

Information Packet
2007 Home School Graduation
Hosted by The Education Alliance

Date & Time of Graduation: Saturday, May 19, 2007, 6 p.m.

Place for Graduation: Benson Auditorium
Harding University, Searcy, AR

Mandatory Rehearsal: 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 19, 2007
Benson Auditorium, Harding University

Early Bird Registration: Friday, February 16, 2007

Deadline for Registration: Friday, March 30, 2007

Deadline for Ordering Cap & Gown: Friday March 30, 2007

**Deadline for Providing Transcript, Photos &
Biographical Information:** Friday, April 6, 2007

**Deadline for Applying for Honor Graduate &
Submitting Graduate Speeches:** Friday, April 6, 2007

Questions: Call The Education Alliance (501) 978 5503
414 S. Pulaski Street, Suite 9, Little Rock, AR 72201
Or e-mail us at info@arkansashomeschool.org

Home School Graduation, Class of 2007 Information and Guidelines

APPAREL:

Graduates will wear caps and gowns. The caps and gowns will be shipped by UPS to each graduate.

Underneath the gown, boys are to wear a solid dress shirt with a tie, dark slacks (no jeans) and casual or dress shoes (no tennis shoes, flip flops, or sandals). Girls are to wear a dress or blouse and skirt with dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip flops). The cost of the cap, gown and one tassel are included in the registration fee. The cap and gown are navy in color and are cloth, not paper or vinyl. The tassel is navy and gold. These items will be given to the graduate to keep. Additional tassels may be ordered for \$10 each and **will be distributed at the rehearsal.**

Don't forget to **iron the gown** as it will get wrinkled during shipment.

DIPLOMA:

Graduates will receive a diploma from The Education Alliance. They are 9" by 7" and come with a navy cover. There will be a space on the diploma for the signature of the home school parent(s).

The Education Alliance only awards diplomas for students that are graduating within the current calendar year. The Education Alliance will not "back date" diplomas and award a diploma for work that was completed in prior years.

In order to receive a diploma from The Education Alliance, the student must be at least 16 years of age when they graduate, and not be older than 19 at the beginning of the school year in which they graduate.

TRANSCRIPT:

The Education Alliance has received some questions from colleges and potential employers about our prior graduates and we need information in our files about the graduates' education. Therefore, we are **requiring** each graduate to send us a high school transcript. If you do not have an official transcript, send us a list of all the courses that the graduate completed during each semester from 9th through 12th grade. Beside each class, list the letter grade that was earned each semester. If you need an official transcript and would like for The Education Alliance to prepare one, please contact Melissa Savary at (501) 978-5503. We will **NOT** automatically prepare a transcript. If a transcript is needed, you must contact Melissa and request that one be prepared.

The transcript should reflect only 9th through 12th grade courses. (Some 9th grade courses like Algebra I may be taken in the 8th grade, but it is still a 9th grade course.) To be eligible to graduate the student must have earned a minimum of *18 high school credits* (9th through 12th grade) in academic subjects. The credits must be high school courses not junior high courses.

Please be advised that just because the student has earned enough credits to graduate from high school, he or she may **NOT** have all of the credits needed to gain **unconditional admission** to a college or university. Also, the student may **NOT** have the necessary credits to obtain a scholarship or other financial aid.

To obtain unconditional admission to a state supported college or university in Arkansas, the high school student must have earned the following credits:

- English – Four units with emphasis on writing skills, not to include courses in oral communications, journalism, drama or debate.
- Natural Science – Three units, with laboratories, chosen from Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. Only one unit may come from a Life Science.
- Mathematics – Four units, including Algebra I and II, Geometry, and an advanced math course.
- Social Studies – Three units, including one of American History (does not include Contemporary American History), one of World History (not to include World Cultures, World Geography, or Global Studies), and at least one-half unit of Civics or American Government (not to include courses in practical arts.)

These requirements frequently change. Updated requirements can be found on the Department of Education web site. See www.ArkansasEd.org

Please check with the college or university where the student is interested in attending to determine their specific requirements for admission and/or for scholarships and financial aid. Also, please be aware that more scholarships and financial aid are available for students immediately after their high school graduation. Please check with the college or university where the student is interested in attending to determine whether it is advisable for the student to graduate early and wait a year before starting college.

Please submit the transcript to The Education Alliance by Friday, April 6, 2007. Students will **NOT** receive a diploma if a transcript is not submitted to The Education Alliance. If the graduate has not completed his/her work for the spring semester, include a list of the classes that are currently being taken and indicate that no final grade has been determined. Academic courses **MUST** be completed within the calendar year in which the diploma is requested. If you have questions, please call us at (501) 978-5503 or e-mail us at info@arkansashomeschool.org.

REHEARSAL:

Every graduate must attend rehearsal from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 in the Benson Auditorium! This will be the **only** chance we have to walk through the ceremony with the graduates, so it is important that you attend. The graduates will process in and out of the auditorium and it is important for each graduate to know who they follow, if they lead, where to sit, when to cross the stage, etc. Please be on time.

Parents and other family members are welcome to attend. Parents enjoy finding out exactly where their child will be sitting so they can select the best seats in the house for watching their graduate! The Education Alliance does not reserve seats in the auditorium.

THE CEREMONY:

The graduation ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a processional by the graduates.

As each graduate crosses the stage to receive his/her diploma, one of The Education Alliance staff or steering committee members will read some biographical information about the graduate. Attached to this packet is a Biographical Information Sheet that needs to be completed and returned to The Education Alliance by Friday, April 6. If there is an area that you would like to have emphasized, please indicate that in your summary. For example, maybe you would like to have your extra-curricular activities emphasized, while another graduate would like to emphasize his/her church or mission activities.

In addition to the biographical information, 3 photos of the graduate will be shown on two screens located on either side of the stage. We would like one photo age 7 or under, one photo from those early teen or pre-teen years, and one recent photo. If you do NOT want to send any photos from the younger years, just send a current photo. They can be color or black and white. Size does not matter. The photos will be scanned and then transferred into a power point program. If you have digital photographs or if you have a scanner, please save them as a j-peg file and send them by e-mail to info@arkansashomeschool.org. Please send us the pictures no later than Friday, April 6, 2007. Put the graduate's name on the photos. If sent digitally, put the graduate's name in the file name.

If you would like the photos returned, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

We would also like for each graduate to have the opportunity to select a favorite verse or inspirational quotation and have that displayed in a power point presentation during the graduation. The verse or quote will be included as part of a presentation honoring the graduating class of 2007. We learned last year that shorter verses work better in the power point presentation. If they are too long, then those watching do not have time to read the entire verse. Please include the graduate's selection on the biographical information sheet.

After all students have received their diplomas, graduates who have received scholarships and/or other honors will be recognized. Please list each scholarship and/or other honor on the biographical information sheet. If other scholarships or honors are received after the deadline, please send an e-mail to update the information. Send the e-mail to info@arkansashomeschool.org. Please send any update as soon as possible.

The biographical information, the photos and the verse can be sent by regular mail to 414 S. Pulaski St, Suite 9, Little Rock, AR 72201 or e-mailed to info@arkansashomeschool.org.

(A professional photographer will take photographs as the diplomas are awarded. Please see the section on Photography for all of the details.)

DIRECTIONS:

The graduation ceremony will be held in the Benson Auditorium on the Harding University campus in Searcy, Arkansas. To get to Searcy, take Exit 45 off of Highway 67/167. (You will be exiting to Highway 36W, also known as Beebe-Capps Expressway.) Follow the signs to Harding University. There will be a sign at the Harding entrance that says "Home School Convention." Follow the Home School Convention signs to Blakeney Street. Turn left and proceed past some dormitories on the left and the Rhodes Field House on the right. Begin looking for a place to park. The Benson Auditorium is on the left.

ACCOMODATIONS:

If you need a hotel room in Searcy, the following are some of the options available.

Heritage Inn (located on the Harding University Campus) – 888-766-2465

Hampton Inn – 800-426-7866

Best Western - 501-279-9100

Holiday Inn Express - 800-HOLIDAY

Super 8 – 501-268-8988

Days Inn – 800-325-2525

CLASS RINGS AND INVITATIONS:

The Education Alliance does not provide invitations for the graduation ceremony. If you want invitations or other “senior class” items we can send you an information booklet from Jostens. That company offers class rings, announcements, invitations etc. This is **OPTIONAL**.

One of our home school dads works at Jostens and he has made this available to the home school graduates.

PHOTOGRAPHER/CAMERAS/PICTURES:

Cameras and video recorders are allowed in the auditorium. Photos can be taken before, during and after graduation.

Baker Photography in Searcy will attend the graduation and will take pictures at the moment each graduate receives his/her diploma. Mr. Baker will also be available to take a posed portrait of the graduate after rehearsal.

Mr. Baker has developed a package for the home school graduation consisting of two (2) 5 x 7 photos and eight (8) large wallets for \$22. You must order and pay for the photos at rehearsal. This is **OPTIONAL**. You do not have to purchase graduation photos.

If you want to set an appointment to have a portrait photo taken, please contact Mr. Baker at 501 268 3298.

HONOR GRADUATES:

We would like to recognize those home school graduates who have excelled academically and should be named honor graduates. There is a National Home School Honor Society, Eta Sigma Alpha. If a graduate is a member of that honor society, The Education Alliance will recognize that membership and allow them to be listed as an honor graduate. If you are not a member, but would like to become a member of Eta Sigma Alpha please contact The Education Alliance office at 501-978-5503 or info@arkansashomeschool.org.

If you are not a member of the society, you can still qualify as an honor graduate. You must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale during grades 9 to 12, and have scored well on the ACT or SAT, which are nationally normed standardized achievement tests. Please send The Education Alliance the following:

- Transcript
- Recent copy of the student’s test scores from a nationally normed standardized achievement test. **ONLY ONE** test is required. The student’s score must meet the following minimums.
 - SAT combined score of at least 1800; or
 - ACT composite of at least 26.

The Education Alliance does **NOT** superscore ACT scores for determining honor graduates.

If you qualify as an honor graduate, you will be allowed to wear gold cords with your cap and gown. They can be purchased for \$10 and will be yours to keep. Please indicate on your registration form if you believe that you will qualify as an honor graduate. If you need to order the gold cords please send in the money with your registration fee.

GRADUATE SPEECHES AND PERFORMANCES:

Some graduates are interested in giving a speech during graduation or giving the invocation or benediction. Other graduates are interested in singing, playing the piano, or some other type of musical performance. If you are interested in being a graduation speaker or performing, please indicate your interest on the registration form.

By Friday, April 6, please send us a draft of your invocation, benediction, or speech. You can e-mail the draft to info@arkansashomeschool.org OR you can send it by regular mail to 414 S. Pulaski St, Suite 9, Little Rock, AR 72201, or fax it to (501) 375-7040. If you are interested in some type of musical performance, please send us the name of the selection. If you have a cassette or CD of any prior performance, please send that also. If a tape or CD is not available, please contact The Education Alliance at 501 978 5503.

If a large number of graduates express interest in speaking and/or performing some of The Education Alliance Steering Committee members will review the drafts and/or the tapes that are submitted by April 6 and make the selection.

When preparing a speech please remember the following guideline. While it is important to thank friends and family members for their support and encouragement, the speeches should be applicable to all of the graduates and not just directed to the speaker's family. The speeches should be no longer than 3 to 4 minutes.

If you are selected as a graduation speaker or performer, you will be required to attend a special rehearsal at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, May 19. You will give your speech or musical performance during this special rehearsal to make sure you are comfortable with the microphone, the stage and all of the surroundings.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

The Education Alliance is going to present community service awards to deserving graduates. Many home school students invest a lot of their time volunteering in their churches and/or their local community. We want to recognize those outstanding seniors who have given a lot of their time and talents in serving others.

Attached to this packet is a Community Service Award Application. If the graduate wants to be considered for one of the awards, he/she should complete the application and submit it to The Education Alliance office no later than Friday, April 6, 2007. Members of The Education Alliance Steering Committee will review the applications and make the selections.

CHECKLIST

This packet contains a lot of instructions. Please use the following checklist to make sure you have sent all of the required material to The Education Alliance, by the appropriate deadlines!

If you have questions please contact us by calling (501) 978 5503 or by e-mail at info@arkansashomeschool.org

Our mailing address is 414 S. Pulaski Street, Suite 9, Little Rock, AR 72201.

MANDATORY ITEMS THAT WE NEED FROM EACH GRADUATE:

Early Bird Registration Form & Payment: By Friday, February 16

OR

- ✓ Registration Form & Payment: By Friday, March 30
- ✓ Transcript: By Friday, April 6
- ✓ Photos of Graduate: By Friday, April 6
If possible, send 3 photos. One photo age 7 or under, one photo from those early teen or pre-teen years, and one recent photo.
- ✓ Biographical Information: By Friday, April 6

OPTIONAL ITEMS THAT WE NEED:

- ✓ If you want an extra tassel OR need honor graduate cords, send in payment with registration: By Friday, March 30
- ✓ Honor Graduate Information: By Friday, April 6
- ✓ Graduate Speeches: By Friday, April 6
- ✓ Verse Selected by the Graduate: By Friday, April 6
- ✓ Community Service Award: By Friday, April 6

2007 Home School Graduation Registration Form

Complete this form and return it with your payment to The Education Alliance,
414 S. Pulaski St., Suite 9, Little Rock, AR 72201.

DEADLINE for Registration is Friday, March 30, 2007. The graduate fee is as follows:

\$65 if registration form & payment are received on or before 2/16/07

\$85 if registration form & payment are received after 2/17/07

Graduate's Name as it Should Appear on the Diploma:

If graduate goes by a nickname or by his/her middle name, please indicate here: _____

Parents' Names as They Should Appear on the Diploma:

(For example, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Jones, Steven and Mary Jones, or Steve Jones, Mary Jones)

If there are other step-parents or non-custodial parents that are not listed on the diploma but need to be included in the graduation program, please indicate here:

Street Address (for shipping the cap & gown – do NOT list a P.O. Box):

City & State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Graduate's Height & Weight (for ordering the cap & gown): _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Are you interested in being a Graduation Speaker? _____ yes _____ no

Are your grades & ACT test scores high enough to qualify you as an Honor Graduate? _____ yes _____ no

Do you need to purchase honor cords? _____ yes _____ no

(Add \$10 to registration fee for honor cords)

Are you interested in purchasing an extra tassel? _____ yes _____ no

(Add \$10 to registration fee for each tassel)

Total \$ amount sent with registration form _____

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SHEET

Complete this form and return it to The Education Alliance NO LATER than Friday, April 6, 2007. You may send the information by regular mail (414 S. Pulaski St, Suite 9, Little Rock, AR 72201) or e-mail the information to info@arkansashomeschool.org or fax to (501) 375-7040.

Graduate's Name:

Parents' Names:

Home Town:

Number of years home schooled:

Two Interests/Hobbies/Activities:

Tell us about two extra-curricular activities that you would like for us to share with the audience while you are walking across the stage to receive your diploma. It can be a special interest like playing sports or the piano or working on computers. You can mention your church membership or a club membership like 4H. You might want to include your favorite volunteer ministry or activity. If you have won any special award because of your participation in a club or activity, you could include that too!

Future Plans:

1. Are you attending college? If so which one?
2. If not attending college, what are your plans for next year?
3. What are your ultimate career goals?

Scholarships and/or Honors:

Be sure to include the \$ amount of the scholarships.

Scholarships and honors will be announced during the graduation ceremony. If you receive additional scholarships after this biographical information sheet is submitted, you may update your info by sending an e-mail to info@arkansashomeschool.org. Please send any update as soon as possible.

(OPTIONAL)

FAVORITE VERSE OR INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE:

Due to space, please include only 1 verse. If you prefer a specific translation, please tell us.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD APPLICATION

Graduate's Name: _____

Graduate's Address: _____

of years home schooled: _____

List all of the volunteer service activities (including service in your church), that you have completed **during your high school years (9th through 12th grade)**. Include the date(s) of the service and the average number of hours spent per week. If it was a one-time project or activity, include the total number of hours spent and designate it as a one-time project.

If interested in applying for this award, submit to The Education Alliance NO LATER than Friday, April 6, 2007.