



## Welcome to Alabama Home Education Day 2026!

Dear Homeschool Families,

Welcome to Alabama Home Education Day 2026—we're so glad you're here! Whether this is your first time attending or you've joined us in years past, today is about celebrating the power of home education, building relationships with our legislators, and showing the strength and unity of our homeschool community across Alabama.

What began as a simple idea over seven years ago has grown into something real, vibrant, and impactful, and that's because of families like YOU. This day has always been shaped by the families who show up, explore, engage, and represent home education well, and this year is no different.

This day is designed to be flexible and family-led. Take time to explore the Capitol and Archives, visit your legislators' offices, complete scavenger hunts, take photos, cheer on our spotlight students, and connect with one another along the way. Whether you stay for a short visit or make a full day of it, your presence matters.

You are part of something bigger than just one event. By being here, you help show that Alabama homeschoolers are thoughtful, involved, and invested in our communities and our state.

Thank you for being here, and thank you for all you do, every day, to support home education in Alabama.

With gratitude,  
Erin Wainwright  
South Alabama Homeschooling

*Alabama Home Education Day is a non-partisan, educational event focused on civic engagement, gratitude, and relationship-building.*

## ~A Note from Erin~

Due to an unexpected family situation, I will need to step back from hosting Alabama Home Education Day in person this year.

This was not an easy decision, but it's the right one for my family at this time. I am still committed to supporting homeschool families by ensuring you have the information and access needed to participate independently.

To make this possible:

- Guided tour slots will be maintained only for organized groups with designated leaders
- All other guided tours will be canceled
- Families may still attend independently and participate in public tours and self-guided exploration

Because of this change, there will not be a designated morning check-in location.

However, event leadership will be on site to support key scheduled moments, including:

- Legislative shout-outs
- Group photo on the Capitol steps at noon
- The 2:00 PM "How a Bill Gets Made" speaker session

An email packet will be sent with planning details, maps, and public tour information.

🔔 Please be sure to check in on the Homeschooling Across Alabama Facebook page for day-of updates and bonus opportunities.

**Thank you for your grace, kindness, and understanding.**

# Alabama Home Education Day 2026

 Thursday, Feb 26th | Montgomery, AL

## PLAN AHEAD: EVENT PACKET

Please plan to print your event packet before you come or have it available on your phone during the day.

The packet will include scavenger hunts, activity ideas, and helpful tips, and will be easy to find on the website prior to the event.

## VISITING THE ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL

Families are welcome to visit and explore the Alabama State Capitol throughout the day.

The Capitol regularly offers public tours during normal weekday hours, and availability may vary depending on legislative activity.

To keep your visit interactive and family-friendly, be sure to use our Capitol Scavenger Hunt included in your packet.

## VISITING THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

The Alabama Archives are also open to the public and make a wonderful stop during your day downtown.

Families are encouraged to explore exhibits at their own pace and use the Archives Scavenger Hunt to help students engage with Alabama history in a hands-on way.

## LEGISLATIVE SHOUT-OUTS

 Between 10:00 – 10:30 AM

Homeschoolers will be officially recognized in both the House and Senate chambers during this time.

If you'd like to be present, feel free to step in. We'll also be capturing photos and video to share afterward for those who miss it.

## OPEN ACTIVITY TIME

 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This is your time to explore! Families are encouraged to:

-  Complete your Capitol, MOOseum, and Archives Scavenger Hunts
-  Stop by your Senator or Representative's office and say hello
-  Visit nearby historic sites like the First White House of the Confederacy
-  Snap photos at our photo check-in spots throughout Capitol Square
-  Deliver thank-you or appreciation cards to your local legislators

## GROUP PHOTO — DON'T MISS IT!

 12:00 PM

- 📍 Front steps of the Capitol

Let's gather for a group photo celebrating homeschool unity across Alabama!

## LUNCH ON THE LAWN

 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Bring a picnic or enjoy lunch outdoors. This is a great time to relax, connect with other families, and wave to legislators as they walk by.

## AFTERNOON LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

 2:00 PM – How a Bill Becomes a Law

- 📍 Room 804, State House

Hosted by Eagle Forum

A fun, interactive session designed to help students better understand the Alabama legislative process.

## OPEN ACTIVITY TIME

 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Wrap up scavenger hunts, visit local museums, take photos, stop by legislators' offices, or deliver remaining cards.

**This time is intentionally flexible and family-led—make the most of the experience!**

*By attending, you understand that photos and video may be taken for educational and promotional use. If you prefer not to be photographed, please step aside during group photos.*

## Alabama State Capitol Scavenger Hunt

 *Look, learn, and check off as you go!*

### Find the Star on the Steps

At the top of the front stairs, look for a star marking the spot where Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President of the Confederacy in 1861.

### Locate the Dome

Stand in the rotunda and look up! What do you see painted in the dome ceiling? Can you count the flags or symbols?

### Spot the Governor's Portrait

Find the gallery with portraits of Alabama's governors.

 Who was governor when you were born?

### Hunt for the Mosaics

Check the floors! What kind of images are used in the mosaic tiles? (Hint: Look for cotton, corn, and stars!)

### Visit the Old Senate Chamber

Where important decisions were once made.

 How many chairs are set up in the room?

### Find a Bald Eagle

There are carvings, sculptures, and symbols all around the building—can you find a bald eagle?

### Look for the Capitol's Original Bell

Can you find the 1850s bell that used to signal important announcements?

### Check Out the Historic Flags

Find the display of Alabama's state flags over time.

 Which one is your favorite?

### Locate the Rotunda's Columns

How many white columns surround you in the rotunda?

### Find the Alabama State Seal

It shows the rivers of the state—can you find it somewhere inside the building?

### Search for the Spiral Staircases by Horace King

Look for the beautiful cantilevered spiral staircases—no central support column! These were built by Horace King, a formerly enslaved man who became one of the South's most respected architects and bridge builders.

 Which side of the building did you find one on?

### BONUS ACTIVITY:

Draw or snap a photo of your favorite feature inside the Capitol building on the back of this page and share it with us online or at check-in!

 Tag your photos:

#HomeEdDayScavenger #AlabamaHomeEducationDay

# Alabama Archives Scavenger Hunt

## Explore Alabama's past, one clue at a time!

### Find the First Governor of Alabama

Who was the very first governor of Alabama?

 Name:

### Spot a Vintage School Desk

Can you find what classrooms used to look like long ago? Look for an old-fashioned school desk.

 How is it different from or same as your school setup?

### Check Out the Civil War Uniforms

Find a uniform from either the Union or Confederate Army.

 What color is it?

### Find an Old Alabama Flag

Can you find an Alabama state flag from a different era?

 What year is it from?

### See the First State Constitution

Can you find a copy of Alabama's first constitution?

 What year was it signed?

### Look for the World War I Display

Find something from Alabama's role in World War I.

 What item stood out to you?

### Discover Something From Native American History

Can you find artifacts or displays about Alabama's earliest inhabitants?

 What did you find?

### Find a Typewriter

Can you locate an old-fashioned typewriter?

 Would you want to write a whole essay on that? Yes / No

### Look for a Telephone

Find a telephone from a different time in Alabama history.

 How is it different from your phone today?

### Visit the Children's Area or Kid Corner (if available)

 What hands-on activity or item did you enjoy most?

### BONUS: Find Alabama's Oldest Map

Can you locate a really old map of Alabama?

 What year is it from?

### BONUS ACTIVITY:

Draw or write about your favorite artifact, photo, or story from the Archives on back of this page!

 Don't forget to share your photos!

#HomeEdDayScavenger #AlabamaHomeEducationDay

# The MOOseum Scavenger Hunt

## Learn about Alabama's cattle industry and its roots!

### Meet Cowboy Jack

Find Cowboy Jack—the MOOseum's friendly mascot!

 What is Cowboy Jack wearing?

### Find a Real Branding Iron

Can you find a branding iron used by cattle ranchers?

 What letter or symbol is on it?

### Learn the Difference Between Beef & Dairy Cattle

Look at the displays comparing beef and dairy cattle.

 What's one difference you learned?

### See the Cowboy Gear

Find the saddles, ropes, boots, or hats used by Alabama cowboys.

 What item would you want to try using?

### Watch the Beef Life Cycle

Find the chart or video explaining how beef is produced.

 How long does it take to raise a cow for beef?

### Discover the Tools of the Trade

Look for old tools and equipment used on Alabama cattle farms.

 What's one tool you didn't recognize?

### Find a Cow Skeleton or Skull

Spooky or cool? Find a real cow skeleton or skull on display!

 What part of the cow did you find?

### Try the Interactive Station

Check out any hands-on displays—like puzzles, sounds, or dress-up!

 What was your favorite activity?

### Spot a Leather Product

Can you find something made from cowhide or leather?

 What was it?

### Look for an Alabama Cattle Rancher Story

Find a story or profile about a real Alabama rancher.

 What was their name or what did they do?

### BONUS ACTIVITY:

Draw your favorite part of the MOOseum or your dream cowboy hat!

### Don't forget to share your photos!

#HomeEdDayScavenger #AlabamaHomeEducationDay

## **P** Parking & Around Town Extras

### PARKING INFO

We recommend downloading the ParkMobile app before you arrive. It's quick to set up and allows you to manage and extend your parking right from your phone—super convenient for families on the move!

Many downtown areas, including near the Capitol, use this system for metered parking.

### FREE Around-Town Attractions

Not all of these are within walking distance—but they're great options if you arrive early, stay later, or plan to explore Montgomery before heading home!

#### **Hank Williams Sr. Statue**

216 Commerce St – A tribute to the legendary country singer from Alabama.

#### **Hank Williams Memorial & Gravesite**

Oakwood Annex Cemetery, 118 Commerce St – A peaceful spot honoring the singer's final resting place.

#### **Civil Rights Mural**

Corner of Lee St & Montgomery St – A beautiful and meaningful mural near the Rosa Parks Museum.

#### **The Casket on the Steiner-Lobman Building**

184 Commerce St – An iconic downtown mystery and local landmark.

#### **Montgomery Area Visitor Center**

300 Water Street – A great stop for brochures, history, and local tips!

#### **Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**

One Museum Drive – A top-rated FREE museum with beautiful galleries and a kids' interactive area.

#### **First White House of the Confederacy**

644 Washington Ave – Historic home of Jefferson Davis with kind, welcoming staff. (Walkable from Capitol!)

#### **Alabama Artists Gallery**

201 Monroe St, #110 – Showcasing the work of talented Alabama-based artists.

#### **Wright Flyer Statue**

604 Maxwell Blvd – Commemorating the Wright Brothers and Alabama's connection to aviation history.

### TOP-RATED PLAYGROUNDS

Looking for a place to run and play? Here are some favorite local parks (as recommended by Montgomery Parents Magazine):

 **Gateway Park – 3800 Davenport Pkwy**

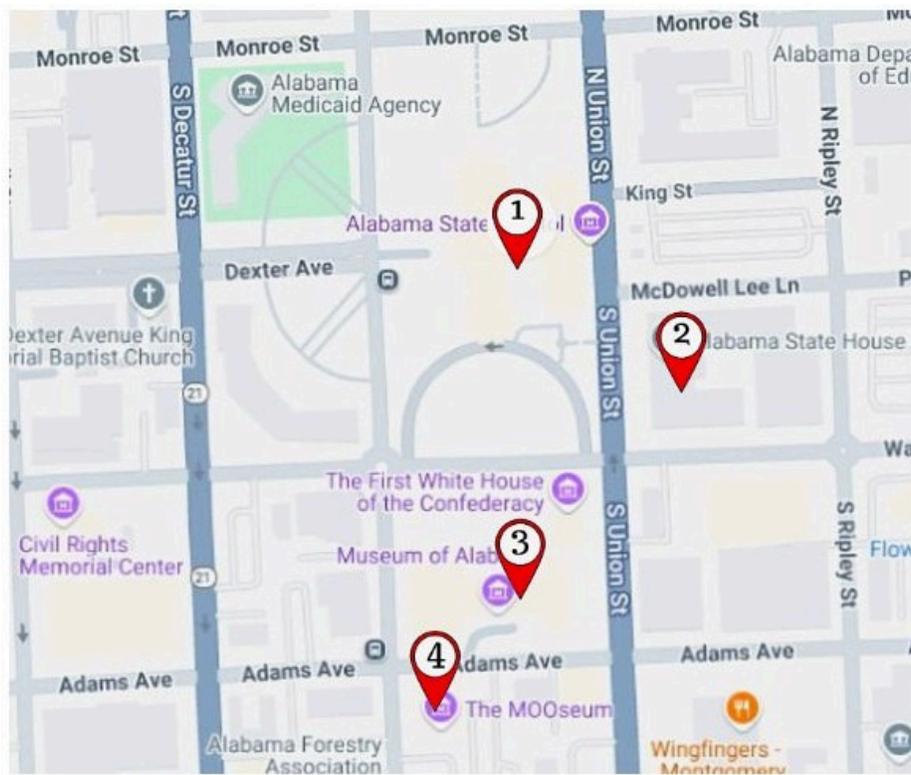
 **Oak Park – 1010 Forest Ave**

 **Ida Bell Young Park – 5400 Vaughn Rd**

 **Vaughn Road Park – 3620 Vaughn Rd**

 **Kiwanis Park – 400 N Hull St**

 **Wright Brothers Park – Maxwell Blvd**



## Event Locations

### 1. Alabama State Capitol

600 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36130

This historic building has served as the seat of Alabama's government since 1851. It's where laws are made, leaders meet, and history lives. You'll find incredible architecture, portraits of past governors, and the iconic dome rotunda.

### 2. Alabama State House

11 S Union St, Montgomery, AL 36130

Right across from the Capitol, the State House is where the Alabama Legislature meets during sessions. This is where our shout-outs will happen on the Senate and House floors, and where afternoon sessions like "How a Bill Becomes a Law" will take place!

### 3. Alabama Department of Archives & History

624 Washington Ave, Montgomery, AL 36130

This is the oldest state-funded archives in the U.S. and one of Montgomery's best-kept gems. It features engaging exhibits about Alabama's history—from Native American heritage to civil rights and beyond. We'll have a scavenger hunt here!

### 4. The MOOseum (Alabama Cattlemen's Association)

201 S Bainbridge St, Montgomery, AL 36104

A fun, family-friendly museum dedicated to Alabama's beef and cattle industry. Explore hands-on exhibits, learn about cowboys and ranching, and meet Cowboy Jack, the mascot! It's also part of your scavenger hunt adventure.

# 👋 Meet Your Legislator: Quick Guide

*Use this page to help guide your visit and remember who you met!*

## 🗣️ What Do I Say?

It's okay to be nervous—your presence and kindness go a long way! Here are a few simple things you can say:

### 1. Introduce Yourself:

“Hi, I’m [Your Name], and I’m here with my family for Alabama Home Education Day.”

### 2. Mention You Homeschool:

“We’re a homeschooling family from [Your City or County], and we’re so glad to be here today!”

### 3. Share Something Positive or Inspiring:

“This year, my kids... [mention something exciting: won an award, joined a co-op, got accepted into a program, etc.]. We love the flexibility and opportunities that homeschooling offers.”

### 4. Say Thank You:

“We appreciate your service and your support of educational freedom in Alabama.”

## ✍️ Write Down Who You Met:

Senator’s Name:

District:

Representative’s Name:

District:

Staffer or Assistant You Spoke With (if applicable):

Did you take a photo with your legislator? Y / N

(If yes—don’t forget to tag us when you post it!)

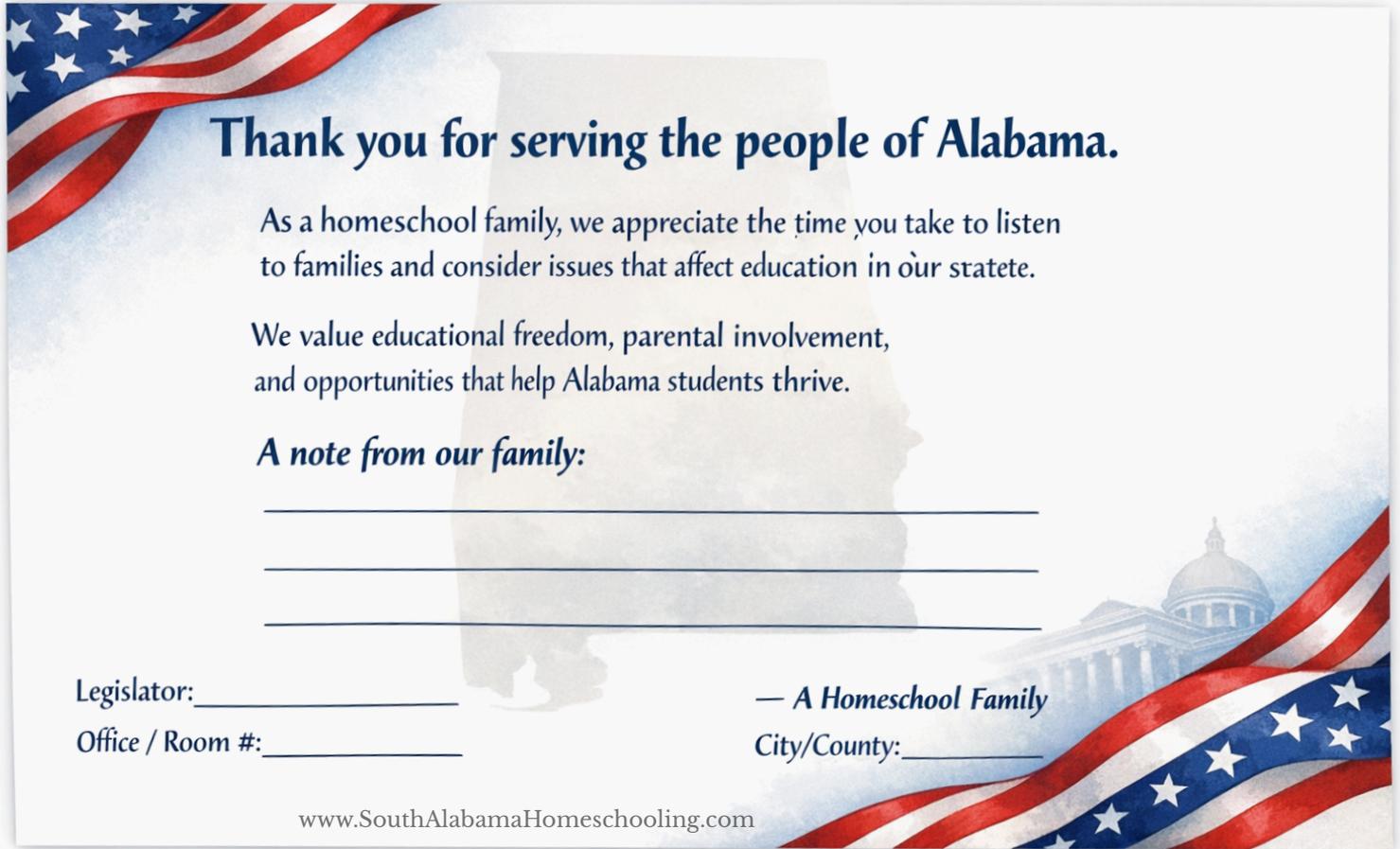
📷 #HomeEdDayPhotos

Need help finding your legislator? Scan this QR code to be taken to a website you enter your address and find yours!



Print the postcard and write a brief note of appreciation. During your visit, leave it with your legislator or their office staff.

Use the QR code on the previous page to look up your legislator and office location.



**Thank you for serving the people of Alabama.**

As a homeschool family, we appreciate the time you take to listen to families and consider issues that affect education in our state.

We value educational freedom, parental involvement, and opportunities that help Alabama students thrive.

***A note from our family:***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

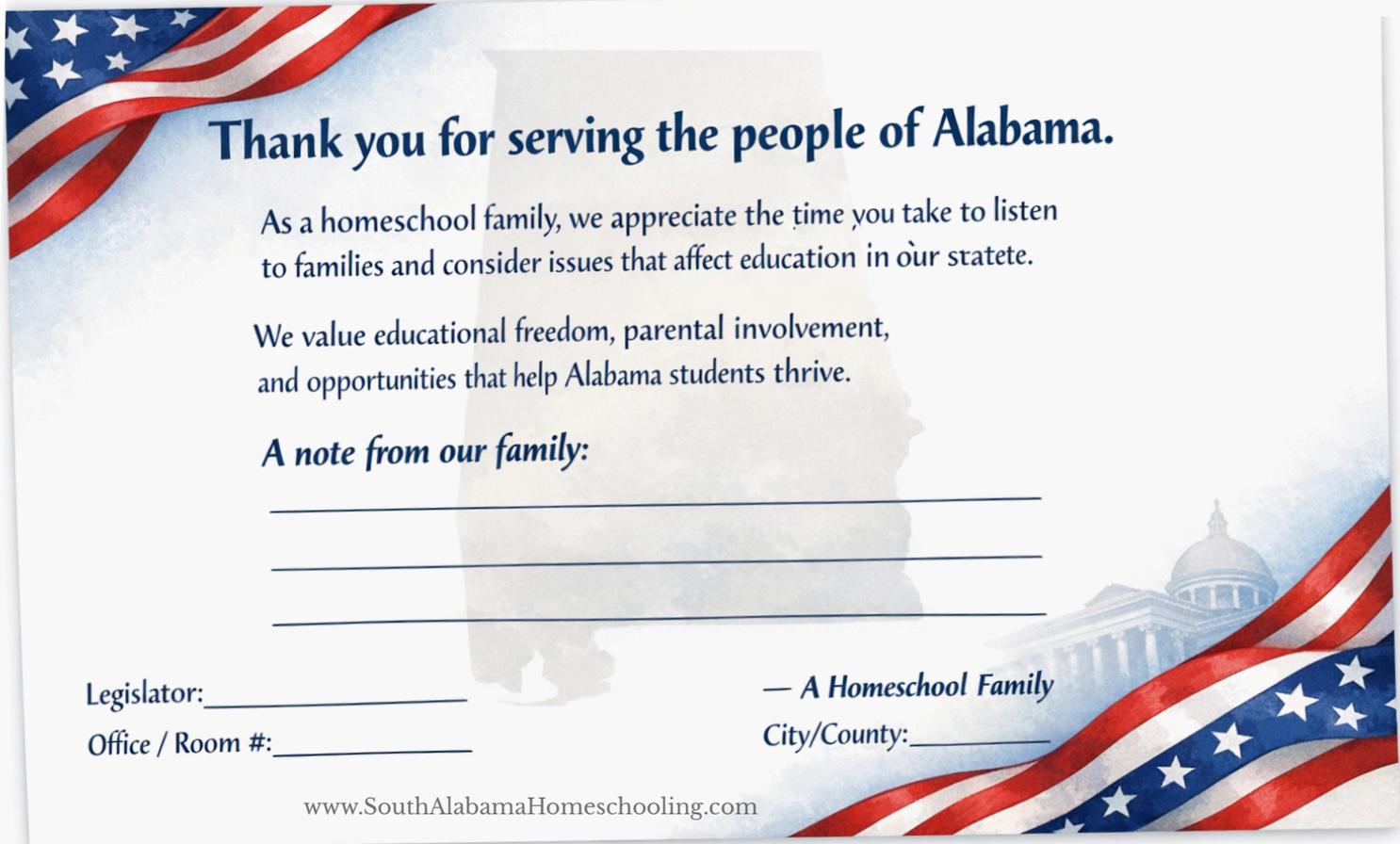
Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Office / Room #: \_\_\_\_\_

— *A Homeschool Family*

City/County: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.SouthAlabamaHomeschooling.com](http://www.SouthAlabamaHomeschooling.com)



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## 🌟 Upcoming Projects & Year-Round Opportunities

We're always working on ways to celebrate, preserve, and promote the Alabama homeschool community—not just on Home Education Day, but throughout the entire year!

### 📖 Collecting Our Stories: Alabama Homeschool Pioneers

Were you part of Alabama's early homeschool movement? Did you help shape the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today? We would love to hear from you!

If your family was among the early Alabama home education pioneers, we want to preserve your story and honor your legacy. 🔍 Find our current timeline: [SouthAlabamaHomeschooling.com](https://SouthAlabamaHomeschooling.com) → [Homeschooling Across Alabama](#) → [Alabama Homeschool History Timeline](#)

📧 Share your story or contact info by messaging us on our Facebook page or emailing us at:

✉️ [erin@southalabamahomeschooling.com](mailto:erin@southalabamahomeschooling.com)

### 🌟 Spotlight on Alabama Homeschoolers

Throughout the year—and in our packet to legislators—we feature homeschoolers from across the state doing amazing things!

We're looking for:

- 🎭 Performers, artists, athletes, entrepreneurs
- 🎓 College acceptances or special programs
- 🔧 Builders, coders, writers, leaders, and makers
- 🌟 Graduated homeschoolers doing awesome things!

If your child, group, or co-op accomplished something great in 2023 or 2024—we want to know about it!

📸 Send a short blurb and a photo via Facebook message or email us at:

✉️ [erin@southalabamahomeschooling.com](mailto:erin@southalabamahomeschooling.com)

💖 We can't wait to hear from you!

These stories help encourage fellow families, celebrate student success, and show our lawmakers just how vibrant and capable Alabama's homeschool community really is. Thank you for being part of something bigger—we're so glad you're here.

Let's keep making homeschool history together. 💖

# With Gratitude

*Thank you to the people and organizations who helped make Alabama Home Education Day 2025 possible!*

Events like this take a village—and we are incredibly grateful to the individuals, support groups, and organizations who gave their time, talents, and resources to bring this vision to life. Your contributions help us celebrate home education, empower families, and advocate for the freedoms we hold dear.

## **A heartfelt thank you to:**

South Alabama Homeschooling – for organizing, coordinating, and continuing to lead the way in homeschool support, advocacy, and community-building across the state.

## **A special thank you to:**

Gaillard Tech Services – for our fantastic, user-friendly website that helps homeschoolers across Alabama connect, find resources, and stay informed.

## **Deep appreciation to:**

HSLDA – for ongoing legislative support, encouragement, and generous financial contributions that make events like this possible.

## **Honoring Homeschool Leadership from Across the State:**

We are proud to stand alongside amazing homeschool leaders and support groups who represent families all across Alabama:

Compass Point Christian Academy, Baldwin County Homeschooling, White Sands Academy, Pathway Co-op, Alabama ESA Homeschool Support (CHOOSE Act), Coffee County Alabama Homeschool Alliance, Alabama Homeschool Alliance, Enterprise Homeschool Support, and Pathways Co-op!

Your encouragement, teamwork, and example continue to shape and grow our community. We're thankful for you all! 