

# CHEC ELO FAQ's

**What is ELO?** - ELO is an acronym for "Extended Learning Opportunities". ELO is an opportunity for members of the Christian Home Educators Community (CHEC) of Longview, TX, to meet for parent-taught classes. Once membership in CHEC has been approved and you have attended a mandatory information meeting, you are then eligible to register for ELO (the registration is open for about 2 weeks during the summer).

**Why do families participate in ELO?** – The reasons vary from family to family, but some of the most given answers are: the ability to have class room experiences with lessons that are difficult to hold at home; learning opportunities that are better in a group setting; or making friends with other homeschooling families.

**Who can join ELO?** – To participate in ELO your family must be a member of the Longview CHEC group. Although we prefer that you have home schooled your child or children for one semester (unless your oldest child is in Kindergarten), we will allow new-to-homeschooling families to join as well, on a case by case basis.

**What ages of children can participate in ELO?** – ELO offers classes for children from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There are also classes from Nursery to PreK for families that have older children participating in ELO.

**What classes are offered in ELO?** – The classes vary from year to year. Previous classes have included: various science units, famous explorers and inventors, PE, art, history units, Presidents, sign language, writing, Spanish, Geography, finance. We don't know the exact classes that will be offered until registration is closed because it depends on group interest and teachers available to teach.

**When are the ELO Classes held?** – The ELO classes are held on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (need to arrive by 8:15). Generally, the classes meet consecutively for 2-3 weeks and then take one week off throughout the fall and spring semesters. Occasionally there are exceptions to this rule to work around the facility needs of our host church. This schedule gives us 9-10 ELO class days during the fall semester and 10-11 classes during the spring semester (usually a total of 21 weeks including orientation day). We are done in the fall either the week before Thanksgiving or a couple of weeks after Thanksgiving and in the spring, we are usually done by late April.

**Who teaches the ELO classes?** – Parents of the families who participate in ELO teach the classes. In this way we can share our unique talents and the teaching load.

**What is my responsibility if I am a part of ELO?** – This is a big one. The primary

home school instructor of the family is required to teach in a class for 3-3 ½ of the 4 hours of classes, and needs to be on the premises the whole time. In most classes, the teaching responsibility will rotate and everyone will have the opportunity to teach (don't worry, if you are new to ELO, you will be paired with someone who has been there before and will observe first before teaching). Thus, participating in the ELO program is a significant commitment. We generally assign 2-3 teachers to a class. In this manner, the lesson planning and teaching does not fall on the shoulders of one person. It does take additional time and effort to plan quality lessons to share with the class, and only you can decide if ELO is worth the extra work and responsibility involved. If you as a parent are not willing to contribute significantly of your time and talents, please do not enroll your family in ELO. Many moms who have more than one infant find it difficult to find the time to plan lessons during the week. Please do not assume that since you have a baby you can be placed in the nursery, there are just not enough slots in the nursery and there are too many needs elsewhere. Even the 2-4 year old classes require a fair amount of teacher preparation. **It is also important to realize that your commitment to ELO is for a full academic year (fall and spring).**

The previous paragraph was not written to try and discourage you from participating in ELO. We want you to realize the commitment and level of responsibility that is required and to count the cost before you start participating. If someone does not fulfill their commitment, then there is added work and stress placed on others in the group. Please take the time to talk with others who have been in ELO to gain a better understanding of the commitment required. You will find that most individuals really enjoyed the opportunity to share their talents and skills with other homeschooling families, and even enjoyed meeting their commitments.

**What is my student's responsibility at ELO?** Your student's responsibility is to be respectful of their teachers (which includes listening, paying attention in class, raising hands, and no back talk). They are also responsible for completing any homework assignments (there will be homework assigned to do at home for all grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>).

**What does ELO cost?** – The cost will vary depending on what classes your child will be taking. We work hard to keep costs down. Each family is responsible to pay a building use fee of \$125 per year along with the total class fees that range anywhere from \$10 to \$70 per child.