

Homeschooling in Delaware

Home Schooling



in Delaware

by Stacey Lane

Table of Contents

Preface.....	Page 3
Requirements to Homeschool in Delaware.....	Page 4
State Homeschool Conventions.....	Page 7
Umbrella, Support and Co-op Groups.....	Page 8
Activities and Programs.....	Page 10
High School.....	Page 14
On-line Support.....	Page 15
About Stacey Lane.....	Page 16
Thank you and Updates.....	Page 17

Preface

The great thing about Delaware, besides its beaches, is that it is within a two-hour drive from Baltimore, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia and only a 4-hour drive to New York City. These cities provide great day and weekend trips.

This e-book should provide enough information to start your homeschooling journey in Delaware. I do recommend joining one of the many support groups mentioned. Homeschool groups and classes are constantly changing and new groups forming.

I have done my best to research information, but mistakes may still be present; links might be broken, or groups no longer in existence.

If you would like to share your copy of ***Homeschooling in Delaware***, please send your friends a link to the e-book from www.LayeredSoul.com

The information in the following paragraphs is not intended as legal advice. [Homeschool Legal Defense Association](#) provides information on legal concerns.

What are the requirements to homeschool in Delaware?

- You must register with the [Department of Education](#) or an umbrella group.
- Students between the age of 5 and 16 must be enrolled with the department.
- You must provide each student with 180 days of instruction.
- You must report attendance by July 31st.
- You are not required to test students.
- No qualifications are required of the parents.

Please read [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Department of Education's web site.

How do I start homeschooling in Delaware?

- Decide if you are enrolling as a single or family homeschool with the Department of Education or enrolling with an umbrella group.
 - If enrolling with the Department of Education follow the directions on the website. There is no fee for enrolling. You will have to name your homeschool.
 - Once you name your school, it cannot be changed. Also consider that the name could be the one written on your high school graduate's diploma. Choose wisely.
 - If enrolling with umbrella groups follow the paperwork from the group. A fee is usually involved with joining an umbrella group.
- Next choose the curriculum or homeschool method you are going to use. The Department of Education does not help or keep a record of curriculum used in your homeschooling.

What curriculum should I use?

- The state does not assist in choosing your curriculum.
- Some suggestions on choosing a curriculum:
 - Attend a homeschool convention.
 - Join an on-line group for suggestions.
 - Find a curriculum that strengths match your students. If you student hates to read don't pick a curriculum heavy in literature. If you student is a visual learner choose one in color. If you have a kinesthetic learner don't choose a workbook style curriculum.
 - Borrow curriculums to test how they work before investing a lot of money in buying.
 - Ask homeschool veterans which curriculums they have used over the years.

How do I withdrawal a student from a public school to begin homeschooling?

- Either file paperwork to start your own homeschool with the Department of Education or join an umbrella school.
- Once you have the paperwork filed go to the public school and inform them you are withdrawing your child to homeschool.

How do I re-enroll back into the public schools?

- Enroll your child in the public school and then notify the Department of Education that you have done so. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the Department of Education of the change.
- High School Students take note. It is easy to go from public/private high school to homeschooling but going from homeschooling to public/private high schools can be tricky. Public schools have the right to refuse homeschool high school credits.

Testing Requirements in Delaware:

- Delaware does not require homeschool students to be tested.
- Some umbrella groups do require and/or provide testing.



Where are the state homeschool conventions?

- There is not a statewide convention in Delaware.
 - Homeschool families visit conventions in surrounding states:
 - *CHAP* [Christian Homeschoolers of Pennsylvania](#) holds their convention the second weekend in May.
 - *ENOCH* [Education Network of Christian Homeschoolers of New Jersey](#) holds their convention a weekend in May.
 - *HEAV* [Homeschoolers Educators Association of Virginia](#) holds their convention a weekend in June.

Where do you buy your homeschool supplies?

- All of my homeschool curriculum and books I buy online.
 - Some school supplies and manipulatives can be bought at the following stores:
 - [Becker's School Supplies](#) has a store in Wilmington.
 - [Dollar Tree](#) various locations state wide.
 - [Learning Express](#) of Wilmington.
 - Staples various locations statewide.



Umbrella, Support, and Co-op Groups: These groups provide accountability and support through weekly or monthly meetings. Some of them offer diploma programs or file your attendance forms with the state.

Kent County Groups:

- [Family Learning Academy](#) Registers your attendance with the state has a diploma program and lending library.

New Castle Groups:

- [Academy Adonai](#) An Umbrella group founded by Kathryn Stout. This can be a great resource for those homeschooling children with special needs.
- [Agnus Dei Home School Co-Operative](#) Agnus Dei provides a Catholic, Ignatian, and classical education. Classes are from Kindergarten through 12th grade. They meet twice weekly for instruction and academic planning.
- [City Gates Academy](#) offers classes on Tuesdays to kids in 4th through 8th grade.
- [Classical Conversations](#) a nationwide group teaching the classical method. A group meets in Wilmington.
- [Glasgow Christian Academy](#) GCA provides weekly core subject classes and extra curricular classes. They also offer a diploma program.
- [Mount Sophia Academy](#) MSA provides college-model high school classes on Mondays and Thursdays. Students follow a syllabus to complete their work. They also have a diploma program.
- [Towle Institute](#) provides classes for grades 6th to 12th with weekly instruction and academic planning. They also have a diploma program.
- [Tri-State Homeschoolers](#) provides programs and activities for homeschool families.

- [Walnut Grove Co-op](#) provides weekly classes based on the Waldorf style of learning.

Sussex County Groups:

- [Acorn Christian Co-op](#) doesn't have a web page but a yahoo group. They offer activities and help with the state.
- [Laurel Wesleyan Homeschool Co-op](#) Is a ministry outreach of the Laurel Wesleyan Church. Classes meet September through May.
- [R.E.A.C.H. Co-op](#) REACH is an elective-based, parent-led co-op. They offer classes for Preschool through 12th grade. Co-op meets on Fridays from 12:00pm - 4:10pm, September through May.



Activities and Programs listed by county:

This is not an exhaustive list of museums or activities in Delaware but a list of museums my family has enjoyed over our 14 year homeschooling journey. Please note that music, art and other teachers will offer classes through different on-line and support groups.

Here is a list of [Delaware Public Libraries](#) listed by city. Please check with your local library for program and events. Some do offer homeschool programs.

Kent County

- [Air Mobility Command Museum](#) A great collection of airplanes. Yes, you can sit in the cockpits and climb aboard. The Museum does have a public entrance so you don't need a military idea to visit.
- [B & B Music](#) offers lessons in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, drums, brass, woodwinds, strings and voice.
- [Barret's Chapel and Museum](#) Is the oldest surviving church building in the United States. The Chapel was built in 1780.
- [Bigg's Museum of American Art](#) Check their calendar of events they offer monthly free programs for kids.
- [Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#) Hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing. Host to hundreds of thousands of migrating ducks, geese and shorebirds.
- [Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation](#) learn about the earth. They organize field trips and hold monthly classes on different space or nature topics.
- [Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village](#) They do offer tours and programs for homeschool groups. The village has a large collection of 1800's buildings to visit.
- [Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve: St. Jones Reserve](#) offer programs on marsh life, horseshoe crabs and watersheds. Canoe trips are also available.

- [Delaware State Police Museum](#) They do tours upon request. There is a police car children can sit in and a crime scene set up.
- [Delaware Visitor's Center and Galleries](#) Located in the same building as the Bigg's Museum. Don't forget to visit the replica of the Liberty Bell across the street.
- [John Dickinson Plantation](#) They do homeschool groups and monthly activities for the public. Located near the Air Mobility Command Museum.
- [Killens Pond Nature Center](#) has monthly homeschool classes. During the summer they have an outdoor waterpark. Camping, fishing, and hiking are available.
- [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) A great museum to see how a victrola works and their impact on the music industry.
- [Smyrna Opera House](#) offers school programs and summer theater camps.

New Castle County

- [Ashland Nature Center](#) Similar classes to Abbotts Mill Nature Center.
- [Brandywine Zoo](#) This is a small zoo but great for a quick afternoon visit or for smaller kids. They offer programs for homeschoolers.
- [Coverdale Farms](#) A working farm that does field trips, cooking classes, and seasonal farm based programs.
- [Delaware Art Museum](#) They offer many different programs and on Sundays admission is free.
- [Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts](#) Exhibits change often check site for current programs.
- [Delaware Children's Museum](#) A great place to take the younger kids.
- [Delaware Museum of Natural History](#) They offer monthly homeschool classes as well as tours.
- [Delaware Children's Theatre](#) to help young talent find its way to the stage. Watch a show or perform in one.

- [DuPont Environmental Education Center](#) The facility is open to the public year-round and features indoor and outdoor exhibits on water related natural and cultural history topics and a boardwalk that extends into the marsh.
- [Fort Delaware](#) A civil war prison that is housed on an island in the Delaware Bay. You must purchase ferry tickets to visit.
- [Hagley Museum and Library](#) You can see how the DuPont family developed the gunpowder industry along the Brandywine River.
- [Middletown Music](#) offers lessons in piano, guitar, bass, drums, percussion, voice, violin, viola, cello, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, harp, flute, clarinet, oboe, trumpet, trombone, saxophone and more.
- [The Music School of Delaware](#) offers many music programs and public performances.
- [Lums Pond Nature Center](#) has summer programs, camping, hiking and horseback riding.
- [Winterthur Museum](#) They do homeschool tours of the museum and gardens. A great chance to explore nature, history, and art.

Sussex County

- [Abbotts Mill Nature Center](#) Offers homeschool programs on the first Friday of the months during the school year. I highly recommend the Maple Sugaring class.
- [Cannonball House and Maritime Museum](#) A cannonball from the war of 1812 is lodged in the foundation of the house. A great stop along your tours in Lewes.
- [Delaware Piano Lessons](#) offers lessons in Lewes and Rehoboth.
- [DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum](#) A place to see artifacts found in the sea. Located on Fenwick Island.
- [Fenwick Island Lighthouse](#) Open on the weekends include this stop on your way to the local beaches.

- [Fort Miles Historical Area](#) a place to explore land defenses from World War II. Located at Cape Henlopen State Park.
- [Governor Ross Mansion and Plantation](#) a chance to explore a Victorian Italian mansion.
- [Marvel Carriage Museum](#) Must call to arrange a visit but there are many out buildings and carriages to explore.
- [Nanticoke Indian Museum](#) The Nanticoke tribe holds a powwow in the fall check for dates to attend this event. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays.
- [Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#) Canoeing, hunting, and fishing opportunities. A Junior Refuge Manager program with some great free downloads.
- [Seaside Nature Center](#) This nature center located at Cape Henlopen State Park offers activities to learn about wildlife at the beach.
- [Second Street Players](#) offers adult and children productions.
- [Treasures of the Sea Exhibit](#) A chance to see artifacts from the Atocha, a Spanish galleon that sunk off the coast of Florida.
- [Zwaanendael Museum](#) The museum commemorates the founding of Delaware's first European settlement by the Dutch in 1631.



High School Students earning College Credit:

Students can earn dual credits for these classes. Taking a one-semester college course also earns a 1-credit high school class.

- [Delaware State University](#) offers the Early Bird Program, which allows high school juniors and seniors take 6 credit hours free per semester. Students must pay technology and parking fees and cost of books.
- [University of Delaware](#) offers a short list of on-line classes that cost \$620 per course.
- [Wesley College](#) offers high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take one 3-credit class per semester. Tuition fees are waived, students must pay \$20 fee and price of books.
- [Wilmington University](#) offers the Early College Scholarship program. High school juniors and seniors can take 1 class per semester for fee. Students must pay \$60 fee and cost of books.

Driver's Education for High School:

- [The Division of Motor Vehicles](#) requires a Delaware Driver's Education Certificate (Blue Certificate) for teens to apply for a driver's license.
 - Delaware requires all driver education programs to be state approved. [On-line courses](#) currently are not approved.
- Student must be 15 years and 10 months to take a driver's education program.
- The local [YMCA](#) offers driver education programs for a \$25 fee.
- Some local private Christian schools will allow homeschool students to take driver's education at their schools, a phone call will confirm.
- [Poly Tech Adult's Education](#) offers driver's education to homeschoolers. Must prove homeschool status to have fee waived.

If you are looking for some on-line support the following groups may help.

Facebook groups:

- [Acorn Christian School](#)
- [Catholic Homeschoolers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware](#)
- [Delaware Pre-K and Kindergarten Homeschoolers](#)
- [Delaware Secular Homeschoolers](#)
- [Homeschool Delaware](#)
- [LWC Homeschool Co-op](#) Laurel Wesleyan Church
- [Smyrna/Clayton Homeschoolers](#)

Yahoo Groups:

- [Delaware Classical Home Educators Network](#)
- [Delaware Unschoolers](#)
- [Delaware Homeschool Families](#)
- [Familiesnews](#)
- [Homeschooling Delmarva](#)
- [MOT Homeschoolers](#) (Middletown, Odessa, Townsend)
- [Our Lady Queen of Peace Homeschoolers](#)
- [Saint John Bosco](#)
- [Tri-State Homeschool Network](#)

Delaware Homeschooling Blogs:

- [Homeschool Happenings](#) a blog and newsletter about homeschooling events in Northern Delaware.
- [Delaware Catholic Homeschooling](#)

Delaware Apps:

- [Mobile apps for Delaware's](#) state parks, libraries, and even practice driving tests.

About Stacey Lane



I am the homeschooling mom of four vastly different children. This year we graduated our first born from our homeschool and he is attending college at Salisbury University. I have one daughter in high school that hopes to become a pastry chef when she graduates. My youngest two sons both play the ukulele and love reading.

I work for a homeschool publisher, [Bright Ideas Press](#), and I blog about homeschooling at www.LayeredSoul.com.

I have spent the last 14 years homeschooling in the state of Delaware. Over the years I have belonged to a variety of umbrella groups and support groups. The past two years I have registered my single-family homeschool with the Department of Education.



Thank you

Even if you are only homeschooling for a short time or have committed to the long journey, I hope you were able to find some resources to help you get started.

Updates

If you know of a homeschool group or activity not listed in this e-book, please email me at LayeredSoul@gmail.com and I can include the information in the next update.