



2021-2022

Welcome to SHIELD! We are so glad that you have joined, rejoined, or are considering membership in our Christian homeschool support group. We are looking forward to an awesome year and hope you find what you need to make your school year the best yet!

SHIELD membership runs from August 1st to July 31st. Membership applications are available on our mobile-friendly website (<http://www.shieldonline.org/>). Cost for a SHIELD membership is \$10 per family per year. Please note that all prior year memberships that are not renewed will expire August 31. By September 15 we will have our most current directory and will begin a new email group with only those who have joined or renewed at that time. If you have questions, please contact one of the SHIELD Team Leaders.

Amanda Smith
Strategy Team Leader
803-518-7220
smith5frogs@gmail.com

Melissa Bryan
Leadership Team
803-292-7122
smabryan@aol.com

Leslie Buzzell
Financial Team Leader
803-315-0606
jlbuzzell@gmail.com

SHIELD Opportunities

SHIELD is a support group made up of homeschool families dedicated to teaching their children for the glory of God that was started over 20 years ago to offer support, encouragement, resources and activities for our members. We accomplish this through the faithfulness and dedication of our members who volunteer their time in service to leadership, clubs, field trips, park days, and more.

In order for SHIELD families to reap support and benefits, we ask all families to assist with at least one of our activities or events. This might mean bringing snacks or sending out reminder emails, etc. To let us know what you are comfortable volunteering for, please be sure to choose an area of service when you submit your online membership application. The coordinators of that event/activity will get in touch with you about getting you plugged in. If you have questions about service, please contact a SHIELD Coordinator or Leader

SHIELD Communication

Email is our main form of communication. If you have something you would like to share with the SHIELD group, please compose it in an email exactly the way you would like it read by our members and send it to SHIELD's communication coordinator, Jessica Sims at shieldCommunicationsLeader@gmail.com. This will then be included in the next weekly email to all members. The deadline for submissions is Sunday at 11:59pm.

Please DO NOT reply to messages sent from the SHIELD account. We have many coordinators planning events for our members. A contact person, email address, and/or phone number is always provided in the emails you receive and you must contact the coordinator directly, not SHIELD.

We also have a SHIELD Facebook page which is a great way to stay informed and receive reminders about SHIELD happenings. The Facebook page is for SHIELD parents only (not students) and no photos may be posted to respect the privacy of our members. The Facebook page does NOT take the place of emails because about half of the membership does not use Facebook. You will continue to receive emails about SHIELD events and opportunities as well as non-SHIELD sponsored opportunities that we believe may benefit our group.

It is our desire to keep the Facebook page a positive source of encouragement. We would love to know of field trip ideas and educational events/opportunities that SHIELD has not already coordinated. This might be a great place to post reminders about upcoming SHIELD events or share how one of our events went. Please feel free to post curriculum you are selling or are in search of. Leslie Ballard is our SHIELD Facebook page administrator this year. Please email her at wahoolb@bellsouth.net to join our private group if you have not done so already.

Finally, SHIELD's Leadership Team is always available to discuss new ideas or concerns you may have about SHIELD or any of its groups, any decisions made . . . ANYTHING! Please remember, that we try to do all things to glorify our Heavenly Father. The SHIELD Leadership Team prayerfully considers everything before making decisions on anything . . . from what clubs to who leads in various areas. We want you, the SHIELD members, to know that we are volunteers here to serve this awesome Christian support group in the best way we know how. Please always come to us if you have any questions or concerns. We will make every effort to meet with you, email you, call you, etc. . . . We are here for you!

May You Have A Blessed School Year!

Christmas Around the World

Coordinator Contact Information:

Olivia Steed

803-479-2658

olivia.steed@icloud.com

Families interested in this event will register with the Coordinator probably in October/November. Then they will research how the country they have chosen traditionally spends Christmas. Some ideas to research and share with other families include traditional foods, music, clothing, décor, and gifts. This celebration will be in November or December. More information about date, time, and place will be published in the weekly SHIELD email, on the website, and on the Facebook page.

Clubs

Coordinator Contact Information:

Tania Brower

803-463-4206

taniabrower22@gmail.com

SHIELD offers a variety of clubs so that you can find one to suit your family's needs. We currently have Girls' and Boys' Clubs for K5-5th grade. This year we also have a Lego Club!

Do you have a fantastic idea for a club? American Girl Club? Archery Club? Nature Study? Sports Club? Book Club? Bible study? Horseback riding? Roller Skating? Bowling? Photography? Scrapbooking? SHIELD is always excited to add new clubs as interests arise. The ideas are only limited by your imagination.

Field Day

Coordinator Contact Information:

Sarah Burggraaf

803-394-6770

burggra9@aol.com

Fun and games with other SHIELD families in April or May! Please watch for date and time details in upcoming communications. Also please contact the coordinator to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Field Trips

Coordinator Contact Information:

Nicole Walters

803-237-1904

nicole.poteat@gmail.com

SHIELD has traditionally offered a variety of interesting field trips throughout the school year. These have included various learning opportunities such as science & nature classes, special exhibit museum tours, public facility tours, visits to historical sites, etc.

In addition, we have provided information on many virtual field trips on our Facebook page. We encourage you to keep checking the weekly SHIELD email and our Facebook page throughout the year for up-to-date information on virtual and in-person field trips, sign ups, deadlines, and contact information.

Learning Celebration

Coordinator Contact Information:

Kelly Earley

505-259-9849

kelly_earley@hotmail.com

Let's get together in the spring and celebrate all we are accomplishing as learners! Please contact the Coordinator to help plan and prepare this event. For those interested in participating, please watch the SHIELD communications for details in the New Year.

Mid-Year Fellowship

Coordinator Contact Information:

Melissa Bryan

803-292-7122

smabryan@aol.com

SHIELD recognizes the need for parents to be refreshed at the halfway point in our school year. In January or February, we hope to come together at our Mid-Year Fellowship for an encouraging and uplifting time. If you are interested in helping with Mid-Year this year, please contact the coordinator.

Park Days

Come enjoy spending time with other SHIELD families each month at park days! We will meet once a month at various parks in the afternoon. This is a great time for moms to relax and chat while the children have fun and **burn some energy!**

Senior Celebration

As the school year comes to a close, the families of the graduating seniors get together to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments and bless in their future endeavors. If you feel called to coordinate or help with this uplifting evening, please contact Melissa Bryan at 803-292-7122 or smabryan@aol.com.

THRILL

Coordinator Contact Information:

Kari Zwisle

803-556-9393

kzwise2@gmail.com

Shelley Cannon

803-360-7978

sheldanc35@gmail.com

THRILL (Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting Lexington Lives) is a community service group for SHIELD's 8th-12th graders. The goal of THRILL is to provide our teens with an opportunity to experience community service in ways that might not be possible outside of a group. THRILL's desire is to give students the opportunity to understand the concept of showing Christ's love by serving others and to help teach leadership and organizational skills while fostering a servant's heart.

Please email one of the coordinators to get connected with this group. Students are encouraged to keep track of all their volunteer hours to participate in the Presidential Service Award program. Some service opportunities from recent years include: Operation Christmas Child in Charlotte, Mission Lexington sorting and packing food, Harvest Hope Food Bank sorting and packing, Special Olympics, Night to Shine, and many more.

Valentine Kids' Bake-Off

Coordinator Contact Information:

Olivia Steed

803-479-2658

olivia.steed@icloud.com

Each kid that registers with the Coordinator in January will make a sweet or savory treat/dish to be judged and shared with other families. Runner-up and First Place prizes will be awarded. This will be an evening event so entire families can join in on the fun. More information about date, time, and place will be published in the weekly SHIELD emails, on the website, and on the Facebook page.