

HOMESTYLE NEWS

Utah Christian Homeschool Association Magazine

Winter 2024
Convention Edition

*start
planning!*

Convention

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HOMESCHOOL
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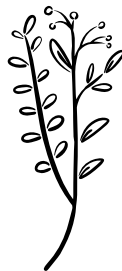
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GOOD MOMS LISTEN!

Rachael Carman

psalm 78:5b-7
Arise!
remember
HIS WORKS



April 12-13, 2024

Utah Christian Homeschool Association Convention Two days that will change the life of your family!

...He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

-Psalm 78:5b-7, NIV

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Our Mission

UTCH encourages Christ-centered home education, helps connect the Utah Christian homeschooling community, and supports parental rights and homeschooling freedoms at the state and national level.

Publishing Information

Utah Christian Homeschool Association print distribution to approximately 350 people. Distributed via email and social media to 800+. Elyssa Fuchikami is the magazine editor and designer. For questions or to include ads or other information in future publications, contact elyssa@utch.org.

About UTCH

Utah Christian Homeschool Association (UTCH: pronounced "You-Teach") is the statewide organization that has been serving the needs and protecting the rights of Utah's homeschooling families since 1992. UTCH is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational, religious, and charitable corporation directed by a Christian board. UTCH membership is available to all Utah Christian homeschooling parents.

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CONVENTION REGISTRATION!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ken Verboncoeur

Welcome to 2024 and a new year for homeschooling in Utah. This year promises to be a year of growth and great opportunities for the Christian homeschooling community in Utah. As we continue to journey together, I want to point us back to our mission.

UTCH's mission states: "UTCH encourages Christ-centered home education, helps connect the Utah Christian homeschooling community, and supports parental rights and homeschooling freedoms at the state and national level." When we are connected and able to support each other, we are best able to fulfill our God given responsibilities to our families and our community.

The more I watch the world around us, the more persuaded I am that our home mission field with our children must be a top priority for Bible-believing Christians. Just over 21 years ago, God led our family into this homeschooling journey; in that time, He has confirmed to me that a parent-led, Bible-based homeschool education is one of the most important and loving actions a parent can take for the protection and discipleship of our children.

While a proven side effect of a parent-led education is creating the best education possible for your children, in my view it is not the greatest achievement. The most important outcome and greatest achievement of parent-led education is the opportunity to build relationships with your children and disciple them in a meaningful way that will impact their eternity. If you are new to homeschooling, or still deciding if it is the right thing for your family, there are two thoughts that I would ask you to consider as you seek God's guidance in prayer.

First, despite the costs and sacrifices involved, you will never regret the investment of intentional time into your relationships with your children and their eternal relationship with God. Second, no one else will deeply love your children and care about their eternity more than you. Homeschooling provides a beautiful avenue to foster these things.

The Carolina Journal reported on a study done by the Institute for Family Studies and Gallup. Their conclusions noted that, "the most important factor in the mental health of adolescent children is the quality of the relationship with their caregivers...conservative parents enjoy higher quality relationships with their children, characterized by fewer arguments, more warmth, and a stronger bond." These insights, while perhaps a surprise to researchers, is knowledge intertwined into the foundations of Bible-based home education. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor and make disciples. I encourage you: never forget that your closest neighbor and the ones who follow us and our example are our very own children.

Persevere in your home education journey. Look for ways to build relationships in community with other Christian homeschoolers! We face a determined enemy that wants nothing more than to fracture Christian families and pry our children away from belief and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When we work together to mentor, fellowship, and encourage one another, we can thwart the intentions of the enemy and help to protect the eternity of our children.

UTCH SUPPORTS YOUR HOMESCHOOL JOURNEY!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



SIGN UP >>



Arise! Teach the Next Generation

UTCH Convention Director, Sarah Winn

Our 2024 Convention is right around the corner! As our team has been getting ready we have been talking about our overall theme and themed verses this year found in Psalm 78:5-7.

I have personally been thinking and meditating on this passage with the rest of the chapter. It is not a light chapter. In fact, there are parts of it that are very heavy. It speaks to the responsibility we have been given as believers to teach the coming generations about God and His ways. He is not lightly suggesting anything, but commanding us to teach the next generation to remember and acknowledge Him in all of our ways. Sobering examples of the consequences the Israelites faced for not teaching and remembering God's promises are a reminder to us.

As Christian homeschoolers, our goal and desire should be to raise our children up in His ways. We do what we do not just for the book learning: we are teaching character, life skills and seeking to cultivate personal relationships with God. We get to speak truth to our children and teach them how to set their hope on God. What a privilege and honor we have been given!

This is one reason UTCH is so passionate about what we do. We see the importance of raising up the next generation! We want to provide support and a place where the entire family can be refreshed, encouraged, and challenged. Life is hard! It is our prayer that your family can pull away from the usual routine and business of life to come rest and get recharged.

God knows that life is busy and often overwhelming. We all can be so easily distracted and discouraged. It is a big job to raise the next generation for Him. We want to cheer you on along the way! So I encourage you to come and be strengthened and encouraged as you are seeking to teach and train your children up in the Lord.

Come enjoy this amazing event. There is something for everyone. I know your family will be blessed!

I leave you with this, "...Arise and tell them to their children so that they should set their hope in God..." (Psalm 78:6-7). May He shine His face on you and give you peace.

Love in Christ,
Sarah Winn

Thank You, Convention Sponsors!



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We are here
to support you **IN EVERY STEP**
of your homeschool journey.

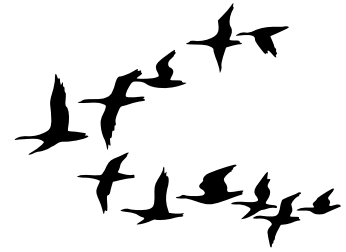
Join today!

hslida.org/UTCH





Freedom Watch



by Melissa Andersen

It is that time of year again. The Legislative General Session is upon us. The 2024 General Session started on January 16, 2024, and ends on March 1, 2024. I know many homeschool parents don't concern themselves with legislative issues. Why would we? Here in Utah, we already have great homeschool laws.

We currently have the freedom to educate our children with any curriculum (including faith-based curriculum) without almost any interference from the state. A one-time notarized notification is our only requirement. We are blessed and grateful to live in a state that recognizes our right to educate our children according to our values and beliefs. However, that could all change quickly and without us even noticing until it is too late.

I used to be a homeschool parent who didn't concern myself with education legislation. I have been active in health freedom legislation for some time, but never really thought about education legislation. A few years ago, a legislative bill that would affect our homeschool freedoms came to my attention, so I got involved. While we defeated that bill that year, the next year a very similar bill was passed with unprecedented speed, the Utah Fits All Scholarship bill.

The primary issue with this bill is the coding used: scholarship students receiving government money are exempted from attending public school under the same legal code as is used by homeschool students. Why is this a big deal? Affidavit homeschool families do not report to any government body. The Utah State Board of Education is the governing body for the scholarship program students. The USBE now has a foothold in the code that allows us to educate our children according to our values and beliefs. The potential for abuse is now there.

This past summer, a small group of homeschool parents got together to review the homeschool code. We quickly discovered another issue: a child abuse bill quietly passed that amended the homeschool code. Regardless of whether the amendment was good or bad (both sides of the argument can be made), that amendment was missed by the many people watching education legislation.

In the 2023 legislative general session, over 850 bills were presented and 575 were passed. While a lot of information to process, it is vital that we are proactive and diligent in watching out for our homeschool freedoms.

As homeschool parents, we need to protect our right to homeschool our children in Utah. We must concern ourselves with legislation in this state. You can track bills at [le.utah.gov](https://leg.utah.gov). After creating an account, you will be able to see all published bills, review them, and track them as they move through the legislature. I encourage you to follow this process! For questions or to get involved with UTCH's growing legislative presence, contact me at melissa@utch.org.



UTAH CHRISTIAN
HOME SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



at the
Capitol

February 8, 2024

9am-12pm



Utah Homeschool Day at the Capitol

Do you cherish the LIBERTIES we have in this country, including homeschooling freedom? Join dozens of other homeschool families at the Utah Homeschool Day at the Capitol for a fun and educational event. Stand with other Utah homeschoolers at the Utah State Capitol on Thursday, February 8, 2024! Come show your support for homeschool freedom in Utah.

During your time at the Utah State Capitol, your family will:

- hear from impactful guest speakers
- witness state House of Representatives and Senate proceedings
- interact with other homeschooling families from across the state
- tour the Capitol and learn more about Utah history and government
- stand for homeschool freedom
- ...and so much more!!!

Contact UTCH's Legislative Liaison, Melissa Andersen (melissa@utch.org) with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Homeschool liberty is a gift; and on this day, **we boldly stand in celebration** of the freedom we experience that so many fought so tirelessly for. Utah Homeschool Day at the Capitol is an **interactive opportunity designed to create a memorable family experience**, but also to **educate the homeschooling community** of the value of homeschool liberty and ways your whole family can be involved in the **ongoing battle for homeschool freedom**.

2024 Convention Featured Speakers!



2024 Keynote: Rachael Carman

A mom to seven and “Coco” to three, Rachael is a twenty-six-year homeschool veteran yet is still energized by affirming, encouraging, and equipping the next generation of homeschooling families to answer the call. Rachael and her husband, Davis, own Apologia Educational Ministries, a leading publisher of award-winning, creation-based curriculum for home educators.

In 1997, Rachael Carman walked into the executive offices of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries with a baby on her hip and proposed adapting their signature live events into a full-blown Bible survey curriculum for families to study at home. After twenty-five years of prayer and perseverance, *The Word in Motion* has been published through this partnership.

A respected speaker and author, Rachael has traveled the world, speaking at conferences, retreats, and teaching God’s Word to parents and children. Her books *How Many Times Do I Have to Tell You?* and *How to Have a HEART for Your Kids* are winsome calls for moms to live each day at the foot of His throne.

Dates with her beloved, dark chocolate, afternoon tea, reading a good book, butterfly gardening, beach walking, and bike riding—these are a few of her favorite things. More than anything else, Rachael is passionate about studying the Word of God and challenging and inspiring others to strengthen their faith by deepening their walk with the Lord.



Davis Carman

Davis is passionate about his family. He married Rachael in 1986, and God has blessed them with seven children and three grandchildren. So far, five students have graduated from their home school. Of those, three are college graduates (two of whom are married), two are in college, and two are still at home. Davis and his family live in Waxhaw, North Carolina, where they enjoy the homeschooling adventure of a lifetime, complete with roller-coaster twists and turns and the occasional lazy river ride.

Davis isn’t a perfect husband or father, but he loves being with his wife throughout the day and immediately available to handle disciplinary and training matters or to experience an extraordinary Deuteronomy 6 moment in the course of an ordinary day.

He has been honored to speak in over thirty states and seven countries as an advocate for home education. Additionally, he served twelve years on the board of North Carolinians for Home Education (NCHE) and nine years as the North Carolina Ambassador for the Home School Foundation. He is also a founding board member of Homeschool Now USA.

Davis is the author of five illustrated children’s books designed to instill a biblical worldview. *Good Morning, God* is based on Deuteronomy 6, *A Light for My Path* is an ABC book based on Psalm 119, *In the Beginning* is based on the Creation account in Genesis, *Psalms to Know Early*, is based on...you guessed it...Psalms, and his latest: *Truths to Know Early*.

2024 Convention Featured Speakers!



Andrew Pudewa

Andrew Pudewa is the founder and director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW). Presenting around the world, he addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity, insight, practical experience, and humor. His seminars for parents, students, and teachers have helped transform many a reluctant writer and have equipped educators with powerful tools to dramatically improve students' skills.

Although he is a graduate of the Talent Education Institute in Japan (Suzuki Method) and holds a Certificate of Child Brain Development, his best endorsement is from a young Alaskan boy who called him "the funny man with the wonderful words." He and his beautiful, heroic wife, Robin, have homeschooled their seven

children and are now proud grandparents of fifteen, making their home in northeastern Oklahoma's beautiful green country.



Jim Mason

Since joining HSLDA to lead the litigation team in 2001, Jim Mason has represented homeschooling families in a wide range of challenging situations and has set precedents that have expanded freedom for the homeschool community. Jim has served as HSLDA's Vice President of Litigation and Development, in addition to Vice President of HSLDA Action. Jim succeeded Mike Smith as President of HSLDA on August 1, 2022.

Jim was instrumental in litigating the 2008 California case Jonathan L., in which a state appellate court reversed its previous ruling that homeschooling was illegal. This put an end to years of controversy over the legal status of homeschooling in California and set a precedent that affects other states as well.

Jim and his wife Debbie live in Winchester, Virginia. They have seven children and six grandchildren. The Mason's children have all graduated from the Mason Academy Homeschool.



Richard Stepanek

Richard Stepanek was taught evolution in school and in church. He believed it until God opened his eyes to creation at a "Discover Creation" seminar. After extensive personal research on the subject, Rich became firmly convinced that the facts support the literal account of Creation found in the Bible.

Rich joined Alpha Omega Institute as a full-time speaker in 1997 and has taught both in the States and internationally. Rich has done extensive studies in Genesis and its relevance to the rest of Scripture and loves to teach on this topic. Richard and his wife, Sue, homeschooled all six of their children. Sue often travels with him in the ministry.

Why Attend a Homeschool Convention This Year?

by Andrew Pudewa, UTCH Convention Speaker

Time is precious. Money can be tight. Travel must be prioritized. And, almost all the information you will ever need can be found online. So, is going to a conference really worth it?

I have been to many conferences—hundreds, actually. Of course, I go because it's my job. Although I primarily teach workshops and hang out near the IEW booth, I also meet fascinating people and listen to a variety of workshops. Now obviously, not every conference is a peak experience, and some are far more interesting than others, but I think it's safe to say that almost always something helpful, even enlightening happens, and often I don't even notice it until weeks or months later.

A friend of a friend once articulated for me something we all instinctively know: "Teaching is the overflow of the soul of the teacher to the soul of the student." To do that, of course, the teacher's soul must be full. Yes, we can read stuff. We can watch videos. We can pray. But for so many of us, the busyness of life makes all those things we can and should do to fill ourselves up somewhat less important than the crisis of the moment. (And in homeschooling, there always seems to be a crisis of the moment!)

In reality, a conference is a retreat—a place to gather with like-minded people, see and hear new ideas, ask questions, and contemplate. Even if the talks you attend aren't the "incredible" talks that change one's life, there are ideas everywhere, and I've found that one small idea from an unexpected source can improve my life forever. Sometimes those ideas don't even come from speakers or workshops, but from one-on-one conversations with other parents.

Taking the time to attend a convention is a little bit like doing exercise or practicing music: You may not want to do it before you do it, but after you do it, you are happier for having done it. So step out, get yourself to a convention this year, fill yourself with inspiration and ideas, make some new friends, and if you're afraid of the exhibit hall, just don't go in! (Although that's where you'll usually find me, and I do hope you'll come by and say hello!)

Andrew Pudewa is the director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing and homeschool father of seven. Come listen to Andrew speak at the convention!



Welcome!

iElect

UTCH Convention Teen Program



Bring the 2024 election to life for your student.

Over the course of two days, students will learn the mechanics of a presidential election cycle. This includes: **drafting party platforms, participating in primaries, fundraising, advertising, campaigning, and turning out the vote.** They can choose between running for president themselves or supporting one of their fellow students.

Parents attending the conference become the voting public as well as the source of in-simulation fundraising (you will receive loads of prop money and will turn into a highly sought-after donor. Yes, it's awesome.). This blending of education, competition, and fun creates a learning experience like no other.

During each phase of the program, students will learn how a real election works by participating in the parties and the process and making important decisions that could make or break their campaign. This unique approach allows them to invest in the experience and apply the concepts they are learning in real time!

Program is open for students from 6th–12th grade. Space is limited, so register soon!

Tentative Convention Schedule

FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH				
8:45am-9:30am	Doors Open: Convention Registration & Check-in Teen, Children's, and Nursery Program Check-in			
9:30am-10:50am	Welcome, Announcements, Worship, & Keynote Deuteronomy 6 Revisited by Rachael Carman, Apologia			
11:00am-7:00pm	Vendor Hall Open			
11:00am-12:00pm Workshop 1	Conquering Corrupt Culture by Raising Christian Communicators Andrew Pudewa	HEART Exam for Dads Davis Carman	Gems in Genesis 1 Richard Stepanek	More Than One Way to Homeschool Laci Abouo
Please pick up your children from their programs immediately following the end of workshop 1.				
12:00pm-1:15pm	Lunch Break & Vendor Hall Shopping			
1:15pm-1:30pm	Teen, Children's, and Nursery Program Check-in			
1:30pm-2:15pm	Keynote: From Fringe, to Movement, to Enduring Institution by Jim Mason, President of HSLDA			
2:20pm-3:20pm Workshop 2	Remember & Do Not Forget Rachael Carman	Fairy Tales & the Moral Imagination Andrew Pudewa	Truth & Discipleship for the Next Generation Corry Pensabene	To be announced
3:30pm-4:30pm Workshop 3	What About That Child 2.0 Rachael Carman	Spelling & the Brain Andrew Pudewa	First 5 Years of Homeschooling (I Mean Parenting) Davis Carman	Is Mormonism Biblical? Marv Cowan
4:40pm-5:30pm	Keynote: Preserving Educational Freedom by Christina Boggess			
Please pick up your children from their programs immediately following the end of this keynote.				
5:30pm-6:45pm	Dinner Break & Vendor Hall Shopping			
6:45pm-7:00pm	Teen, Children's, and Nursery Program Check-in			
7:00pm-8:30pm	Evening Special: Men's & Women's Events Men: The 3 Best Things I Did As A Homeschool Dad with Andrew Pudewa Women: Evening of Real Refreshment with Rachael Carman			
Please pick up your children from their programs immediately following the end of the men's and women's events.				
SATURDAY, APRIL 13				
7:30am-8:40am	Doors Open: Complimentary Continental Breakfast			
7:30am-4:30pm	Vendor Hall Open			
8:30am-8:45am	Teen, Children's, and Nursery Program Check-in			
8:45am-10:00am	Welcome, Announcements, Worship, & Opening Keynote Family: Our Best Apologia Ever by Davis Carman, Apologia			
10:10am-11:10am Workshop 4	Biblical Expectations: Excellence in Education Lucas Manning	Reaching the Reluctant Writer Andrew Pudewa	Gems in Genesis 2 Richard Stepanek	Truths to Know Early Davis Carman
11:20am-12:30pm	UTCH Graduates Presentation Keynote: Beware the Worship of Ease by Rachael Carman, Apologia			
Please pick up your children from their programs immediately following the end of this keynote.				
12:30pm-1:45pm	Lunch Break & Vendor Hall Shopping			
1:45pm-2:00pm	Teen, Children's, and Nursery Program Check-in			
2:00pm-3:00pm Workshop 5	Mary, Martha, You, and Me Rachael Carman	Seeing His Story Shelley Davidson	Reading Strategies for the Struggling Reader or Non-Reader Andrew Pudewa	To be announced
3:10pm – 4:10pm Workshop 6	Mastery Learning, Ability Development, & Individualized Education Andrew Pudewa	APPLES for the Teacher Davis Carman	Gems in Genesis 3 Richard Stepanek	Called To be a Mom Cynthia Edwards
4:30pm-5:45pm	Closing Roundup & Final Announcements Keynote: Focus Up! by Rachael Carman, Apologia			
Please pick up your children from their programs immediately following the end of this keynote.				

New this Year: Friday Evening Events!

Join fellow UTCH moms for an “Evening of Real Refreshment” with Rachael Carman!

From 7pm-8:30pm on Friday night, join other homeschool moms to fellowship and enjoy:

- Encouragement from Scripture
- Fun and games
- Tips for practical preparation
- Prayer and worship

This session will delve into building your homeschool on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ. It is an evening that you will not want to miss!



Dads, join Andrew Pudewa as he shares “The 3 Best Things I Did As A Homeschool Dad”



In this engaging session on Friday evening, Andrew Pudewa will encourage dads in their part through the homeschool journey. Come fellowship with other dads, and discover his practical advice for you.

- Snacks
- Giveaways
- Practical advice
- Fellowship and prayer

We Hope to See You There!

*This special event is included in your conference registration!

Welcome, Vendors!

Although many vendors are still registering, here is a sneak peak of some of the vendors that will be attending the UTH Convention this year!

Abide Christian Academy

Alpha Omega Institute

Apologia

AWANA

Biblioplan

BJU Press Homeschool

Bryan Davis, Author

Children First Education Fund

Classical Conversations

Generation Joshua

HSLDA

Institute for Excellence in Writing

Lamplighter Publishing

Music Unveiled

PaperPie

National Association for Child Development

Rod & Staff Publishers

Teaching Textbooks

Truth Network: AM 820/FM 95.3

Turning Point USA

Yellow House Book Rental

*Traveling to the Convention from far away?
Take advantage of one of these discounted hotel rates!*

****rates are good from April 11-14, 2024****

Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites

818 E. Winchester Lane, Murray, UT

801-685-9300

crystalinnmidvalley.com

\$110/night

Residence Inn SLC Cottonwood

6425 S. 3000 E., SLC, UT

801-453-0430

shorturl.at/fSWXZ

\$159/night

**must book before March 14 to receive discounted rate!*

Both hotels include complimentary wifi, hot breakfast, and parking.

When reserving, call the hotel and let them know that you are with Utah Christian Home School Association to receive the special group rate.



Teaching Faith Through History

by Marianne Verboncoeur

Have you wanted to learn more about historical figures like John Smith, Daniel Boone, or Harriet Tubman? How about missionaries such as David Livingstone, Mary Slessor, or Corrie Ten Boom? Would you like to encourage in your children a desire to travel, experience different cultures, or better understand what it looks like to give everything up for Jesus? Or, even just develop in them a love for reading about the adventures and lives of real people who lived long ago?

YWAM Publishing has two series covering topics: “Christian Heroes: Then and Now” and “Heroes of History”. These books served as important reading material throughout my twenty plus years of homeschooling; I would like to share a little about the stories that most greatly impacted myself and my now mostly grown children.

We loved reading about George Mueller who oversaw an orphanage in Bristol, England. One morning he had all the orphans sitting at the table for breakfast, the children asking what would be for breakfast. But there was one problem: they did not have any food at all. George prayed over the meal they were about to eat in faith, and they waited. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door; standing there was a baker who had extra bread, wondering if George would like any. Then another knock at the door! Another man, a milk man, wondering if George could take some extra milk: his cart had broken down and the milk would spoil before he could rescue it.

Ida Scudder, a doctor and missionary in India, was another favorite. As a teenager, Ida hated living in India. She wanted to leave and never come back. However, while visiting her parents in India as an adult, three different men knocked on her door one night, asking desperately for her help to deliver their baby. When she assured them that she was not a doctor, but that her doctor dad would gladly help, each man left. No man could deliver a baby in their culture. The next day, Ida learned that all three mothers passed away during childbirth. God convicted Ida, and she became a doctor and went to India to help care for women whose religion would not allow them to have a male doctor. She went on to start an all-female nursing school, and later, an all-female medical school in India.

I started reading these books aloud when my children were in kindergarten, and I continued to use them through high school. Sometimes they were random read alouds, and sometimes I used them to supplement specific history that we were learning about. They foster many conversations about how God uses people when we may least expect it. While reading these stories, we also enjoyed looking at our world map to learn about where this person lived, other places they moved to, how they traveled, etc. These stories give kids (and even mom!) a vision for God’s work in the world and how He can use them.

I would encourage you to look at your curriculum and see how you can supplement a period of history or a country you are learning about with a biography from YWAM Publishing and introduce a “Christian Hero”. You will not be disappointed! (Bonus: there are Unit Studies available to use alongside the books while homeschooling, too!) You can learn more about them at ywampublishing.com.

2024 Registration

REGISTER EARLY

Early bird registration for UTCH Members opens February 1! Register early to secure the best price. Pre-registration will be open through March 31, and then on-site registration will be available.

Register online at utch.org/registration-convention!

SCHOLARSHIPS

We do not want the cost of convention to be prohibitive to those seeking to educate their children at home. If you would like to apply for a scholarship to cover part or all of the cost of an adult admission, contact elyssa@utch.org.
UTCH membership required.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a critical component of the UTCH Convention. Join the teams that serve as registration staff, greeters, children's program helpers, and more. Volunteers can earn a rebate towards their convention admission. UTCH membership required.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration details online at utch.org/registration-convention

ADULT ADMISSION

Individual adult or
married couple

Early Bird Registration
FEBRUARY
1-29

Pre-Registration
MARCH
1-31

REGISTRATION
ONSITE
APRIL 12-13

MEMBER

\$65*

\$75*

\$100*

NON-MEMBER

Join or renew to
take advantage of
early bird
registration

\$125

\$175

*Pre-registration adult admission prices do not include UTCH annual membership fee. Join or renew for \$35 at utch.org/membership for these member prices. Membership must be current for the 2023-2024 school year to receive member admission prices.

Maximum family fee is \$200 for members and \$300 for non-members. Family rate available on UTCH convention registration page.

Special rates are available for individuals whose primary vocation is pastoring a church. See UTCH convention page for rates.

Details



VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL

The exhibit hall will be filled with curriculum publishers, resources, local businesses, and more. Compare and shop in person for the materials you need for the upcoming school year.

Look for special convention pricing!

BUY IT HERE!

Shop onsite from Convention Exhibitors and enter a drawing for the grand prize! Buying onsite encourages the return of exhibitors who travel the country to serve homeschool families (and may even encourage new exhibitors to come!)

Must be present to win
Saturday 5:30pm

QUESTIONS?

We are so thankful for Sarah Winn, our wonderful convention coordinator, and the many ways she serves the broader UTCH community. Please contact her with any questions leading up to the convention:
utahcountyhomeschoolers@gmail.com

Child, Teen, & Grandparent Admission

Registration details online at utch.org/registration-convention

Preregistration is required for all children's and teen programs. There will be no on-site registration available. Space is limited in all programs, and once program is full, no further admission will be accepted.

Children's Program

Infant-5th Grade

\$20

Teen Program

6th-12th Grade

\$50

Grandparent Admission

*must be registered with their child who is a homeschool parent

\$15

Nursery will be provided for children ages 0-3. A pre-k and kindergarten class with lots of movement, story time, activities, snacks, and crafts will be available. Melanie Henderson will be returning from last year's convention to coordinate the program for elementary age children. More information is on page 19. The teen program will be provided by Generation Joshua. More information is available on page 11.

Piggy Banks & Beyond: Why Teaching Finance Matters (& How to Do It)

by Aaron Johnson

Remember begging for the latest toy only to be met with the dreaded “Sorry, it’s too expensive”? As adults, we understand the language of money, but for kids, it’s often a fuzzy concept. Yet, just like learning their ABCs, equipping them with financial literacy is crucial for their future success. Here’s why teaching them about money matters, and some fun ways to do it!

Why Does Financial Literacy Matter?

- **Smart Decision-Making:** Understanding budgets, savings, and responsible spending empowers kids to make informed choices with their own money, whether it’s choosing between an ice cream cone or saving for a bigger treat.
- **Lifelong Confidence:** Financial knowledge reduces anxiety and empowers children to navigate the world of banking, investments, and loans with confidence.
- **Future-Proofing:** Early financial literacy forms the foundation for healthy money habits in adulthood, reducing the risk of debt and setting them up for financial stability.

How Can I Make Money Meaningful to My Kids?

- **Piggy Power:** Classic piggy banks aren’t just cute containers—they’re visual aids for saving! Help your child set goals, watch their savings grow, and celebrate milestones together.
- **Allowance Adventures:** Introduce the concept of earning and spending by giving your child an allowance tied to chores or good behavior. Let them make budget decisions for their allowance, learning valuable lessons about prioritizing and delayed gratification.
- **Shopping Buddies:** Turn grocery shopping into a learning experience. Discuss price comparisons, budgeting for needs and wants, and the value of responsible spending. Make it interactive by letting your child help choose items within the budget. (If you have older children, perhaps give them a budget for dinner and put them in charge!)
- **Game Time:** Educational board games like Monopoly or Payday can teach basic financial concepts in a fun, engaging way. Make it real by using play money that reflects your family’s financial situation.
- **Reading:** Find age-appropriate children’s books on money management, saving, and responsible spending. Read together and discuss the lessons learned, sparking conversations about your own financial values.

Remember that age-appropriate learning is vital. Tailor your approach to your child’s age & understanding! Start with simple concepts, and slowly advance.

Foster open communication with your kids. Create a safe space for your child to ask questions and voice concerns about money. This will help them build a positive relationship with finances!

As much as possible, utilize real life examples to illustrate financial concepts. Discuss budgeting for groceries, family vacations, and even paying bills together.

Most of all, make it fun! By introducing finances to your kids in a fun and interactive way, you’re equipping them with valuable life skills that will benefit them far beyond their piggy bank years. So, let’s turn “Sorry, it’s too expensive,” into “I can save up for it!” Empower your kids to manage their finances with confidence!



2024 Convention Children's Program



Back by popular demand, Melanie Henderson will again be leading our elementary-level children's program. Children from 1st-5th grade will spend time learning more about God's creation & beautiful design for mankind from the book of Genesis. The program will feature lessons, crafts, snacks, game time, and much more. Your kids won't want to miss this!

As guests of the children's program, Richard and Sue Stepanek of Alpha Omega Institute will also be hosting a fossil lab, where students will touch, explore, and learn more about fossils & their formation. They will also get the opportunity to explore more about dinosaurs and the origin of man, learning what the Bible says rather than what man says.



Space is limited, so register today!

Testimonials from last year's children's program:

My 3rd grader said it was the best day of her life!

My kids loved their experience in the kids program. They couldn't wait to tell us about what they learned. It was educational and enjoyable, and they can't wait to come back next year!

The kids program was wonderful. My child can't stop raving about it!

Good Moms Listen!

Why Being Heard Begins With Listening

by Rachael Carman, 2024 Convention Keynote Speaker

As a mom, I want my kids to listen to me.

But do you know what I have learned?

It starts with me.

That's right. If I want them to listen to me, I must listen to them. And it starts in the beginning. When they are really little, they need me to listen and pay attention to their little whines and cries so that I can best meet their needs.

Not every cry is an "I'm hungry" cry or a "I'm hurting" cry. I have to listen intently to distinguish between their cries so that I can learn what they mean when they do not have the words to communicate. Too young to be able to talk and verbalize, they rely on me to respond their needs and wants and pains. They depend on my listening.

And it is the same when they grow older. Once they have words, they are still inhibited by age to effectively communicate their needs to me. They are still depending on me, though they would rather not have to, to understand their meaning.

I must listen to know if they are tired, or hungry or overwhelmed. And I can tell the difference because I am their mom. I am with them all of the time and I know their little signals. Often, I know they are tired before they do. I know they are over stimulated when they insist, they are not. I know when they are afraid when they don't want to admit it.

As I listen to them and seek to provide for them, they come to realize my love for them. They also learn that they can trust me. They can count on me to take care of them, help them, and protect them. Because I have valued their little sounds, whines, groans, and sighs, they start to let me listen to their heart, their hopes, dreams, fears, concerns, and hurts.

But I'm not the only one listening. They listen to me too. The familiar sound of my heartbeat soothes them when they rest in my arms. My breathing and sighing serve to comfort them.

My feet pattering softly across the floor alerts them to my approach. I hum, whisper, even laugh and they listen. I communicate through my smile and silly faces. Through rocking and snuggling and holding I'm saying something even before words have a meaning.

As words take on meaning, they are mimicked and repeated. Questions are fired at rapid pace, and children begin practicing their new found talent forming sentences. Some would say that this is when the real communication starts. I would argue that it already had, but that the words make it seem more real.



Here's the deal. We want our kids to listen to us when we talk so that we can pass along valuable information and wisdom. But in order for them to really listen to us, not just hear us, but really listen, we must first listen, really listen, to them. This is important when they are little, but it's importance only increases as they get older. When they are little, we must teach them to respect us; as they become teenagers our goal should be to have earned their trust. Both are established through our listening to them.

Good mothers are good listeners. They don't just listen to the sounds their children make, but they listen to their body language, their facial expressions, their moods, interactions with others, their schoolwork, their worship, their sleeping patterns, their diet, their social interactions, their entertainment choices, their music, oh, and their words.

Good mothers listen to the questions behind the questions, to the issues behind the acting out, to the hurts behind the disrespect. Good mothers don't rush to answer. Instead, they pause to really hear. They aren't intimidated by the silence and don't try to pretend to know what they don't. They don't hide their emotion and know that tears aren't meant to be stifled or stuffed.

Good mothers are what we all aspire to be. We think that to qualify as a good mother we must give our kids stuff or things or money or vacations. But the secret to being a good mother is the same it has always been. What kids need most of all, what we often overlook, what we try to replace, what we substitute with entertainment is free and simple, but so difficult for us to give them. It's our time.

This isn't a new insight. We all know this. Listening takes time-lots of time. It cannot be scheduled or compartmentalized. It should not be limited or put off or ignored. Our kids want to be heard; they want to be known. They communicate in a million different ways. Our challenge is to dare to learn their language by listening to them.

Let us determine to listen.

Let us intentionally take time TODAY to listen to them, what they are saying and what they are not saying.

Let us resolve to lay a foundation of listening down now that we can continue to build on for years to come.

Father,

Forgive us for only passively listening to our children. Forgive us for hoping they didn't notice. Forgive us for wanting them to listen to us, when we aren't listening to them. Thank You for always listening to us as we ramble and babble and question and dream. Thank You that You give each of us Your full attention. Thank You for caring, for acting, for responding. You are faithful. Teach us Father, how to listen to our children as You listen to us.
In Jesus Name-Amen

Rachael Carman and her husband Davis are the owners of Apologia Educational Ministries. A respected international speaker, author, and podcaster, Rachael Carman has traveled the world speaking at conferences and retreats, teaching God's Word to parents and children. Mom to seven and "Coco" to three, Rachael is a twenty-six year homeschool veteran and continues to be energized by affirming, encouraging, and equipping the next generation of homeschooling families to answer the call.

Come hear Rachael speak at UTCH's Convention on April 12-13!



Join Us!

29th Annual UTCH Convention

April 12-13, 2024



Canyons Church
1700 East 7000 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

For more information:
utch.org/convention

Early bird registration opens February 1.

We hope to see you there!



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