



**Homeschool Leaders:  
Planning an  
Uncertain Future**

IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



**Host: Carol Topp of** Homeschool CPA

**Join 1400+ other homeschool leaders on Facebook!**




has a mentoring program to equip you to help homeschool leaders

[HomeschoolCPA.com/  
Mentoring](https://HomeschoolCPA.com/Mentoring)



*Do you have a passion to help homeschool leaders?*

A mentoring program to train you to be a consultant to homeschool group leaders  
[HomeschoolCPA.com/Mentoring](https://HomeschoolCPA.com/Mentoring)

**Agenda**

---

Housekeeping

Important reminders and Panel Introductions

Topics:

- Making Decisions as a Board
- Planning Tools
- Social Distancing
- Ideas from Panelists
- How to Communicate Plans to Members

**Housekeeping**

---

- Chat box
- Be polite and respectful.
- Only questions. **No opinions or discussions.** TIA!
- Recording link will be emailed in a few days
- Everyone's group is different
- Listen & learn. Take what applies to you.
- Don't judge others' decisions. You don't know their group, limitations or constraints



**Important Reminders**

---

"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it."

Abraham Lincoln, "A House Divided Speech"



HomeschoolCPA mantras

**You cannot be all things to all people**, so stop trying.

You are **not** responsible for homeschooling other peoples' children!

Your **group/program is not essential** to success in homeschooling.

Never forget:

**It's okay** if you have to

- Go on hiatus/pause
- Suspend some or all activities
- Only offer programs to some students

Your Mission

*"A house divided against itself cannot stand..."*

A house means cooperation and shared purpose.

What's your house's foundation? What's your **purpose**?

Your **activities** can change, without changing your purpose.



Panel introduction

Name

State

Your group's name, purpose and main activities



Making Decisions as a Board

## Decision making

Try to have **consensus** (on your board, not your members!) *as much as possible*.

Present decisions to members **as a board decision**.

You cannot please everyone. **Focus on what you can do**.

- Consider health and safety restrictions
- Consider your time and sanity!

## Let's talk

How did your board make their decisions?



## Planning Tools

## Scenarios

Best



Likely



Worst



### Decision Matrix

Rank each activity by criteria. High score is good.

Visual method to see how each activity compares against another

Available: [HomeschoolCPA.com/Decision Matrix](https://HomeschoolCPA.com/DecisionMatrix)

| Decision Criteria            | Homeschool Group Activities |                                   |                                    |                         |                               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                              | Field trips                 | Support Group Meetings (in homes) | NEW! Match newbie with experienced | In-person co-op classes | Online classes for Jr/Sr High |
| Low risk of spreading virus* | 5                           | 6                                 | 10                                 | 0                       | 10                            |
| Ease of finding a location   | 5                           | 9                                 | 10                                 | 2                       | 10                            |
| Low cost                     | 8                           | 10                                | 10                                 | 5                       | 2                             |
| Easy to implement            | 6                           | 8                                 | 6                                  | 2                       | 3                             |
| Popular with members         | 8                           | 8                                 | 6                                  | 7                       | 8                             |
| Total (high score is good)   | 32                          | 41                                | 42                                 | 16                      | 33                            |

\* Consider in its own matrix: number of people, inside/outside, length of time and size of space.

Option: Weigh some criteria more heavily than others.

Available: [HomeschoolCPA.com/DecisionMatrix](https://HomeschoolCPA.com/DecisionMatrix)

| Decision Criteria           | Weight factor | Homeschool Group Activities |                                   |                                    |                         |                               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                             |               | Field trips                 | Support Group Meetings (in homes) | NEW! Match newbie with experienced | In-person co-op classes | Online classes for Jr/Sr High |
| Low risk of spreading virus | 5             | 25                          | 30                                | 50                                 | 0                       | 50                            |
| Ease of finding a location  | 4             | 20                          | 36                                | 40                                 | 8                       | 40                            |
| Low cost                    | 1             | 8                           | 10                                | 10                                 | 5                       | 2                             |
| Easy to implement           | 3             | 18                          | 24                                | 18                                 | 6                       | 9                             |
| Popular with members        | 2             | 16                          | 16                                | 12                                 | 14                      | 16                            |
| Total with Weight factor    |               | 87                          | 116                               | 130                                | 33                      | 117                           |

\* Consider in its own matrix: number of people, inside/outside, length of time and size of space.

## Let's talk

Your best, worst and most likely cases and planning tools



## Social Distancing in a Homeschool Program

## Key concern: Safety of your members



- Follow state and local government guidelines and church/host guidelines
- Have an illness policy
- Know your hosts' sanitizing requirements

Share your illness and sanitizing policies in the **Files** at I am a Homeschool Group Leader FB page

## Social distancing: time, space, people, place



- Length of **time**
- **Space**
- Number of **people** involved
- **Place:** Indoors or outdoors

Source: "From Camping To Dining Out: Here's How Experts Rate The Risks Of 14 Summer Activities" [www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/](http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/) May 23, 2020

## Let's talk

- Safety measures (sanitizing, etc.)
- Social Distancing



## Question and Answer

with our panelists who are not:

- Medical experts
- Legal experts
- Experts on your group
- Able to predict the future



## Ideas

### Real needs vs felt needs

Address the **real need** for connection, encouragement, and support

- Content is easily available everywhere; **connection mom to mom is not!**
- Moms Nights Out (include newbies)
- Support Group meeting (include newbies)
- Field trips (include newbies)



Consider:

**Schedule:** Long breaks, delaying start

**Size:** Small groups. Meet in homes

**Location:** Outside? Online?

**Who gets what?**

- Different offerings for Jr/Sr High than for elementary



Let's talk

What **ideas** or **changes** are you considering?



## How to Communicate Your Plans to Members

### Seven touches

Use many ways to communicate **seven times!**

- Email (2-3 times)
- Facebook posts (2-3 times)
- Website (and text/email/IM the URL)
- Facebook live
- Text, message, and phone calls



Let's talk

How are you communicating your plans to members?



Join 1400 other homeschool leaders on Facebook!



has a mentoring program to equip you to help homeschool leaders

[HomeschoolCPA.com/Mentoring](https://HomeschoolCPA.com/Mentoring)



**Question and Answer**

with our panelists who are not:

- Medical experts
- Legal experts
- Experts on your group
- Able to predict the future

*Thank you panelists!*

