CONVENTION ROAD MAP

April 27-29, 2023 | Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas

June 1-3, 2023 | Houston, Texas

ORDINARY PARENTS RAISING *extraordinary* KIDS.

A little help along the way...

Welcome to the world of homeschool conventions! Whether you are new to this or a longtime attendee, we are excited that you are joining us!

I love Texas HomeSchool Conventions with all my heart. That's why I am thrilled to team up with THSC to provide this resource. Some feel lost or overwhelmed by everything offered at Convention, so here's a road map to ensure that you can confidently navigate your way and make the most of your Convention weekend.

On the next page we break down the three sections and talk about how to use each one.

Feel free to use or not use any of the included pages. Let them be a help, not a burden!

And if you get overwhelmed onsite, stop. Breathe. Connect with a seasoned mom or dad. We're sure they would love to share from their experience!

And don't forget... You can homeschool. We can help.

See you at convention,
Thara Reintz & THSC

TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION

Check out Thara's blog at proverbs31inprogress.org!

Evaluation

As a homeschool mom myself, I know that you don't have hours of uninterrupted time to think about all the strengths and weaknesses of your homeschooling.

However, there can be a lot of value in simply looking at what is working and what is not. We designed the evaluation pages to help simplify this process. Grab a pencil and your favorite drink and spend a few minutes looking at your year.

Spend as much or as little time as you want. If you are new to homeschooling, write down what you anticipate for now and then come back to these pages mid-year.

Discovery

Once you have evaluated your current plan, you are ready to start the discovery process! This step is all about uncovering solutions for struggles and identifying what inspires more of what you love about your homeschool life.

Start exploring via the event app before you even arrive and continue doing so throughout the event. There are so many ways to homeschool, and there is always something new to learn. So take notes in the sessions, talk to the experts in the exhibit hall, and allow yourself to think outside the box.

Direction

Our hope is that your Convention experience will be transformative. We want you to leave excited and equipped for this next step in your journey.

After Convention, take a moment to reflect and record some of your takeaways. Keep this guide as a part of your homeschool record. Refer to it throughout the year for encouragement and as a reminder of the vision you set forth for the year.

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Get the event App for tons of features and up-to-date details! Hover over the image with your smartphone camera and follow the link to download.

Evaluation

Homeschool Assessment

Before Convention weekend, spend some time evaluating your current homeschool plan. If you are new to homeschooling, you can answer the questions based on your anticipated needs.

Our best homeschooling days have included the following:

What is going well in my homeschool that I can build on?

Questions about homeschooling:

Issues/struggles we are facing:

I want to have more in my home & homeschool!

Evaluation

Current Curriculum

Make a list of your current curriculum. No one wants to waste time and energy on something that isn't a good fit! Instead, ask yourself a few evaluative questions to give you some clarity.

Curriculum	Is it working?	Why or why not?	Time to find another option?

Evaluation

Individual Plan

Print one per child. Write out the specific curriculum plan for each child for the upcoming year. On the left, list things you already plan to use and things you think would be a good fit. You can add to this section throughout Convention. When faced with a myriad of options, use the right side to help narrow your choices.

Child's name:

Grade:

Curriculum Resource Plan:

Learning Style:

Interests/Passions:

Challenges:

Areas to Develop:

Curriculum Needs

List what you need for the next year (think resources, not personal chef). Maybe it's something specific you need to buy, like the next level of a student workbook. Or it could be something that needs more consideration—like which Spanish curriculum is the best fit. Start the list before Convention and add to it as you go.

Buy it

Discover it

The Convention app has all sorts of cool features which allow you to find and connect with vendors before you ever arrive. Once onsite, use the interactive map to locate the booths you want to visit.

Discovery

Convention Hopes

Take some time before you attend Convention to think through your hopes for the weekend.

I am excited to discover…

I want to connect with…

I need practical advice about…

Discovery

Vendor Wish List

As you see and hear about fun or interesting resources, add them here. Think of this like a Christmas wishlist but for homeschool awesomeness. And don't forget to watch for Convention specials!

Item/Resource	Supplier	Comments

Discovery

Session Schedule

Download the Convention app for an up-to-date session schedule. Plan to attend as many keynotes as you can, and then select other sessions based on your particular needs. Jot them down here. If you prefer a digital version, use the app to star sessions and create a customized schedule.

Can't decide between sessions? Need more time in the exhibit hall? Don't sweat it. You can purchase a session recording for anything you missed!

Attend this live	Listen to this later in my jammies

Discovery

Session Notes

Print several so you can take plenty of notes.

Speaker

Session Title

Main takeaway that spoke to my heart...

Discovery

Plan Your Days

Convention looks different for everyone! You can bring the whole gang and take advantage of all the add-on programs for kids and teens. You can treat it as a time to connect and get on the same page with your spouse. Or you could make it a mom's trip for girl time and power-shopping. Whatever you choose, we don't want you to forget to eat or run out of time to explore the exhibits. Consider the following suggestions as you prepare and make your plans.

Attend as Much of Convention as Possible

Called to Teach only comes to your area once a year, so take full advantage of the curated content. Thumb through a book to confirm you are making the right purchase, talk to a publisher or author directly, soak up the wisdom shared in the sessions, and then make some family memories at the evening events! There is a lot to take in and you don't want to be rushed.

Pre-Order Your Meals

Let's face it, event concessions are not the most economical. But what you save in hassle and time by pre-ordering your meals is well worth it! Plus, by doing so you might just make some connections with others along your shared homeschool journey.

Stay Onsite

Staying onsite has its advantages, even if you live close by. It eliminates traffic first thing in the morning, gives you a convenient place to rest before the evening events, and helps provide focus to maximize your time at the event.

Buy Onsite

Everyone loves a good deal, and many vendors offer Convention specials! Knowing your budget before you arrive helps give you the confidence to buy what you need when you see it. While there's always a possibility you can find a better price online, we encourage you to buy from the vendors who have spent significant time and expense to serve you personally!

Bring This Stuff Along

Here is a checklist of things to bring along to ensure you are equipped!

- ◯ Road Map notes
- ◯ Phone (pre-loaded with the Convention app!)
- ◯ Phone charger and extra battery
- ◯ Pen/pencil
- ◯ Extra paper or notebook
- ◯ Sweater/light jacket
- ◯ Comfortable shoes

Direction

Word Cloud

Use this space to create a word cloud of inspiration and takeaways from Convention. Come back to this page throughout the event. When you get home, refer to this page as you finalize your homeschool plans. Let the things you learned at Convention continue to inspire and encourage you all year long!

Direction

Post Convention Reflection

Something I learned about me…

Something I learned about my children…

In the upcoming homeschool year, I will incorporate...

A one-sentence summary of my vision for the upcoming year…