iowa Conference would not be possible without our tremendous conference team – especially our *amazing* on-site conference volunteers!

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

Enjoy this opportunity to help with our conference and be prepared for a rewarding experience!

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, 2025, with at least one parent who is a current Homeschool Iowa member and will attend the 2025 Homeschool Iowa Conference
- Complete a volunteer application on or before June 1

ALSO, but optional:

- Be willing to help with setup on THURSDAY, June 5, selected hours from 9:00am-6:00pm (see sidebar).

A grab-and-go meal will be provided for those working through the lunch hour on setup day.

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

FULL-TIME Volunteers serving ALL day, Friday & Saturday, June 6-7, including tear-down on Saturday receive:

- Friday lunch and Saturday lunch
- A conference volunteer t-shirt

PART-TIME Volunteers serving at least a 4-hour shift receive:

- A conference volunteer t-shirt

PART-TIME Volunteers serving for one full day receive:

- Lunch on the day of service
- A conference volunteer t-shirt

ALL Volunteers experience serving with an amazing team!



PROTOCOLS & PART-TIMERS

FULL-TIME / PART-TIME

Conference volunteers can choose to serve FULL-TIME or PART-TIME.

FULL-TIME volunteers serve all-day, both days of the conference (Friday and Saturday). Because they are working throughout, they do not need to pay for conference admission.

PART-TIME volunteers serve at least a 4-hour shift. They must be registered attendees who have paid for conference admission on the day they serve.

Adults *and* teens are eligible for FULL-TIME and PART-TIME volunteer positions.

PART-TIME volunteers will be allowed to request specific time slots for their service so they can go to the conference workshops and programs they want to attend.

CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT

Conference Volunteers arriving for service should check in at designated areas.

Volunteers will be informed of exact locations for check-in, depending upon the team to which they are assigned and the area in which they will be serving.

When volunteers have completed their service and are ready to depart, they should report to the designated check-out area before leaving the conference facilities.

These steps are absolutely mandatory for teenage volunteers.

More detailed information about volunteer check-in and check-out will be provided to all who complete a volunteer registration.

Dress & Conduct Code

- Be neatly groomed in body and clothing. No gaudy or outlandish hairstyles or jewelry, and no hats (inside conference facilities). (This applies to Thursday setup hours as well.)
- Wear 2024 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.
- All volunteers are to wear modest denim jeans (no holes) or solid-colored pants. Girls may choose to wear modest denim or solid-colored capri pants or skirts that are below the knee, without revealing slits.
- Consider comfortable shoes a MUST.
- Be prepared to comply with requests from the Volunteer Coordinator to modify appearance.
- Check in at the designated volunteer area when arriving for conference service, and check out at the same area when departing from conference service. This is especially important for teen volunteers.
- 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 after the end of the last Saturday session to assist with tear-down.
- Be prepared for three long, service-filled days of fast-paced, intensive work – and lots of fun!