



# Wisconsin Parents Association Newsletter

Issue #135  
Spring 2020

wpa@homeschooling-wpa.org • www.homeschooling-wpa.org • 608-283-3131

## Cancelled: 2020 WPA Conference and Resource Fair

***It is with truly heavy hearts the WPA Conference Committee and Board of Directors have cancelled the Wisconsin Parents Association 37th Annual Conference and Resource Fair, scheduled for May 8-9, 2020.***

We really struggled with this decision, and it was not the outcome we wanted. This conference is immensely important to us and to all of you. At the same time, the health and well-being of our member, conference speaker, and vendor families is foremost in our minds as we have been watching the COVID-19 pandemic unfold. We would like to express our sadness and disappointment to lose this incredible opportunity to gather with our members, as well as share ideas and inspiration with our speakers and with each other.

At the same time, we want you to understand how this crisis is highlighting the strengths of our amazing WPA volunteers and members.

WPA Conference Committee members contributed **more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work just in in-person meetings** alone, to say nothing of the outside work. We are already using that work to prepare for 2021's conference, so not a minute of our energy will be wasted! We invite anyone interested in helping to **email [volunteers@homeschooling-wpa.org](mailto:volunteers@homeschooling-wpa.org)** today!

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Despite the rapidly changing news around the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not receive any conference speaker or vendor cancellations. In the early bird registration window, we received **127 registrations totalling 397 attendees** for our 42 workshops and 34 Resource Fair exhibitors, vendors, and literature suppliers. Our amazing family of homeschoolers and supporters has been facilitating our success all throughout the planning process, and right through this difficult time. We even received requests from speakers and vendors who did not make this year's deadline but want to join us next year. *So even as we are cancelling this event, we are growing for the future.*

The WPA Board of Directors continues to monitor COVID-19 developments, and is exploring options for holding WPA's 2020 Annual Member Meeting. Watch for additional information as things become clearer.

WPA remains incredibly strong and resilient: **our all-volunteer, working Board is in touch on a daily basis**, keeping all the wheels turning, and doing the unseen work to support all homeschoolers in Wisconsin. We continue to refine, enact, and build on our strategic plan to keep WPA relevant and viable well into the future. Our **seemingly tireless QAC (Question Answering Committee) volunteers** continue to field voicemails and emails every single day, giving timely and accurate information to all who ask, regardless of their WPA membership status. Our **Legislative Watch volunteers remain on the job**, keeping us all abreast of important news that can affect our homeschool laws. The WPA website and Facebook page continue to run smoothly, and our Spring Newsletter is in your hands, thanks again to our Board and supporting volunteers.

Even though we have had to come to this incredibly difficult decision, **we are proud to work with Wisconsin's wonderful homeschooling community**, we are thankful for your continued support of WPA, and we look forward to **"Kindling the Flame"** together in 2021!

**We wish you all continued good health.**

Sincerely,

Wisconsin Parents Association Board of Directors  
and 2020 Conference Committee

## Legislative Watch Committee Update

WPA's Legislative Watch Committee keeps up-to-date on state and national issues that may affect Wisconsin homeschool law. We watch, analyze, and call on members when action is needed.

The current legislation for which WPA has asked for action are companion federal bills S.634/H.R.1434 Educational Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act. They would provide federal tax credits, not for homeschoolers, but for businesses and individuals who contribute to scholarship granting organizations. These bills would enable granting organizations to, among other things, award scholarships to homeschoolers for homeschooling expenses.

These bills are problematic for Wisconsin homeschoolers for a few reasons. The first issue with these bills is that education is a state's domain, and each state has its own homeschooling law. Any proposed legislation regarding education at a federal level conflicts with this fundamental constitutional reality.

In addition, these bills involve taxpayer and other outside monies. Accountability and oversight, in direct opposition to Wisconsin's current homeschooling freedom, would be required to ensure those monies are spent properly.

Finally, there is an inherent contradiction built into the language of these bills that could open the door to further legislation inhibiting Wisconsin's homeschooling freedoms. While these bills forbid the Federal government and entities acting on behalf of a state to "mandate, direct, or control any aspect of a private or home education provider," the proposed website for facilitating the program would "[enable] a State to submit and update information about its programs and its eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations for informational purposes only, including information on" such items as student eligibility and allowable educational expenses.

Read WPA's complete analysis on our **Current Issues** page: [homeschooling-wpa.org/current-issues/](http://homeschooling-wpa.org/current-issues/)

If you have already contacted your elected officials, WPA thanks you for helping to protect our homeschooling freedoms. If you have not, please contact your Federal Representative and Senators in Congress.

As always, WPA encourages you to familiarize yourself with this and all proposed legislation that could potentially affect Wisconsin homeschoolers.

### Be A Fact-Finder!

What email address and phone number can be used to contact WPA with your questions about homeschooling?



*Hint: You can find the answer to this and many more Wisconsin homeschooling questions on [www.homeschooling-wpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-wpa.org).*

## WPA is Non-Partisan

2020 is a presidential election year, and over the years, we have been asked: ***"Does WPA align with any political party, favor one political party's policies over another, or endorse candidates?"***

The short answer: **No.**

The longer answer:

WPA, as a state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs, is non-partisan. WPA looks out for the rights of **all** Wisconsin homeschoolers, regardless of their political views. WPA works with **all** of our elected officials, regardless of their political party.

One of WPA's main objectives is to protect Wisconsin's very reasonable homeschool law. When analyzing

proposed legislation which may affect our homeschool law, WPA makes recommendations based solely on what is contained in the legislation and how it may impact our homeschool law, not on who is in office or the party of the legislator who introduced it.

One of WPA's ten guiding principles is: ***"Learn to work with your legislators, regardless of their political party."*** Another is: ***"Work with other homeschoolers on the grassroots level. Set aside differences in areas including approaches to education, curriculum choices, and religious and philosophical beliefs. Work to maintain the right and freedom of each family to make its own decisions."*** WPA has a long and proud tradition of working together to protect our homeschooling freedoms,

a tradition we expect to carry on for many years to come. You can find all Ten Principles on our website at [homeschooling-wpa.org/about-us](http://homeschooling-wpa.org/about-us).

### WPA Board of Directors

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## 2020 Kohl Scholarship

The Herb Kohl Foundation awards Student Excellence Scholarships to 100 Wisconsin high school graduates each year. Homeschool students receive a proportionate number of the total scholarships awarded. WPA has worked with the Kohl Foundation over the last 20 years to evaluate the homeschool student applications, and, in the past few years, to improve the online application process. The Kohl Foundation opens the application process each year in November. The final recipients were announced on February 14, 2020.

Congratulations to the following homeschoolers who are recipients of the 2020 Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship: Kailey Beck (Cashton), Olivia Heese (Plover), and Haydn Suske-Funk (Washburn). Haydn and his family are long-time WPA members and volunteers. Best wishes to these shining examples of homeschooling in Wisconsin!

## 2020 Census

Do you feel that giving your personal information to the Census is like giving your life away? As part of WPA's long-standing and continuing concern with privacy issues, we are sharing information on the 2020 US Census. WPA always encourages people to think seriously before giving personal information to anyone, including the government. However, there are several important reasons to fill out the census form every household receives in the mail.

Each household should have received a notice in the mail in mid-March to complete the 2020 Census. There are three ways you can respond: by mail, by phone, or online. You are required by law to respond to the census. If you do not respond by May 2020, a census taker will visit your home to follow up.

The U.S. census is used to determine how many Representatives each state has in Congress. As a result of the 2010 census, 8 states gained seats and 10 states lost seats. If enough people in a given state refuse to respond to the census, the state could end up underrepresented in Congress. Data is also used to decide how more than \$675 billion in federal funds will be divided among states and localities each year. It is also helpful to have accurate census information in making public policy decisions.

While WPA is consistently concerned about privacy issues, census information and databases are by

law more strictly controlled to ensure privacy. For example, by law, the Census Bureau cannot share information with any other law enforcement agency (DHS, ICE, FBI, CIA). Federal law also requires that census forms are processed and then locked up for 72 years. Census takers undergo a background check, take an oath never to reveal personally identifiable information, and face five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for breaking their oath.

The government already has more information about you from other sources such as your tax returns, driver's license, and social security records, than what the census form requests. Some people consider it safer to respond to the census than to draw attention to themselves and their families by being flagged for a follow up visit for not responding.

More detailed information about the 2020 Census, including the questions which will be asked, is available at:

[2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

[2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-08/Handout\\_With\\_General\\_FAQs.pdf](https://www.2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-08/Handout_With_General_FAQs.pdf)

[2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-03/Census%20Partnership%20FAQ\\_General%20Public\\_508\\_v1.3\\_03.08.19.pdf](https://www.2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-03/Census%20Partnership%20FAQ_General%20Public_508_v1.3_03.08.19.pdf)

[2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html](https://www.2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html)

## Help Share Accurate Information

*"I'm seeing information posted on social media, or hearing people say things about our homeschool law that I know isn't correct. It's frustrating to see or hear, and I fear that others may be acting on that incorrect information, which I know puts us all at risk. I'm only one person - what can I do about it?"*

While no one person can counter all inaccurate information on their own, especially on social media, we can more effectively counter it when many of us share accurate information wherever and whenever we can.

Personal engagement, either one-on-one or in a small group setting, is a great way to share accurate information and clear up any confusion or misunderstandings. Sharing WPA's social media posts and links from WPA's website is another effective way to share accurate information.

Common areas where inaccurate information about our homeschool law is shared include:

- **How our law defines a home-based private educational program.**  
[homeschooling-wpa.org/2016/07/13/wisconsin-homeschool-law/](https://www.homeschooling-wpa.org/2016/07/13/wisconsin-homeschool-law/)
- **What our law says about the PI-1206.**  
[homeschooling-wpa.org/2016/07/13/when-and-how-to-file-the-pi-1206/](https://www.homeschooling-wpa.org/2016/07/13/when-and-how-to-file-the-pi-1206/)
- **What our law says about compulsory school attendance.**  
[homeschooling-wpa.org/new-to-homeschooling/#compulsory](https://www.homeschooling-wpa.org/new-to-homeschooling/#compulsory)
- **What our law says about the 875 hours.**  
[homeschooling-wpa.org/record-keeping/#875hours](https://www.homeschooling-wpa.org/record-keeping/#875hours)

*continued on Page 4 >*

It is important to know, understand, and follow our very reasonable homeschool law in order to protect and preserve it, as well as be able to discuss it confidently.

Here are some ways you can develop a better understanding of our law, and help other homeschoolers learn more:

- Make it a point to read through our law at least once a year, and encourage others to do the same. Consider making it an annual family event.
- Utilize and share the vast resources available on the WPA website.
- Take advantage of opportunities to speak with friends and acquaintances to help them learn more about our law, and what is (and is not) required of homeschoolers.
- Consider coordinating a **WPA 101** session in your area. (See pg 8.)

**Remember that the choices each of us make impact other homeschoolers, and the choices other homeschoolers make impact each of us.** It is crucial to have

accurate information when we are making important decisions about our homeschool.

Wisconsin's homeschool law is one of the only homeschool laws in the country which provides complete parental control and full legal standing. We must all work together to keep it that way.

[homeschooling-wpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Homeschooling-status-article-with-venn-diagram.pdf](https://homeschooling-wpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Homeschooling-status-article-with-venn-diagram.pdf)

Five of WPA's Ten Principles speak directly to the importance of accurate information:

- **Know what Wisconsin's homeschooling law does and does not require and how it is interpreted and enforced.**
- **Do only the minimum required by statute or regulation. Doing otherwise will reduce freedoms you and other homeschoolers enjoy.**
- **Stay out of court if at all possible.**
- **Understand and apply the distinction between compulsory school attendance and compulsory education.**
- **Work with other homeschoolers on the grassroots level. Set aside**

**differences in approaches to education, curriculum choices, religious and philosophical beliefs, etc. Work to maintain the right of each family to make its own decisions.**

If you are concerned that someone is sharing inaccurate information, do some fact-checking: check the law for yourself, check the WPA website, or reach out to WPA's experienced and knowledgeable Question Answering Committee. Then share the accurate information you've learned, along with links to your sources for clarity.

Complying with our homeschool law is easy to do, and WPA has a long history of success maintaining our homeschooling rights and freedoms. Every family who complies with Wisconsin's homeschool statutes and helps to get accurate information to other families is an important part of this work.

WPA is the only state-wide homeschool organization which supports and includes all Wisconsin homeschoolers and which has been providing accurate information about Wisconsin homeschool law since 1984.

## Record-Keeping for High School

Record-keeping for homeschool students becomes important during the high school years because accurate records are often necessary to open up opportunities after graduation. Three basic documents to provide for your graduate are a diploma, copies of Form PI-1206, and a transcript. These records provide documentation of graduation from a home-based private educational program in Wisconsin.

**Diplomas** - In Wisconsin, homeschools are private schools and therefore can award diplomas the same way other private schools do. There are no state-mandated graduation requirements for private schools. Each private school creates its own set of requirements. As the administrator of your homeschool it is your responsibility to decide what requirements must be met for graduation. You can then award a

diploma to the child that has met those requirements. A young person with a homeschool diploma can check "Yes" on an employment application that asks, "Do you have a high school diploma?" High school diplomas issued by the administrator of a Wisconsin homeschool (i.e. the student's parent/guardian) are recognized and accepted by colleges and universities throughout the US, including all University of Wisconsin campuses, federal financial aid programs including Pell grants, student loans, employers, and the US military.

**Copies of Form PI-1206** - The Department of Public Instruction only keeps PI-1206 forms for 7 years. As the administrator of your homeschool, you are responsible for keeping a copy of every form PI-1206 you file. If you homeschool at all during the

high school years, it is vital that you have copies of your PI-1206 forms for that time. Colleges and employers often ask for a diploma and the 4 high school years of the PI-1206 to verify the diploma. The PI-1206 is proof of your compliance with Wisconsin homeschool laws. You may store the forms digitally in the cloud, on a local computer or device, as well as in hard copy form in one or more places. Consider making sure each of your students has copies as well.

**Transcripts** - A transcript is a one-page summary of subjects studied, grades received, and credits earned. A transcript is a quick overview to meet a formal requirement; don't worry about trying to make it more than that. For more details about transcripts, see "Insights from the Handbook: Transcripts" on page 5.

## Insights from the Handbook: Transcripts

Developing your own transcript can be a challenge, especially if you are unschooling or using unit studies. Suddenly you are asked to condense years of learning onto a one-page form that was developed to summarize what students in conventional schools do.

Let's put transcripts into perspective. A transcript is a quick summary that assures an employer, college admissions officer, or some such person that you have worked on a number of general subjects. It is not ideal for homeschoolers. But when one is required or requested, you are likely to handicap yourself if you don't provide it, so it's a good idea to translate what you have done into categories on a form. Anyone who really wants to know about you will ask for more: samples of your work, a portfolio, a personal interview.

**List of subjects:** If you have used a complete curriculum package, it may include a transcript or you can create one by listing the courses covered. If not, list them yourself. If you have used purchased curriculums for individual subjects or created your own, list them.

You can develop your own transcript based on either: (1) the number of hours you spent studying a subject... or (2) what you have learned.

(1) Many conventional schools give one semester credit for 90 hours of class work plus homework. Some homeschoolers use this guideline to

develop a conventional transcript with something like 8 semesters of English... 4 to 8 semesters of math... 2 semesters of world history, etc.... and electives... Some homeschoolers keep records while they are doing the work, perhaps jotting down things like two hours of English literature right after they spent two hours reading... But you can also look back and estimate the time you spent; creating transcripts is not an exact science.

(2) You can develop a transcript that lists general subject areas you have learned about. (If you have been doing unit studies, unschooling, or using some other approach, your transcript is more likely to be accepted if you translate what you have studied into conventional school subjects.) ...If you did unit studies, you can group the units under their major subject areas (For example, frogs and dogs would go under biology...) If you read a reasonable number of novels, short stories, and/or poetry, you can list American, British, or world literature... You can use terms like "General Math" or "General Science" if you didn't focus on specific areas such as geometry or chemistry. If the place where you are applying requires trigonometry or physics, you can study those subjects to fill in gaps you may have.

Or, you can explain that you used an interdisciplinary approach that covered basic subjects by focusing

on... (the major units you studied). If your curriculum was based on learning from living a worthwhile life and pursuing your interests, either translate what you did into conventional school language or explain that you used an interdisciplinary approach and list your major projects.

### Letter grades and credits:

Conventional transcripts include letter grades for each subject, and families can give grades. **People who have taken responsibility for education, worked hard, and learned a lot deserve credit.**

Remember that public school students are required to have a certain number of credits in specific subject areas, but private school students, including homeschoolers, do not have to meet such requirements.\*

### Extracurricular activities list:

You are probably involved in more activities than you realize... It can include 4-H, Scouts, homeschool groups, clubs, religious activities, youth groups, volunteering, theater/music, sports, work experience, travel, public speaking, awards, and more. Give yourself credit for everything you've done.

**Test scores:** Scores from PSAT, SAT, ACT, CLEP, AP, and other tests can also be included at the end of the transcript. However, remember that such tests are voluntary, not required.\*\*

Excerpt from: *Homeschooling in Wisconsin: At Home with Learning*, p. 104, 105, 109. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Parents Association, 2013.

\*Teens who plan to attend college, however, can check prospective college websites for a list of "recommended high school courses."

\*\*Institutions of higher learning might insist on one of these tests for applicants.

Note: For help formatting a transcript, search online for "homeschool transcript samples," and choose one that works best for you.

## Call for Submissions

Is there something you'd like to see in an upcoming WPA Newsletter? Whether you have an **idea** for us, or a **completed original piece** you'd like to submit for publication, we look forward to hearing from you.

- **Ideas** may include a question you'd like answered by WPA volunteers, or a topic you think would be useful to the Wisconsin homeschooling community.
- **Completed original pieces** of all types by any WPA member - written or visual, by students or parents alike - are also welcome.

Email [membership@homeschooling-wpa.org](mailto:membership@homeschooling-wpa.org) today for consideration!

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## What Does 875 Hours Look Like?

Wisconsin's reasonable and effective homeschool law requires private schools, including home-based private educational programs, to provide **"at least 875 hours of instruction each school year."** (*WI Stat. 118.165(1)(c)*) Public schools, by contrast, must provide 437 hours of kindergarten instruction, 1,050 hours of instruction for students in 1st through 6th grades, and 1,137 hours of instruction to 7th through 12th grade students.

But what does 875 hours actually look like? Here are just a few examples of how those hours could be broken down.

12 months = 72.92 hrs/month	52 weeks = 16.83 hrs/week	365 days = 2.4 hrs/day
9 months = 97.22 hrs/mo	40 weeks = 21.875 hrs/wk	
5 days/week year round	260 days = 3.37 hrs/day	
5 days/wk for 9 mos (Public School Calendar)	180 days = 4.86 hrs/day	
5 days/week for 26 weeks (6 months)	130 days = 6.73 hrs/day	
4 days/week year round	208 days = 4.21 hrs/day	
4 days/week for 36 weeks (9 months)	144 days = 6.08 hrs/day	
3 days/week year round	156 days = 5.61 hrs/day	
2 days/week year round	104 days = 8.41 hrs/day	

These examples aren't meant to suggest that you need to schedule your school time at this level of detail - they're simply meant to help you visualize how you're meeting the 875 hours with what you're currently doing in your homeschool.

The way you schedule your academic year depends solely on your family. As the administrator of your homeschool, you have full legal standing and complete parental control. Maybe your work schedule means school hours happen in the evenings and on weekends. Maybe child activities keep you on the road for weeks at a time, and school hours fit better in large concentrated blocks. Or maybe you see the world as your classroom and school hours happen whenever and wherever you and your children are learning together. Whatever your 875 hours look like, WPA recommends you keep an attendance record for your homeschool where you document the number of hours spent in parent-administered instruction to the children of your one family unit.

As far as what constitutes a "school year," as the administrator of your homeschool, you determine your homeschool's academic year start date and end date.

Wisconsin Compulsory Attendance law states that all children ages 6-18 must be enrolled in and attending an educational program. An attendance record from your home-based private educational program, along with your PI-1206, demonstrates your compliance with this law.

Whether you homeschool by the year, month, week, day, hour, or millisecond is in your hands. You have the right and freedom to provide an education to your children according to your own principles and beliefs, and on a schedule that works for your family. WPA is dedicated to protecting that right and freedom.

## Homeschooling Statistics

It's not unusual to hear that "with the popularity and growth of homeschooling," regulation or help should be increased. A simple counter comes by pointing out that homeschooling enrollment has remained steady for more than 20 years and that our very reasonable homeschooling law has worked well since 1984, so increased regulation or help is neither needed or justified.

When the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) first gathered data about homeschoolers in the 1984-85 school year (the first full school year after Wisconsin Act 512

(1983) was enacted), there were 966 homeschool students reported (0.10% of total students).

In recent history, homeschooling numbers have remained rather steady, ranging from a low of 17,459 (1.67% of total) in 1997-98 to a high of 21,633 (2.16%) in 2017-18. For 2018-19, the most recent data available, there were 21,577 homeschool students in Wisconsin (2.15%).

How do these numbers compare with the number of public virtual charter school (VCS) students? In 2018-19, there were just 7,465 VCS students.

Homeschoolers do not generally try to recruit new homeschoolers. Homeschooling is a serious decision that each family needs to make for itself, and homeschooling is a lifestyle which families choose to embrace along with the responsibilities and independence that come with it. WPA respects each family's educational choices, and works to protect parents' rights to make those choices.

Sources:

[dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sms/2018-19-homebased-trends-5-30.xls](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sms/2018-19-homebased-trends-5-30.xls)

[dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sms/2018-19\\_VCS\\_Data.xlsx](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sms/2018-19_VCS_Data.xlsx)

# At Home with Learning: 36 Family Activities

Homeschooling families in Wisconsin are creative! Everywhere you look, you will see unique families who have varied interests and hobbies. Homeschool families are creative in coming up with ways to learn, and we learn from what other families are doing. In that spirit, here is a list of 36 favorite activities for families, compiled by WPA volunteers.

- 1. Read-alouds.** Picture books, short stories, poetry, novels. Take turns reading to each other, and try different settings to enrich your experience.
- 2. Nature walks.** In your own neighborhood, at a park, a trail, a nature preserve, or other public property. Look for a variety of settings-waterfront, wooded hill, prairie.
- 3. Keep field guides** (birds, flowers, trees, insects) around for browsing, which will lead to identifying species when outdoors.
- 4. Visit Wisconsin historical markers** near you. See [wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.com](http://wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.com).
- 5. Make music.** With musical instruments or your own voices. No instruments? Make your own.
- 6. Put on a public or private virtual concert!** You can record it, or perform live online, for family and friends.
- 7. Drama.** Act out a favorite family story together. Younger kids love giving puppet shows. Older children may enjoy dramatizing well-known plays.
- 8. Tabletop Games.** Great way to build communication skills with kids.
- 9. Make homemade playdough, finger paints, bathtub paints, or baker's clay** (which you can bake for permanent creations).
- 10. Puzzles.** Alone or with others. Jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, sudoku, brain teasers, mazes, dot-to-dots, and more!
- 11. "Home Ec."** Cooking, baking, balancing a checkbook, sewing and mending, housekeeping, laundry, changing the oil in the car, and yardwork are just the beginning. Helping with repair and construction projects builds skills and confidence.
- 12. Coloring books** are a perennial favorite. Check out [doverpublications.com](http://doverpublications.com).
- 13. Create!** Design your own game, make a movie, invent something, write a book, draw a comic, compose a song, paint a picture, or whatever your kiddos' interests lead them to make.
- 14. Try some classic card and dice games** like cribbage, pig, hearts, yahtzee, and rummy.
- 15. Get plenty of physical activity.** Families can try walking, jogging, biking, or any number of backyard sports. Online videos can help with indoor activities like yoga, dancing, pilates, and martial arts.
- 16. Gardening.** Plan and plant a garden - whether on a window sill, in the yard, or somewhere in between. Then enjoy cooking with fresh ingredients and learning how to preserve what you've grown.
- 17. Play "store" or "restaurant."** Set it up for younger children to be paying customers, or have kids be the managers and serve you.
- 18. Documentaries** on any subject that intrigues you. Wisconsin Public Television and Milwaukee Public Television are offering weekly learning-at-home programming. Find out more at [pbswisconsin.org/at-home-learning/](http://pbswisconsin.org/at-home-learning/).
- 19. Find virtual museum and zoo tours** to take!
- 20. Connect.** Write letters or postcards. Call friends and family to check in. Or use technology creatively to keep in touch.
- 21. Have a meeting to brainstorm ideas of how to help** someone outside your family. Encourage an atmosphere of looking for ways to show love and concern safely.
- 22. Listen** to audio books, podcasts, meditations, and music and let your mind relax. Check out your library's virtual catalog.
- 23. Grab some rakes** and clean up your elderly or isolated neighbor's yard.
- 24. Geocaching.** Known to some as "a global treasure hunt" using map skills and GPS tools. Download the free app from [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and start exploring near and far.
- 25. Declutter or reorganize** a room together. What a great skill for kids to learn while they are young! Tips available at numerous websites.
- 26. Redecorate--**paint or wallpaper a room.
- 27. Learn a new skill.** Knitting, baking bread, woodworking, leatherworking, public speaking, computer programming, drawing caricatures, magic tricks, playing guitar, cutting hair, or sign language are just a few ideas.
- 28. Look into fostering** animals or **training** service animals.
- 29. Tea parties** or afternoon snacks can be a welcome break, a time to come together and share thoughts. This may be a good time to read poetry or other literature out loud.
- 30. Choose a country and plan a virtual trip** together.
- 31. Auto maintenance:** Teach older children to check or change oil and change a tire. Younger kids love to help wash a car.
- 32. Take apart something that is broken** to see what's inside and maybe even fix it. Old cassette player, toaster, electronic game, etc.
- 33. Reach out to older relatives** via your favorite video chat app. Record an interview of their life story, perhaps.
- 34. Research your genealogy.** Talk to relatives, check out [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), and search for online records for your ancestors.
- 35. Free writing:** a recognized writing technique for decades. You can find many ideas online.
- 36. Be bored.** This is where the real magic happens.



## Request a WPA 101 Program in Your Area

As the only state-wide, inclusive, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the right and freedom of parents to provide an education to their children according to their own principles and beliefs, ***Wisconsin Parents Association is passionately committed to providing accurate homeschooling information.***

We are excited to be launching our new **WPA 101** program, available to homeschooling groups, libraries, and interested parents throughout Wisconsin. This 20- to 30-minute presentation by a WPA-trained facilitator, in person when gatherings are again possible, or via online “virtual” meeting, focuses on providing accurate information about homeschooling in Wisconsin and will include:

- an overview of homeschooling in Wisconsin,
- information about WPA, and
- an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas or concerns about homeschooling.

To request a **WPA 101** program for your area, please visit [homeschooling-wpa.org/wpa-101/](http://homeschooling-wpa.org/wpa-101/). Keep in mind that we prefer to open the program up to as many homeschoolers and potential homeschoolers in the area as possible and we will count on you to help spread the word in your area.

This is a new program, currently staffed by a single volunteer, so we appreciate your patience as requests will be answered in as timely a manner as possible.

## Spread the Word!

To continue its work, WPA needs a strong membership base. Our members support and receive:

- Informative and helpful **newsletters**
- In-depth and accurate **website**
- **Question Answering Committee** to respond to questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin
- Annual homeschooling **Conference**
- **Legislative Watch Committee** to keep informed of legislative actions which could affect Wisconsin homeschoolers
- Statewide **WPA 101** programs
- **Representation** of homeschoolers to the Legislature and DPI

***Encourage your homeschooling friends and supporters to visit [homeschooling-wpa.org/membership](http://homeschooling-wpa.org/membership) today!***