



Arizona Families for Home Education

www.afhe.org • P.O. Box 2035 • Chandler, AZ 85244-2035 • 602-235-2673 • homeschool@afhe.org

SENIOR HIGH GRADUATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

32nd Annual AFHE Senior High Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 24, 2024

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Dream City Church

13613 N. Cave Creek Road, Phoenix, AZ 85022

Thank you for your interest in the upcoming AFHE Senior High Graduation. We are planning a special cap and gown ceremony to honor senior high homeschooled graduates from across the state and celebrate the Class of 2024.

DIPLOMAS will be given to the participating graduates, which the **parents** will sign after the ceremony. Diplomas will be printed by AFHE and given to the graduates in a blue certificate holder as they cross the stage and have their picture taken. Please note, AFHE does not sign diplomas nor does the organization verify that a student has completed their course work. The parent is responsible for signing a diploma and creating the high school transcript for their graduate.

SENIOR HIGH GRADUATION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 26, 2024, 11:59 PM

LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2024

Registrations received between **Feb. 27 and March 4th** will be charged a **\$50 late fee**. There will be absolutely no registrations accepted after **March 4, 2024, 11:59 PM**.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$189 (plus \$50 late fee between **Feb. 27 - March 4, 2024**)

The registration fee covers the cost of the facility rental, cap/gown/tassel, diploma, and access to an online photo album for free photo download. Traditional caps and gowns will be ordered by AFHE and are mandatory for all participating senior high graduates. Fees paid for the Senior High Graduation are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

OPTIONAL PURCHASE - DVD OF THE CEREMONY: \$20.00 or DIGITAL DOWNLOAD: \$12

You will have the option to order DVDs of the ceremony for \$20 each (shipping included) or a Digital Download for \$12. The ceremony will be professionally video recorded. DVDs and Digital Downloads may be pre-ordered with graduate registration or ordered at the ceremony. DVDs will be mailed out approximately four to six weeks after the ceremony. Links for the Digital Download will be emailed approximately four to six weeks after the ceremony to the email address listed in the payment record.

AFHE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

The opportunity to have your child participate in the AFHE Senior High Graduation is a benefit of membership. If you are not a current AFHE member, you will be prompted to join or renew in order to access the graduation registration form. AFHE membership with an expiration date of May 31, 2024 or later is required for all participating graduate families.

The one-year membership fee is \$35. You will find your AFHE membership expiration date through your member profile on the AFHE website, on your membership card, on the back of the AFHE Magazine, or you can contact homeschool@afhe.org to check.

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

The AFHE Senior High Graduation is open to graduating seniors living in Arizona who have been educated at home by their parents in accordance with Arizona Revised Statute §15-802 (nonpublic instruction primarily provided by the parent or guardian or nonpublic instruction provided in the child's home). Those enrolled in a public school, Arizona private school, private hybrid program, or virtual charter school are not eligible to participate. Although ESA contract students being taught at home are not classified as homeschooled students by law, AFHE invites these graduates to participate in this ceremony.

GRADUATE REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

Things to have ready before starting registration

- Graduate's photos to submit when registering
- Graduate's accomplishments, future plans, and favorite Bible verse, quote, or life motto (**check word count!**)
- Graduates height and weight (needed for gown size)

MANDATORY REHEARSAL MAY 24 - CHECK-IN OPENS AT 1:00 PM

The ceremony is a choreographed event. All participating graduates are required to attend the rehearsal Friday, May 24, from 2:00-4:00 PM, at Dream City. It is critical that ALL graduates are present for the rehearsal—on time! **All graduates must arrive no later than 1:45 PM to get checked in and seated. Please, do not be late.** This mandatory rehearsal will begin promptly at 2:00 PM. Musical performers will do a sound check at 1:00 PM

GRADUATE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL IN EARLY MAY

In early May, parents and graduates will receive an email with additional information and details. Please make sure that the email address you use on the registration form is correct and checked regularly.

DRESS CODE / CAPS & GOWNS

Graduates will wear caps and gowns (to be ordered by AFHE) over dress clothes with dress shoes, dress boots, or dress cowboy boots (no denim, no shorts, no sneakers/tennis shoes, no flip flops). Young men wearing a tie will wear their tie tucked inside the gown. No embellishments or personalization of caps and gowns will be permitted during the ceremony (this includes decorations on the caps, etc.). This is mandatory for participation.

CAPS AND GOWNS ARE PICKED UP ON GRADUATION DAY - MAY 24: The caps and gowns are ordered by AFHE and the students will receive their gown the day of the ceremony at the church when it is time to get gowns on.

They will arrive steamed and wrinkle free. Following the ceremony, the caps and gowns will belong to the graduates. Caps and gowns cannot be given to the graduates prior to the ceremony for photos, church baccalaureate services, or other reasons. Please contact us if further clarification is needed.

NEW CAP, GOWN, AND TASSEL REQUIRED: Due to varying dye lots and other factors, participating graduates must wear a cap, gown, and tassel ordered for them by AFHE in 2024. Gowns from friends or siblings from previous years may not be worn.

HONOR CORDS: We will permit students who have earned an **honor cord from a pre-approved program** to wear their honor cord during the ceremony (e.g. Eta Sigma Alpha National Homeschool Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, or National Society of High School Scholars). No stoles or other adornments will be permitted. No parent-issued honor cords at the ceremony, please.

GOWN SIZES

When registering you select the height and weight of your graduate. Height should be measured barefoot and not account for shoes. The appropriate gown size for the graduates height and weight will be determined by these measurements so please double check that you measure correctly.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please let us know **in advance** if special accommodations are needed for participating graduates. There is a spot on the online application form for notes and additional information. Making special accommodations the day of is not be possible so please do so when registering.

PHOTO SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Photos need to be submitted at the time of registration. Late registration closes on March 4, 2024. No exceptions can be made.

Please help us personalize this year's ceremony by uploading 3 **high-resolution** digital photos of your senior graduate (the higher the resolution and file size the better):

- 1) as a baby or young child
- 2) a current photograph of the graduate (Senior Photo)
- 3) a head shot of the graduate

If you do not have digital baby photos, you will need to scan a photo to send it digitally. These photos will be shared in a video presentation that is a highlight of the ceremony. Photos may be professional portraits or quality snapshots of the individual graduate (alone, not part of a group). The headshot of each graduate will be included in the printed program. **Get senior photos taken early.**

PHOTO QUALITY FOR SENIOR PICTURES

A high-resolution digital image with a file size that is a **minimum of 1 MB** is required.

HEADSHOT FOR PROGRAM: If the senior picture submitted for the video presentation will not work as a headshot in the program due to angle of the graduate's head or cropping limitations, we ask that you

upload a senior photo that will work as a headshot for the program in addition to the graduate's baby picture and senior picture.

Please do NOT crop photos or add any filters or digital embellishments.

MODESTY

Please submit modest photos. Avoid low necklines, strapless tops, provocative poses, etc. The headshot photo for the program should have the graduate facing the camera straight on and shoulders must be clothed.

SUBMIT PHOTOS AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION

Photos must be uploaded at the time of registration or your registration is incomplete.

PUBLICITY PHOTOS

Photographs and video taken by AFHE representatives at this event may appear in the AFHE magazine, on the AFHE website, AFHE social media pages, or in other AFHE publications at AFHE's discretion.

SPEECH CONTEST: SENIOR CLASS ADDRESS — See page 7 for detailed instructions

Submissions for the Senior Class Address will be accepted from participating graduates who have been homeschooled for **all four years** of high school.

SPEECH CONTEST SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Must be received by **March 16, 2024** No late submissions accepted.

MUSIC AUDITIONS — See page 8 for detailed instructions

Musical performance auditions will be accepted from participating graduates who have been homeschooled all four years of high school.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AUDITION SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Must be received by **March 16, 2024** No late submissions accepted.

CONDUCT

The volunteers have taken great care to make this ceremony momentous. We expect all participants to respect the volunteers, the committee, AFHE, and their fellow graduates by behaving in a becoming and cooperative manner. Any graduate who fails to conduct himself/herself with proper decorum or refuses to follow the instructions of the graduation committee will be escorted out and not permitted to participate.

PHOTOGRAPHER INFORMATION

We have hired a professional photographer for this event. We are pleased to announce that the photographer will be taking two pictures of each graduate, one on stage receiving their diploma and one off-stage.

Photos taken of the graduates during the ceremony will be available at no additional charge via download from **the photographer's website available a few weeks after the ceremony**. A link will be provided in the graduation program and will be sent out by email following the ceremony.

You will have until **July 30, 2024** to download your graduate's photos.

DINNER BREAK (& TIME TO GET READY) - 4:00-6:00 PM

Graduates will have a dinner break following the rehearsal. You may go out to a nearby restaurant or fast-food location or bring your own meal to eat. (Refrigeration and heating are not available.)

During this break, you will also get yourself ready for the ceremony. Touch-ups for hair, clothing, or makeup must be completed by 6:00 PM when it's time to line up to get your gown on. We recommend you arrive at Dream City for the rehearsal with hair done and ready as much as possible to save time.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FUTURE PLANS, AND FAVORITE VERSE OR QUOTE

At the time of registration each graduate will include your accomplishments, future plans, and favorite Bible verse, quote, OR life motto.

Please write complete sentences **in third person** starting the paragraph with the student's first name. For a Bible verse (**one verse only**), please provide the verse written out along with the citation of the verse. Please do not use quote marks around the Bible verse unless the Bible verse itself is a quote as in the example below. For a life motto that is a quote, please cite the author of the quote. Do not include quote marks.

We recommend writing these out in a Word document first so that you can polish and edit the text and also easily calculate the total word count. **AFHE reserves the right to edit for length or content if needed.**

COMBINED MAXIMUM WORD COUNT: 125 Words

The total **combined word count for all three sections should not exceed 125 words** (accomplishments, future plans, and favorite Bible verse or quote).

Example

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alissa played soccer for five years at Christ's Church of the Valley. Her team won four championships and she received the Charlie Hustle Award twice. She participated in archery for two years with Phoenix HEAT. In 2019 the team earned 1st place at state and qualified for nationals. Alissa enjoys volunteering. One highlight was organizing a group of friends to help assemble 3,000 hygiene bags for people in need with Trinity Fellowship Church.

FUTURE PLANS

Alissa plans to pursue assistant coaching positions with her P.E. group and archery team. One of her goals is to be a certified archery instructor to help share her love of the sport with others.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

As for me, I will always have hope. I will praise you more and more. - Psalm 71:14

This is a formal, reverent ceremony and the program reflects that. Accomplishments, future goals, and quotes can reflect the graduate's personality, but should not be foolish or offensive. Please refer to the **STYLE GUIDE** at the end of this information packet for formatting instructions and information. AFHE reserves the right to edit for length, format consistency, grammar, etc.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Arizona Homeschool Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to Arizona homeschool graduates pursuing post-secondary education. Learn more at afhe.org/resources/scholarship-fund

2024 Scholarship Application Deadline: **March 10, 2024**

GRADUATION QUESTIONS

Please send graduation questions to srgrad@afhe.org or call 602-235-2673 ext. 3

SPEECH CONTEST INFORMATION

Submissions for the Senior Class Address will be accepted from graduates participating in the AFHE senior grad ceremony who have been homeschooled for all four years of high school. The speech should be 3-5 minutes long, must be the student's original work, and should reflect how being homeschooled through high school has impacted his/her life or helped shape who he/she is. Speeches will be judged on content (please be careful to highlight homeschooling without criticizing other methods of education), structure, presentation, and overall effectiveness.

Send a cover letter with your name, address, phone number, a written version of your speech, and a video recording of your presentation via electronic file (.wav, MP4), online video sharing such as YouTube or Vimeo. The decision of the judges is final. Winners will receive a monetary gift.

SPEECH SUBMISSION

Email to Srgrad@afhe.org with the subject line AFHE Sr. Grad Speech Contest

SPEECH CONTEST SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Must be received by **March 16, 2024**

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE SPEECH

You are writing a 3- to 5-minute speech about your experiences being homeschooled through high school and how this has affected your life. You will be speaking before over 3,000 people, most of whom are relatives and friends of a fellow graduate.

CONTENT

What you choose to write about will be the most important decision because it will affect every aspect of your speech. Consider first your audience. Take into consideration the parents in the audience who have sacrificed greatly to reach this point with their children. Be sure to recognize their efforts and thank them on behalf of all the graduates.

Have something original to say. This is a reflective point in your life and in others' lives listening to you. What have you learned about life? How will you make your mark on the world? Who are people from the past or present who inspire you? Is there a historical event that helps you put life in perspective? Feel free to share

something about the centrality of your faith to your future goals and direction, but keep in mind there will be a diverse audience with varying views. Also avoid mentioning specific branches of faith and/or presenting specific political figures or parties.

Be humorous! Find a way to lighten the moment with a funny observation or a transparent moment. This doesn't mean you have to search joke books, but as you have others read your speech, ask them where you could add some lighthearted words to put others at ease (and yourself at the same time!)

DELIVERY

Videotape your speech in good light, standing up facing the camera, and looking at the camera. Memorize your speech, but feel free to use a few note cards, if needed, to remember your outline and next point. Use gestures where they are natural to do so. Be sure to make eye contact with different sections of the audience, rather than focusing your attention in one spot the entire time. Keep in mind you are trying to connect with your audience in a meaningful way. Don't forget to smile occasionally!

SPEECH CONTEST JUDGING CRITERIA

Speech contest participants will be judged in the following areas:

SPEECH DEVELOPMENT

Structured around purpose, organization (opening, body, conclusion), support material, engages audience, relevant examples, unified whole

EFFECTIVENESS

Achievement of purpose, thanks parents, holds interest

SPEECH VALUE

Important ideas, logic, original and meaningful thought

PHYSICAL

Appearance, body language (gestures, expressions, and body positioning), eye contact

VOICE

Variation, movement in volume and rate, clearly spoken, easily understood

MANNER

Directness, enthusiasm, confidence

APPROPRIATENESS

Choice of words, humorous or engaging, precisely fits the occasion, states how homeschooling impacted or helped shape student, avoids disparaging other faiths, political affiliations, and education choices

CORRECTNESS

Grammar, pronunciation, word selection, directs attention to thoughts rather than words

RESULTS ANNOUNCED

All applicants will be notified of the results by **April 8, 2024**. The decision of the Sr. Grad Music Committee is final.

MUSIC AUDITIONS

Senior high graduates that are registered for the 2024 AFHE Graduation are invited to audition to perform a musical selection at the ceremony.

Please submit an online application and a video recording of your presentation to be considered as one of the performers.

Up to three students will be chosen to perform during the ceremony.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The audition selection should be no longer than four (4) minutes in length.
- Videotape your audition in good light, facing the camera as much as possible.
- Music should be memorized, but feel free to use sheet music if needed for the audition or during the ceremony.
- Please submit the written text of the lyrics for a vocal performance.
- If only performing part of a song, please specify the specific movement or section being performed.
- You may submit up to two selections. Please submit a separate application for each selection.
- Duets are welcomed provided the graduate is the prominent performer.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Auditions will be chosen based on the following areas:

- Appropriateness of the lyrics (if any) and the selection's theme or origin
- Performance standard
- Professionalism
- Participant's presentation

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Both application and video recording must be received no later than **March 16, 2024**.

Video recordings should be submitted electronically (as an MP4 file or link to your video posted on a hosting site such as YouTube or Vimeo) via email to srgrad@afhe.org.

RESULTS ANNOUNCED

All applicants will be notified of the results by **April 8, 2024**. The decision of the Sr. Grad Music Committee is final.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit an online application through the link on the website at afhe.org/graduate-information.

For a vocal performance, you may upload the lyrics as part of the application process or email them. The video recording can be sent electronically by email to srgrad@afhe.org no later than **March 16, 2024**.

STYLE GUIDE FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

BIBLE VERSE

- Only one Bible verse or quote
- Include the text AND the reference
- Do not put Bible verses in quotes
- Put a dash between the end of the verse and the reference with spaces on each side.
 - How precious to me are your thoughts, O God; how vast is the sum of them. - Psalm 139:17 NIV

QUOTE

- Include the quote and the author of the quote
- Do not use quote marks.
- Put a dash between the end of the verse and the reference with spaces on each side.
 - Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value. – Albert Einstein

AWARDS

- When talking about awards or rank in competitions, use 1st place, 3rd place, 7th place, etc.
- Spell out first, second, third, etc. when saying, “She placed first in...”

PUNCTUATION & SPELLING NOTES

- **For numbers ten and lower**, spell the word out (one, two, three, ten).
- **For numbers 11 and higher**, use numerals, unless listing a range of ages or numbers where one is smaller than ten and one is larger.
 - She studied piano for seven years.
 - He took karate for 12 years.
 - She participated in Awana from age 4 to 12.
- **Use the Oxford comma in a series.**
 - She knows how to solve the Rubik's cube, can ride a unicycle, and has been to Canada six times.
- **Use a single space after end punctuation.**
- **Hyphenate age when it precedes a noun.**
 - As a four-year-old child...
- **Do not hyphenate age following a verb.**
 - ... since she was four years old.

- **Spell and punctuate college and organization names correctly.**
 - Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- **GPA** (not spelled out, no periods)

CAPITAL VS. LOWERCASE LETTERS

- In general, **avoid unnecessary capitalization.**
- **Fields of study** are not capitalized (unless they contain a word that is normally capitalized).
 - applied technology, civil engineering, sports medicine
 - French literature, English, Christian ministries
- **Degrees**
 - Do not use capitals when degrees are referred to informally, but do capitalize complete names of degrees
 - Example: Jen will pursue a bachelor's degree in political science, followed by a law degree.
 - Example: Sam will pursue a Bachelor of Science in biology.
 - Use small letters and an apostrophe for **bachelor's degree** and **master's degree**
 - No apostrophe in **associate degree**
 - Example: Ian has received his associate degree in general studies.
 - If abbreviations are used for degrees, use capitals and periods (B.A., M.S., M.B.A., Ph.D.)
- **Job titles are not capitalized.**
 - Example: Sally was class president.
 - Example: Jim served as team leader.
- **Do not capitalize "state" or "nationals"** when referring to competitions unless it is the official title of the competition.
 - He placed top ten in state.
 - Her team won the state championship.
 - She qualified for nationals.
 - He placed third at the Science Olympiad National Tournament.
- **Organization and team names are only capitalized when they are proper nouns.**
 - worship team, leadership team
 - Saguaro High School varsity football team, EVIT girls basketball
 - Phoenix Boys Choir, Desert Sky Archers
- **Do not capitalize dean's list or honor roll.**
- **Do not capitalize honors unless it is a proper name.**
 - She is graduating with honors.
 - He earned an A in Honors English at the community college.
- **Pronouns referring to the Lord** should be capitalized (He, Him).
- **Do not capitalize seasons** (fall, summer, spring, winter).
- **Do not capitalize black belt.**

MISCELLANEOUS STYLE NOTES

The following bullet points are given to maintain consistency for the graduation program:

- **Worldview Academy** (Worldview is one word with a lower case “v”)
- **Awana** (not all capital letters; no s on the end)
 - Capitalize the name of the award: Awana Citation Award
- **Abeka** (one word, lowercase b)
- **TeenPact** (one word, capital P)
- **MoezArt Productions** (one word, capital A)
- **4-H** (with a hyphen)
- **Chick-fil-A** (hyphens, small f, capital A)
- **cross country** (two words, lowercase)
- **mission trip** singular (not missions trip)
 - Shannon went on three mission trips during high school.
- When a student is **going into missions**, leave it plural
 - Shannon is going into missions after graduation.
- **The following are spelled as one word:**
 - audiovisual
 - childcare
 - filmmaker, filmmaking
 - firefighter, firefighting
 - taekwondo (no capitals)