



Welcome! To the '24-'25 school year! This is the third year of Deeply Rooted Homeschool Co-Op. I am grateful you are here and I look forward to getting to know your family, continuing relationships with returning families, and growing and raising our kiddos together. I have just a few notes, rules, and expectations for the group that I want to share with you here before we begin the semester. First and foremost, it is important to note that you can absolutely homeschool successfully without being in, and committing to, a co-op program. However, the support, community, social components, and resources that are available when you do - can absolutely be a game changer in the whole process. With that being said, it is imperative to find the "right" group for you and your family. A group that shares your philosophies on education, ideologies, and goals. I hope that Deeply Rooted, myself, and our programming align with what you are seeking for your family. If not - I would be glad to point you in the direction of other options, curriculum, and resources to help support your home education journey. Please read carefully and don't hesitate to ask any questions that arise.

Thank you,
Tracey Wade (montessori, unit studies, unschooling)

Mission Statement:

We are on a mission to:

- (1) Equip parents with the confidence and network they need for a successful home education experience.
- (2) Develop a strong foundation for our kiddos in both knowing and following Christ.
- (3) Create an environment where we encourage a heart of service and growth of character in addition to academic excellence.
- (4) Forge a social network for our children to be able to experience play, learning, teamwork, & build relationships, with like minded peer groups.
- (5) Collaborate with other families and local professionals to bring high quality curriculum and educational experiences to our children.

Program Options: Deeply Rooted is offering two days/tiers of programming for this school year.

Tier 1: TUES/THUR (most structure and commitment)

Tier 2: THURS only (option to choose bi-weekly, same cost, must be specified at time of reg.)

Tuesdays: Classroom & Curriculum - 9:30-12:15, weekly

~\$40/first child + \$20 each additional per family per semester

~Includes registration for Thursday Fun School Day

Thursdays: Fun School & Activities - 11:30-3:00, weekly

~\$20/first child + \$10 for each additional per family per semester

~Includes registration for Thursdays only

Tuesday Pre-School: 9:30-12:15

9:45 - morning baskets
10:00 - circle time +
letter/color/shape of the week
10:30 - snack/play
11:00 - unit study (TGATB)
11:30 - craft time
12:00 - clean up and dismiss

Tuesday Elem: 9:30-12:15

9:45 - morning work
10:00 - unit study #1-TGATB
10:30 - snack/play
11:00 - unit study #2-TGATB
11:30 - experiment/project
12:00 - clean up and dismiss

Thursday: 11:30-3:00

11:30 - picnic and play
12:00 - Activity Time #1
1:00 - Activity Time #2
2:00 - Activity Time #3
2:30 - Group Clean Up
3:00 - dismiss

Field Trips: I will coordinate 1-3 group field trips at various points throughout the semester. I will post these on the website and the parent board weeks in advance. Participation in ALL field trips is 100% optional, based on your availability and interest in the trip. Ticket price will also be posted and must be submitted by deadline posted in order for accurate head counts due to the significant flexibility in this aspect of programming this year. You must also note; once registered for a field trip, the ticket fee is non refundable, even in the event of illness, as you will be included in meeting group minimum/head counts. You would have the option of finding a replacement to go in your spot who could reimburse you the ticket price if you wish but that would be solely up to you.

Attendance: Our mission statement for this group is to “create a community of families and forge a social network for our children to be able to experience play, learning, teamwork, and build relationships with like minded peer groups”. Tuesday’s studies and lessons are curriculum based and will be built upon the week(s) prior. Additionally, because the primary objective of our group is to create a peer group and provide a classroom style experience in which to teach structure, listening skills, accountability, and social setting, your attendance is not only important, it is **VITAL** to the success of the group and being able to reach our goal. If you register for a desk space in Tuesday programming, it is expected that attendance will be a priority for your family and that aside from illness, vacation, or other significant situations, you will be present at co-op time. THURSDAY programming is a little more flexible in that each week we are offering new activities that are NOT expounded upon from week or weeks prior. Also, because the format is structured more to lend itself to self exploration and learning through play as well as to feed the community and social needs for all involved, attendance expectations are a bit more lax. Especially for Tuesday students, if you need to plan to attend Thursdays on a bi-weekly rotation as we have in semesters past with field trips, that is completely understandable, as you are already committing to weekly Tuesday classes as well. If you think your family will likely attend on a bi-weekly rotation regularly, please communicate that with me. My hope would be to see most/many of you on a weekly basis for Thursdays as well to deepen and strengthen the community and relational aspect of our entire program and group. Also note, we have 100% volunteer efforts who are planning, coordinating, and facilitating the activities and projects each week. Please do not take that lightly. Respect that there is a significant amount of time, energy, and effort going into making this programming available for everyone and that we do not have a co-op without YOU!

*****Illness policy:** We look forward to seeing you and growing with you at our weekly meetings with the exception of illness - If your student **or a sibling/family member** is sick, please stay home. We would like to ask that anyone attending a co-op meeting with the group is fever, vomiting, diarrhea free (without medications!) for a minimum of 24 hours. Thank you for helping keep our group healthy. Please let me know if you will not be in attendance on a Tuesday meeting day, by 6pm on Monday evenings when possible, as I am usually prepping for class around that time.

Classroom rules: Rules for the students are simple. (1)Watching eyes (2)Listening Ears (3)Quiet mouths (4)Kind hands. Good behavior and rule following will be rewarded utilizing a token economy. The kids will earn coins (which they will be responsible for keeping in their coin pouch at school) until monthly shopping day. They will be able to buy prizes from a classroom prize cart the last class of each month. This will also serve as a gentle intro to money/spending/money management!!! Behavior corrections and redirections may be given by me and co-op activity leaders, but behavior struggles are to be addressed by the parent. Parents will remain in the building, engaged and relatively hands on the entirety of the class time. Please make sure cell phones are silenced and put away during meeting time. Aside from tending to siblings, please help keep distractions to a minimum. Foul language or aggressive behaviors will not be tolerated under any circumstance and may result in being asked to leave. *Everyone should pitch in during clean up times and at the end of the meeting to help restore the building to its original state prior to leaving for the day.* There will be a bi-weekly deep cleaning checklist posted on the parents board. Please sign up to help!

Snack time: Please pack a snack and water bottle each week. There is a scheduled 30 minute snack break during the morning on Tuesdays and the first 30 minutes of co-op time on Thursdays is called “picnic & play” and a great time for grabbing some lunch before activities begin.

What to bring: Each Tuesday you will need to bring your class folder, and a snack. Thursday students need only bring snacks and water bottle.

Fees:

- (1) Each family will be expected to pay an activity/supplies fee per semester. This fee will be used to provide all art supplies, science experiment supplies, copy paper, and classroom manipulatives and games/puzzles etc. This fee is due no later than the first meeting date of the semester and should be paid via paypal or cash/check - payable to Deeply Rooted.

- (2) Each family will be expected to participate in 1 co-op fundraiser per semester. This fundraiser will be for the sole purpose of making a love offering/donation to the church for use of the facility and classroom for the semester. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the building/church on behalf of our group.
- (3) Field trip fees need to be paid to the co-op paypal account by the due dates listed on the calendar page of the website. ANY fee that you submit via Paypal - PLEASE select the option "pay to family or friends" instead of a goods or services fee, as Paypal will deduct a processing fee out of the total amount paid if not. ***ALL fees are considered non-refundable. Should you opt to forfeit your position within the co-op mid-semester, you also forfeit your supplies fee. Should you fail to attend a field trip once the ticket/cost is submitted, you will not be eligible for a refund, as you have likely been considered in the head count towards minimum participant numbers.

Communication: Please utilize the co-op website for calendar, field trip details, blog posts, etc. There will be a group chat on FB messenger for weekly reminders, quick notices, etc. ***Every Sunday night, I will post weekly announcements on the website co-op page. This is a great space to check for news, changes, updates, and memos!

Repetition/Follow through: Repetition is vital for retention. Especially with littles. We will make links available to the songs we use for various components of our day so you can utilize the same ones on your homeschool days if you wish.

Semester Programs: I will produce a Christmas program which will be open to family and friends and in conjunction with our mini Christmas market, right before we dismiss for Christmas Break. Participation is optional but I will have a sign up sheet out mid-fall as there will be speaking parts and songs to learn. The second semester program will coincide with unit studies and projects from that semester and be paired with our awards night and art show.

Documentation: I will host a parents only meeting on Tuesday Aug. 6 from 6:00-7:30 for anyone who needs info, direction, and help understanding documentation and record keeping. I will provide a supplies list and you can come with your file boxes or binders, prepared to take advantage of pre-copied forms and all that you will need to ensure proper documentation of your homeschool journey.

Media Release: While participating in co-op activities; photographs, mini video clips, or other digitally recorded material may be used in hi-light reels or other public media or social media for purposes of promoting and sharing program accomplishments and events on behalf of Deeply Rooted Homeschool Program and/or Shepherd of the Hills Church ONLY. There will be a private but shared album where families can post photos of various activities and events for all registered families to access. Families should NOT post photos on their personal social media that contain other children or families unless they have permission from those individuals.

Liability: It is important to understand that participation with any and all co-op activities poses a risk for personal injury and/or illness. When you register for our program, you attest that you carry personal health insurance at a level you deem adequate to cover any and all expenses that could occur as a result of participation with our program and you agree to hold harmless all Deeply Rooted, LLC personnel and affiliates as well as Shepherd of the Hills Church and its staff and affiliates. We also do not take responsibility for any lost or stolen personal property while on site or at an activity/programming associated with Deeply Rooted.

Shift your way of thinking: The biggest roadblock for me when I began homeschooling with my daughter was the programmed mentality I had acquired from 12 years in a public school setting. You tend to panic when your day does not include 7 hours of sitting at a desk, completing worksheet after worksheet, and wrapping up the week with a test. Sing your songs in the car. Make the grocery store your classroom. Play in the yard. That all counts as school now. Enjoy organic, explorative learning. Start "unschooling". You won't believe the magic that happens when you let go of the social norms and standard expectations.

Notes: