



In Rain or Shine - Homeschooling Outdoors!

One of the best perks of being in charge of your child's education is the power to learn anytime and anywhere – even and especially when that means having “school” outside! With the weather turning warm again – and hopefully staying that way for a while – we've got our minds thinking about how to encourage the kids to have meaningful and educational experiences in nature. A few days ago, for example, I took my four littles outside and we found all the blossoms we could. We compared and contrasted blossoms from different plants and trees. We identified all their different parts and talked about what each part was for. We talked about and looked for bees and other pollinators. We even "dissected" a few blossoms and found hidden treasures inside! And of course, we smelled them all.

Effective outdoor “lessons” can be formal, informal, or even non-existent. While my second academic love is biology and botany, and I get so excited sharing the wonders of nature with my kids,

nature and letting the kids experience it at their own pace and in their own way.

And no surprise here, as often as we can, we like to do it with friends! Below is a list of nature related groups you might be interested in checking out. Like all groups, they range in level of academic instruction, time commitment, and parental involvement. Many of these are nationwide groups that have chapters throughout Utah. If you can't find a chapter or any other local homeschool nature groups near you, maybe you'll find yourself inspired to start your own nature based homeschool group. (You'll find The Homeschool Hub in Layton at the Education Empowerment Homeschool Convention sharing ideas on how to get started – see details below.)

[Hike it, Baby](#) is a nation-wide group, not solely for homeschoolers, that connects families with young children and the great outdoors. Utah has at least two chapters, one in Salt Lake County, and one in Utah County.

[Hit the Trail, Homeschoolers](#) is a state-wide homeschooling hiking group, based off the patterns of Hike it, Baby, wherein homeschooling moms host hikes and invite other homeschoolers to join them.

[Free Forest School](#) is another nation-wide organization, again not specifically for homeschoolers, whose mission is to “[nurture] kids and [empower] adults by connecting to nature, culture, and each through outdoor play.”

[1000 Hours Outside](#) seeks to help families balance screen time

multiple families in the state who do this and LOVE it!

[Every Kid in a Park](#) is a national parks program that gets 4th graders (and their families) into the national parks (and some participating state parks!) for FREE! All you do is sign up! It really couldn't be easier.

[Nature Kids Connect](#) is located in Sandy, Utah and provides summer camps dedicated to educational experiences immersed in nature.

[Ladybugs and Little Bees Enrichment Academy](#) serves St. George, Santa Clara, Washington, Hurricane, and surrounding areas. They offer 2, 3, and 5 day programs. For more info, contact Eva Najera (619-551-5090)

[Wasatch Nature School](#) in Provo, Utah

[Forest School of Utah County](#)

[Utah County Nature Group](#)

[Youth Garden Project](#) in Moab, Utah

[Cedar Forest Co-op](#) in Cedar City, Utah

A major part of the Homeschool Hub's mission is to connect homeschooling families with the communities they are looking for, whether or not they are nature based. There are A LOT of wonderful NON-nature based co-ops and groups out there in the state. Many of them are brand new and looking for new members for the upcoming school year. If you have a group that isn't yet represented on the Hub, consider filling out the form so people who are looking for you can find you! It's completely free to

[FIND YOUR GROUP](#)[REGISTER YOUR GROUP](#)

Upcoming Statewide Events



LDSHE West Conference

Latter-Day Saints Home Educators Conference, May 25-27, 2022, featuring an adult AND youth conference.

Where: Off US-189 in Provo, Canyon.

See [link](#) for more details.

Education Empowerment Conference

May 21st, 2022 in Layton, Utah, in combination with the Elevation Youth Summit for teens!

Where: Davis Conference Center
1651 N 700 W, Layton, UT 84041

See [link](#) for more details.



encourage them to sign up for the Homeschool Hub's newsletters so they will have access to future Hub freebies!

Preparing for Graduation?



Utah Home Educators Association is hosting a Homeschool Graduation this year, June 1st, in South Jordan. Find details [here](#).

The LDSHE Conference is also sponsoring a homeschool graduation. Have youth register with the graduation committee to be recognized. Find details [here](#).



Maybe your homeschooler isn't ready to graduate, but is ready to consider going on to college. Look into preparing a homeschool transcript. It may be easier than you think. Get more information [here](#).

Homeschool Funding Options

Two Funding Options for Homeschooling in Utah in 2022-2023

registered with either program) begin to pre-register for the new school year around this time.

Learn more about these programs from their websites: [My Tech High](#) and [Harmony Ed](#).

Here is an excellent [comparison blogpost](#) about the two programs from 2020. *Details for 2022-2023 may be different. Do your research!



Homeschool Family Spotlight



Meet the Breinholts in Sanpete County

Becca felt the pull to homeschool her kids right from the start. But as they got older, she found there weren't many high school options in her community. [Read about her story](#) and how she created a solution!

Did you Know?

The Homeschool Hub has a space dedicated for businesses who cater to homeschoolers to advertise their business! And the best part is, it's FREE!

[Click HERE for more information.](#)

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Anything, everything, can be learned if you can just get yourself in a little patch
of real ground, real nature, real wood, real anything ... and just sit still and
watch. ~ **Lauren Hutton**

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