



Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 KJV

Watch for streamlined features in our next issue!

Share this newsletter with others who may benefit from learning about SMHEA and the support we offer homeschoolers!

Newsletter Contents:

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Get Your SMHEA Membership for Free!

Receive \$5 for everyone you refer that joins SMHEA, up to \$30 (your annual membership fee). The free membership will apply to your next renewal (make sure to tell anyone you refer to tell us you sent them).

Remember that \$9 of your membership goes to THEA (the state chapter); providing you a discounted membership with them.

Also, you receive \$15 off your HSLDA membership when you join SMHEA.

Your homeschooling journey will be protected at the local, state, and national level!

[PASS THIS JOIN NOW LINK TO YOUR FRIENDS!](#)

SMHEA Graduation Ceremony 2023!



Under the direction of Graduation Coordinator, Diane Majni, SMHEA's 2023 graduation was spectacular with almost 200 present!

It was an evening ceremony, held at Grace Baptist Church in Karns and eight wonderful graduates walked the stage. Although it was a formal high school graduation, it had a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The graduates got to meet up on stage with their parents to receive their diplomas which was special. In addition, there were two student speakers which gave outstanding speeches, and Pastor Bryan Thomas was the guest speaker. His message was spot on "Who do you want to be in Christ?"

The slideshow of the students with music was perfect. The venue was decorated by graduate Jordan Majni with royal blue, gold, and sparkly balloons & stars. Gorgeous fresh cut flowers-- arranged by graduate Jessie Garcia, and SMHEA's big banner also accented the stage. There was even an awesome balloon decorated photo-op area where professional photographer, Jeremiah Harris, captured our special moments.

Each graduate created a display board which displayed many sweet memories...it was simply a night to remember! After the ceremony, there was a light reception out in the lobby which was catered and enjoyed by all.

Congratulations again to the Class of 2023 and GOD is good!

If you are looking for a 2024 graduation ceremony for your upcoming senior, come join us! Watch for graduation details this fall!

Thank you Diane and April for all of your hard work to make this day so special for our graduates!

Support for Your Homeschooling Journey

Smoky Mountain Home Education Association

With SMHEA's newsletter we offer you a tool of support. We have renewed our commitment to homeschooling families in East Tennessee. We are arming parents and communities with resources, student career connections, networking, support, financial opportunities, student highlights, and events that support them in the education of their own children to the glory and honor of God.

The SMHEA region includes Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union counties in Tennessee.

[Visit our website for updates and information](#)

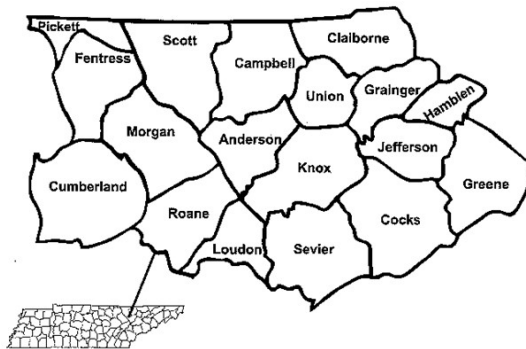


Why Support SMHEA?

SMHEA Protects Your Freedom to Homeschool in Tennessee

We are a small non-profit focused on monitoring legislation that impacts homeschoolers in Tennessee; alerting you when it is important to pay attention to proposed laws and to make your voice heard. SMHEA's entire purpose is to protect and empower homeschooling families in East Tennessee to realize their individual educational goals. We also help to connect you with discounts, resources, other homeschoolers, and educational support.

SMHEA Membership Discounts - Continually Updating (click)



Homeschool Families

Promote Your Business Now!

NEW OPPORTUNITY - Promote Your Business to Homeschooling Families - for 2023 you can list your business on our site for the basic membership fee of \$30. We continually receive inquiries from families wanting to support businesses that support homeschoolers.

Advertise Here

SMHEA's Intern Highlights & Opportunities

SMHEA has opened up opportunities for regional homeschoolers to support homeschooling families in East Tennessee as SMHEA interns. Four young people have stepped up during 2023 to help improve our resources for homeschoolers. There are countless opportunities for personal growth: website support, communications support, event planning, social media, video production, resource development, and many more. We offer access to resources with professional guidance on the tasks students are interested in. Students get to exercise their creative juices and build their marketable skills. We will provide letters of recommendation and resume support for those that choose to participate. We are working on developing more benefits for our interns and will share when we formalize them.



Video Content Intern

Broden Rankin

Broden M. Rankin is starting his senior year in high school. He has been homeschooled his whole life. Philosophy, Physics and History are among his much-loved topics. Broden enjoys rock climbing and martial arts. He is an accomplished classical pianist and has recently enjoyed teaching himself guitar. Photography and filmography have been interests he and his brother have cultivated throughout the years, spending many hours producing videos to entertain friends and family. Broden's faith in God is the driving force behind his goals for the future. Recently, one verse that stands out to Broden is Romans 8:39. It says, 'nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'



Video Content Intern

Liam Rankin

Liam T. Rankin was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2008. Liam has been passionate about filmmaking and creating stories from an early age. He has been homeschooled since he was able to be and has enjoyed the complexity and freedom it provides. Literature and Debate are among his top interests. Liam participates and spends much of his time in martial arts. He is a classically trained pianist and has recently taken to Violin. At night, he can often be found enjoying a movie. Liam's favorite book of all time is *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne. A most inspiring verse for Liam is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

Riley Webb

Website Intern (Position Available)

SMHEA wants to offer our sincerest thanks to Riley Webb; he helped us with our website this spring. He has moved on to a paying internship and we wish him the best!

James Riley Webb was born on April 9, 2006 in Knoxville, TN and has been raised in Winfield, TN. He was a junior at HomeLife Academy in Jackson, TN during the 2022-2023 school year.

Upon graduation, Riley aspires to attend the University of the Cumberlands, just as his older brother did, where he will work towards a BA in Information Technology, with additional classes in GIS mapping software. His career goals include GIS mapping, web development, and graphic design.

He holds a position as assistant designer at Discerning Edge Business Services, where he aids in design and maintenance of various



websites, along with development of graphic designs used in marketing campaigns.

Leigha Meehan

Newsletter Intern (In Training)

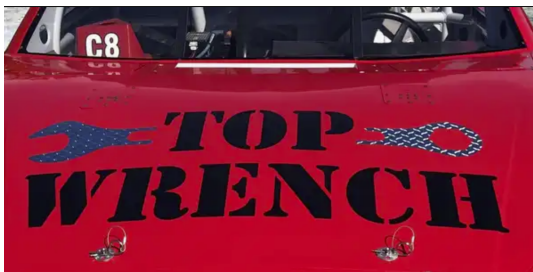
As of August of 2023, Leigha Meehan is a SMHEA newsletter intern. She will be focusing on content collection and layout activities. She was born in Knoxville, TN, in 2008.

Leigha loves dance, hiking, music, reading (everything from classical literature to Michael Vey), animals, ATVing, traveling, participating in Eagle Forum's Student Eagle program, and new adventures. She wants to start a conservative Christian podcast in the near future, learn a new instrument, and pursue martial arts. Professing Jesus as Lord from a young age, a favorite scripture of Leigh's is Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."



Career Training, and Internship Opportunities

SMHEA has a heart for helping East Tennessee homeschoolers find the right career path. We are working with local organizations and businesses to grow internship opportunities for our region. Stay tuned!



Trades and Scholarships

Top Wrench is Interested in Engaging Homeschoolers



Businesses - Do You Want to Connect With

SMHEA is working with Top Wrench leadership to identify how homeschoolers can get involved in their program. They would like to meet with a handful of homeschoolers and figure out the right approach. If you are interested in being a part of developing this program, please contact us at info@smhea.org.

Homeschoolers?

Invest in the Future and Support the Development of Your Workforce.

If you currently offer, or would like to offer, internships for homeschoolers in East Tennessee, please contact us at info@smhea.org.



Homeschooling Encouragement

Tip of the day:
Expect more opposition as you transition from one season of the year to another.
[Read more here.](#)

This section offers tips and tricks, advice, and other boosts to your journey. Please, feel free to submit ideas to info@smhea.org.

We also post encouragement on our [Facebook](#) page.



Local Support Groups, Events, and Resources

Resources - Check out our Homeschooling 101 video on the website smhea.org.

Local Support Groups - Please, let us know of any events you are hosting, plan on attending, or would like to request (info@smhea.org)



Highlighting Options for Homeschooling

[Charlotte Mason Approach:](#)
This educational philosophy began in the 1800's by a woman named Charlotte Mason. Click the link above to read more.

This section focuses on curriculum and homeschool approach options and highlights to support your journey. We welcome reviews and input on various curriculums so we can share with your fellow homeschoolers. Please, submit to info@smhea.org.



Calendar of Events

Please, submit homeschool-related opportunities, field trips, used curriculum sales, conferences, etc. to info@smhea.org.



From a Homeschool Mom

Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety

There is a crazy online world out there, and it is one many of us are not familiar with having grown up in different time where there was far, far less access to the internet, phones, etc. God's word reminds us in 2 Timothy 1:7 that "God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." This online world can be alarming, so we should educate ourselves and our children about the safety concerns and how to ensure we are using these resources as safely as possible.

[Read more here.](#)

Article written by Ashlee Korte, homeschooling mom to two, and Oliver Springs shop owner for *Loren Grace Boutique and Gifts*.

**Meet - SMHEA's Newest County
Ambassador - Ginger**



Our March 2023 Ambassador, Ginger Shamblin, lives in LOUDON COUNTY with her husband of 53 years on a small farm. They have two married adult children, ages 48 & 38 who live nearby. She was a founding Board member of Highland Hills Christian Academy in 1985 (they closed in 2000), then a homeschool mom, producer of TV-38's 'Loudon County Focus' show and now the Lenoir City Welcome Lady—visiting new homeowners in the 37771 & 37772 part of Loudon County. She also writes educational brochures & booklets — available at 2-acres.com/Ginger along with other resources & music. And, she always wears a hat. Their grown homeschooled grand-daughter, Anna, maintains the business website LenoirCityWelcome.com — which includes 10 pages of Homeschool Info links (including special needs info, co-ops, area clubs & more) and an exhaustive East TN Event Calendar-- your input for those pages would be appreciated! If you homeschool in Loudon County and are interested, email: ginger@2-acres.com.

Thank you Ginger, for all the ways you serve Tennessee; SMHEA appreciates you!

To find your county ambassador (or to become one)

Students Shaping the Future

SMHEA students have been active in educating themselves and participating in world-impacting activities during 2023.



Other Student Events

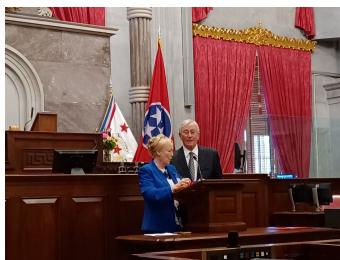
Homeschooling students representing Student Eagles traveled to Nashville, TN to *shadow* TN Representatives in March. In June they traveled to Washington, DC to attend [The Eagle Forum Student Eagles National Conference!](#)

Please, share what your students are doing with us; we want to highlight them.

March

Rally Day on the Hill 2023

Over forty SMHEA chapter homeschoolers joined 100s of other homeschoolers when we attended [Homeschool Rally Day on the Hill](#) in Nashville, TN this past spring! **We recognized two SMHEA outstanding students: Jesse Kyle and Mackenzie Hall.** To learn more about this annual opportunity for student recognition, [please see our website.](#)



Left:

Claiborne Thornton, Mackenzie Hall, Angela Montoya

THEA President, Outstanding SMHEA student, SMHEA Board Member

Mackenzie wins our Outstanding Student award. As top winner, he was also awarded the Richard Meehan \$1000 scholarship.

Middle:

THEA President Claiborne and wife Lana Thornton conduct Rally Day events.

Right:

Claiborne Thornton, Jesse Kyle, Angela Montoya (Terri Wade in the background, THEA board)

THEA President, Outstanding SMHEA student, SMHEA Board Member

Jesse Kyle wins our THEA Outstanding Student award for our Smoky Mountain Chapter--SMHEA!

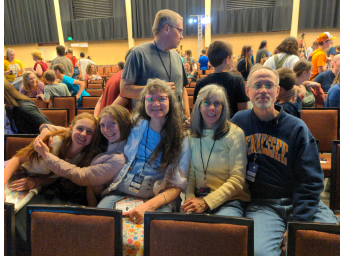
Serving You

SMHEA in Action

SMHEA members attended the [Teach Them Diligently Conference in Pigeon Forge](#) during May of 2023. Many saved the cost of admission by volunteering. THEA and several of sub-chapters were there to answer homeschooling questions. We also provided resources, networked with other homeschooling organizations, discussed opportunities for our students with colleges, gained further information on homeschooling best practices, and much more. Make plans now to attend the 2024 [TTD in Pigeon Forge!](#) **Volunteer at the SMHEA table, or directly for the TTD event, to support other homeschoolers and attend the conference for free; contact us for details!**

Additionally, SMHEA was truly honored for the invitation to speak at the Homeschool [101 event of Blount County](#). We are grateful to all who attended and all who we had the pleasure of meeting!





Students in Service

Helping Others

These students are shadowing TN Representatives in Nashville. They are learning to be public servants.

We want this newsletter to be about our member families and your students; please, send submissions to info@smhea.org for the "Students in Service" section. Let us know how your students are serving others.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

HELP US HELP YOU!

Countless opportunities: communications, event coordination, area support, promotion, and much more.

Contact us at info@smhea.org.



**Umbrella School/Co-op Highlight
- Sailaway Academy**

Deep River Wellness Center
Traditional Chinese Medicine
Michael Norris, L. Ac.
Master of Oriental Medicine Degree
 NCCAOM Nationally Certified in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology
 Knoxville-Acupuncture.com
Featuring Traditional Chinese Medicine & Tan Style Balance Method
Chinese Herbal Formulas • Exercise, Diet and Nutrition Counseling

314 Knox Road
 Knoxville, TN 37918

Call for appointment
 (865) 687-6452

SAILAWAY ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

Sail Away Academy has walked hand in hand with East Tennessee homeschool families for over 25 years. In 1995, Dr. Brenda Murphy developed the SailAway Approach to teaching and learning to meet the unique needs of her five, home-schooled sons and a handful of tutoring students.

Today, SailAway serves thousands of students, parents, and schools across the state and around the nation with a one-of-a-kind mix of educational services.

[Learn more.](#)

For more information, visit www.sailawaylearning.com or call [\(865\)376-7005](tel:(865)376-7005).

To become a SMHEA-supporting umbrella school, click now on the "[Join Us](#)" button, then contribute \$100 as a once-a-year organizational fee to support SMHEA as a Home Builder. Please, send any questions and information to info@SMHEA.org.

Homeshool-Supporting Business Highlight - Deep River Wellness Center

The Norris family has been homeschooling since 2013 and currently participates in Classical Conversations. Michael Norris has been practicing Chinese medicine since 1999. He is ready to help you and your family with your medical needs using natural and healthy methods of healing; including, acupuncture and Chinese herbs. He has helped people with everything from Parkinson's to frozen shoulders. Don't hesitate to reach out to him.

We would like to promote [homeschool-friendly businesses](#) and/or business that homeschooling families run to help support their educational freedom. Our members can list their businesses for free, and for the rest of 2023, others can be added to the listings on the website for our family member rate of \$30.



Legislative Highlights

The Laws Matter

Financial Aid Opportunities

Supporting the Furthering Education of SMHEA Students

SMHEA will provide information on identified scholarship and financial aid opportunities throughout the year. Mackenzie Hall *won the Richard Meehan Memorial Scholarship* scholarship for \$1,000!

Please, share any opportunities you are aware of with info@smhea.org and if you wish to provide a financial opportunity to a student, let us know!



Student Brag Board

Share your artist, poet, animal lover, musician, athlete, hero, sibling or child of the year...whatever you want to publicly call your student out for, let us know. *Send inputs to info@smhea.org.*



Nature Lover

You may want to highlight kiddos that love farming, hiking, gardening, puppy dogs here.



Artistic Highlights

Share your young poet, artist, photographer, or other creative genius.



Musical Genius

Does your child sing, compete in musical talent shows, write music, play an instrument, or anything else music-related?



Athletic Pursuits

Does your student participate in a sport, love competition, or are they a star athlete? Brag on them, here!

Student Highlights

What it is all about; embracing, encouraging, and recognizing your students' accomplishments, hobbies, and dreams.



Karley!!!

Star Athlete and Performer!

Karley is a 15yr old from Claiborne County who successfully completed her 9th grade curriculum, this past year.

She is an award-winning competitive baton twirler and performs Irish step dancing as a member of the Tennessee Irish Dancers. She is also a member of the 4-H Honor Club and regularly volunteers at county events. Karley was able to perform and compete with the Claiborne County High School band as their feature twirler and was on the Claiborne High School's varsity winter guard indoor competition team during the 2022-2023 school year.



Deano!!!

An Artist in the Making!

To create this piece, Deano Montoya, grade 4, was inspired by Beauford Delaney's *Untitled (Abstract Circles)* circa 1956, which was on display at the Knoxville Museum of Art. In fact, it was an instructional video tutorial from KMA that he followed but added a few of his own variations. It was created simply with various sizes of circles dipped in acrylic paint and stamped on black cardstock. Deano's masterpiece has been framed and is displayed at the entry of his home. Family and friends frequently comment about it. Regarding the process, Deano says, "It was fun and I liked it. It's an easy artwork to do and helps unlock future artwork ideas that you can do later. I like how it turned out. It was nothing specific so anyone can make whatever picture they want out of it."

Resource Corner

[View all](#)

We want to provide some simple links to encourage and support you in your homeschooling journey. Please, share any that you are aware of.



Homeschool Discounts

Visit our new and growing homeschooler [discount page](#).



Upcoming Homeschooling Events

[Teach Them Diligently](#)

What Events Would You Like SMHEA to Host?

Help us serve you by sharing your interests.

Fall/Winter Craft/Vendor Fair

Spring Talent Show

Spelling Bee or Science Fair

Homeschool Picnic

Other

Begin



SHARE ON FACEBOOK



SHARE ON TWITTER



FORWARD EMAIL

Smoky Mountain Home Education Association
(SMHEA)

PO Box 18501, Knoxville
United States of America

You received this email because you signed up on our website or
made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

