



Homeschool Co-ops Pros and Cons

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Pros of co-ops/tutorial: Better together in group learning, Shared experience from others, encouragement for homeschool parents and fun!

Cons of co-ops/tutorials: surrendering control, too much like school, socialization, time and money, unmet expectations, lose the joy of homeschooling.

Consider this: Time | Money | Commitment | Impact on your family

Remember:

Your co-op/tutorial cannot be all things to you-so manage your expectations
Your co-op/tutorial is not essential to your success of homeschooling!
Co-op teachers are not responsible for homeschooling your children!

Tips for Starting a Homeschool Co-op or Tutorial Program

Start small. Try a short trial period of 4-6 weeks.
Try to find a church or other 501c3 to sponsor you for 1-2 years.
Decide Who, What and Where, Cost and Curriculum
Write a mission statement: We are _____ and we do _____

Decide: For-profit business or nonprofit

For-profit: Owner has control, volunteers may be doubtful, owner pay taxes on profit

Nonprofit: Run by a board not one person, encourages a volunteer spirit, tax exempt

You're a nonprofit if you are organized (board and bylaws) and operate like one (no profit motive and no one pockets the money). Nonprofit is not the same as tax exempt though!

Required annual IRS filing for ALL nonprofits: Form 990/990-EZ or 990-N due 4 ½ months after end of fiscal year. Failure to file for 3 consecutive years results in automatic revocation of tax exempt status. You may owe back taxes and will need to reapply for tax exempt status.

Resources at HomeschoolCPA.com.

Homeschool Co-ops: How to Start Them, Run Them and Not Burn Out

The IRS and Your Homeschool Organization book and ebook

Money Management in a Homeschool Organization: A Guide for Treasurers book and ebook

Podcast: DollarsAndSenseShow.com has episodes for homeschool leaders.

HomeschoolCPA.com [YouTube Channel](#) with helpful videos