

# To "School" in Summer or Not to "School" in Summer...

At about this time every year, when the new, little buds are pushing up out of the soil and the sun is shining bright and warm, I have a hard time sitting inside helping my kids diagram sentences and locate misplaced modifiers. Summer is *so close*; we can literally FEEL it! But we persevere, pushing through the last few pages of our math, grammar, history, etc., just like my tulips and daffodils in the front yard pushing towards the sunshine. You can just sense that everyone is ready to be done with the daily routine and get outside. And this is coming from someone who *likes* routines. A lot!

But just because we are done with "school," doesn't mean we are done with learning. For many homeschool families around the state, summer doesn't equate to what our public-school counterparts consider "summer break." Sure, maybe our routines change a little bit, but because homeschooling is a *lifestyle* and a *culture*, as opposed to a place where we hang out for 6 hours a everywhere we go and in everything we do. In my family, our lessons become hiking, camping, reading, swimming, exploring, traveling, and sometimes we actually DO pick up the history or math if we feel like it. Some years I've added spelling, or Fine Art Appreciation, just for the fun of it and we couldn't fit it in during the school year. My one hard and fast rule is that we keep it relaxed. I know a lot of you feel the same way about homeschooling in the summer, but I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn there are just as many ways to "summer school" as there are homeschool families!

I spoke (via Facebook) with some moms up in Weber and Cache Counties and learned how they organize their school year. One mom starts each year in January instead of August like the public schools. Another mom suffers from Seasonal Affective Disorder. Because winter is a harder time to get through, summer becomes her family's most productive season! In fact, more than one mom told me they get the MOST done during the summer. A number of families work around Dad's work schedule, which sometimes means untraditional seasons become the best time to vacation, thus pushing "school" into all the other open seasons. Then there are the new baby breaks, which happen naturally on their own schedule regardless of season. And of course, many families homeschool year-round, taking a week or two break now and again when needed.

This is one of those topics where the phrase "you do you" applies absolutely perfectly. I can see so many benefits from all of these methods.

For me, "me doing me" looks like NOT doing traditional school.

who really wants to "get ahead" in grammar, so I don't know. Maybe this summer will look different and we'll try something new. We'll figure it out as we go along – which of course, is what we do all year long anyway.

Do YOU have extra time this summer? Would YOU like to try something new? Are you interested in joining the Homeschool Hub team? Our non-profit is growing, and we are looking for passionate and dedicated Utah homeschool moms just like YOU to help connect, empower, educate, and serve homeschool families in your local area and across the state of Utah. Take a moment to fill out a survey if you are interested in learning more! You have more to give than you realize.

VOLUNTEER

## **Upcoming Statewide Events**



Southern Utah Homeschool Convention April 30th, 2022 in St. George, Utah with preconference workshops of April 29th. Where: Red Lion

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#### 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.





#### 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 <u>link</u> for more details.

Two Funding Options for Homeschooling in

Utah in 2022-2023

My Tech High and Harmony Ed are two ways to help fund your homeschool. Many homeschool families



nce Learning" families if registered

school year around this time. Learn more about these programs from their websites: <u>My Tech High</u> and <u>Harmony Ed</u>. Here is an excellent <u>comparison blogpost</u> about the two programs from 2020. \*Details for 2022-2023 may be different. Do your research!



### The Honest Homeschool: Family Spotlight



Meet the Mock Family in Utah County

Through a series of blog posts by real homeschool families around the state, we share our good and bad, but always beautiful, honest, and true homeschool experiences to inspire and encourage. Meet a new family each month. <u>Read more here.</u>

# 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!

Dick HERE for more information.





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"Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire."

-W.B. Yeats

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