



**CAPE**  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
PARENT EDUCATORS - NM

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## CAPE Calendar of Events

October 16-18, 2020, CAPE-NM Fall Family Retreat - [www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/](http://www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/)

February 1-5, 2021, TeenPact Leadership School, ages 13-19

February 4, 2021, CAPE at the Capitol  
[For More Information](#)



February 5th, 2021, TeenPact 1-day class, ages 8-12

May 15, 2021, CAPE-NM Graduation at Legacy Church

June 11-12, 2021, CAPE-NM Homeschool Convention at Legacy Church

## Welcome Aboard



Sam and Vikki Wingerd began their homeschooling adventure in 1997 when a friend introduced the topic of homeschooling, which was new to Sam & Vikki. They all decided to go to the CAPE-NM convention and learn about it. The friend backed out just before the convention, but Sam & Vikki went anyway. They both felt the Lord directing them to homeschool and decided... well it is only Kindergarten. If it doesn't work out, we can put him in school next year, since he has a late July birthday. Each year, they would ask the Lord again, and He would direct them to keep homeschooling.

The Lord had a plan. One of their sons was diagnosed with "high functioning autism." All the doctors and therapists commented that he would have been lost in the "public system." Because they were able to give him the personal attention and adjust to his learning style, he flourished.

Sam and Vikki homeschooled four of their children from Preschool thru high school. They learned that each had a different personality, learning style, and challenge. They learned that they had to adapt their teaching methods to each child. They also learned that the older children could help the younger children learn.

They participated in homeschool co-ops where parents took turns teaching various topics to the children which supplemented the at-home learning experience. A highlight for their family each year was the ability to participate in homeschool choir,

dramas, and band. Their children thrived on these activities and made friendships which they expect will last a lifetime.

CAPE has been a special lifeline for the Wingerd family. In addition to the annual convention, which they have been to every year, CAPE keeps the homeschool community updated about legislative bills that might impact homeschools, as well as other activities happening in and around the state. Through participation in the annual CAPE conventions, the Wingerds were able to connect with other homeschool families and homeschool groups and get support and new ideas during the conference. Often, that encouragement came just as they felt like they were ready to give up. After participating in these conventions for years, they saw just how important these events were to homeschooling families, so they began to volunteer. They volunteered with Recording, Registration, Runner Supervisor, the CAPE Table, and the CAPE Graduation. Now that their children have all graduated from High School and are out on their own, Sam and Vikki are excited to join the CAPE Board where they can further help Christian homeschool families chart their course toward successfully homeschooling their children, as the Lord leads.

On a personal note, Sam and Vikki live in Albuquerque. They have five children; the oldest is married and has three boys. They would like to thank the homeschool community for the opportunity to serve you.

## HSLDA Update



From misinformation to wrong requirements, CAPE has been working with HSLDA on behalf of New Mexico families for several weeks. We've heard from so many families being told they needed to do this or be approved or fill out yet another form. Thank you to the many families who have replied to questions on various Facebook links, as we've all worked to get the correct information about the requirements for homeschooling in New Mexico. If you want more information on the requirements, please visit our website here <https://www.cape-nm.org/new-to-homeschooling->

In an effort to keep you up to date with the communications between HSLDA and the PED/NM Health Department, we've included the letter below.

*Dear HSLDA Members and Friends:*

*On July 30, 2020, the New Mexico Department of Health issued a public health emergency order due to COVID-19.*

*The Department of Health ordered that "homeschools serving children who are not household members, shall adhere to the face covering and other requirements for in-person instruction."*

*One of these other requirements is that such homeschools are to only operate with "a maximum occupancy of 25% of any enclosed indoor space." The current order is in effect until August 28, 2020.*

*This order applies to any homeschool co-op or educational meeting that provides in-person instruction to children who are of different households. A homeschool group could be found in violation if it fails to meet the guidelines of this order.*

*While public schools will not be open for in-person instruction until September 8, at the earliest, our primary concern is that private educational institutions are not treated differently than public schools. According to the "Reentry Guidance" published by the New Mexico Public Education Department, once public schools open back up they may have an occupancy of 50%.*

*It is our position that private educational institutions and homeschool co-op programs should, at the very least, be on equal footing when it comes to freedom of education. No private school or homeschool co-op should be held to greater restrictions than the local public school.*

*Home School Legal Defense Association is currently exploring options to ensure that any future orders treat homeschool programs equally. Our primary mission is to defend any homeschool family who might face unjust government interference in the private choices of parents directing the education of their children. HSLDA has already contacted the Department of Health, and we will continue to advocate for homeschool freedom, even during a pandemic.*

*If your homeschool group has questions about the impact of this order on their activities, please have them contact us.*

**Rooms Still Available**





If you've never joined us in the beautiful Sacramento Mountains in southern New Mexico, this just might be the year to change that. Fellowship with other homeschool families around the state, Townhall Meetings to share ideas, words of encouragement from former CAPE Board members Eugene & Kim Like, and a peaceful atmosphere will be part of the weekend. We hope to see you there!! Registration details can be found at: [www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/](http://www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/).

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