



Arizona Families for Home Education

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SENIOR HIGH GRADUATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

34th Annual AFHE Senior High Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 22, 2026

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 2026**.

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. **In the event you lose or damage your diploma, diplomas will only be available for reprint for 6 months for a \$20 fee. After that you can create your own and have the parent sign it and it will be the same validity.**

SENIOR HIGH GRADUATION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 28 at 11:59 PM

LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 7

Registrations received between **Feb. 28 and March 7th** will be charged a **\$50 late fee**. There will be absolutely NO registrations can be accepted after **March 7 at 11:59 PM**.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$200 (plus \$50 late fee between **Feb. 28 - March 7**)

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.

DVD's of the ceremony are no longer offered

Every graduate will receive a digital download of the ceremony approximately 3-6 weeks after the ceremony. This digital download can be shared with your family.

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, 2026** 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). 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.

Those enrolled in a public school, Arizona private school, private hybrid program, or virtual charter school are not eligible to participate.

GRADUATE REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

Things to have ready before starting registration

- Current AFHE Membership
- \$200 registration fee
- Graduates 3 Photos (Senior photo, head shot & baby photo)
- Graduates accomplishments, future plans, and favorite bible verse or quote (Check word count!) *Don't wait until spring to take senior photos - many photographers can take weeks to get photos to you. Be sure to plan early!
- Graduates height and weight (needed for gown size)

MANDATORY REHEARSAL Day of the ceremony **MAY 22** - CHECK-IN OPENS AT 1:00 PM

The ceremony is a choreographed event. All participating graduates are required to attend the rehearsal Friday, May 22, 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 22: 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 2026. 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.

SEATING

In mid March **AFTER** late registration closes, information will be sent out to graduates and their parents regarding seating arrangements for graduates' family and guests.

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 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 7**. 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: The headshot photo for the program should have the graduate facing the camera straight on and shoulders must be clothed.

APPROPRIATE PHOTO GUIDELINES

Please submit modest photos. Avoid low necklines, strapless tops, provocative poses, etc.

No Weapon of any kind visible in photos.

Do NOT crop photos or add any filters or digital embellishments.

AFHE reserves the right to reject any photo we consider inappropriate. If time allows, we will contact you to request a replacement.

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.

CONDUCT

The volunteers have dedicated significant time and effort to ensure this ceremony is a memorable and meaningful occasion. We kindly ask all participants to show respect to the volunteers, the committee, AFHE, and their fellow graduates by demonstrating appropriate and cooperative behavior. **Graduates who fail to maintain proper decorum or disregard the instructions of the graduation committee may be asked to leave and will forfeit their opportunity 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, 2026** to download your graduate's photos. Once the photographer closes the download link access is no longer available to you or AFHE.

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. All three sections COMBINED need to be **no more than 125 words**.

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 2023 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

Scholarship Application Deadline: **March 10**

GRADUATION QUESTIONS

Please send graduation questions to srgrad@afhe.org or call 602-235-2673 ext. 3 **PLEASE BE SURE TO SAVE THIS EMAIL ADDRESS IN YOUR CONTACTS AS THIS IS OUR PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOU.**

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.

- o 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)
 - o 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)
 - o Shannon went on three mission trips during high school.
- When a student is **going into missions**, leave it plural
 - o Shannon is going into missions after graduation.
- **The following are spelled as one word:**
 - o audiovisual
 - o childcare
 - o filmmaker, filmmaking
 - o firefighter, firefighting
 - o taekwondo (no capitals)