



2026 New Mexico Christian Homeschool Graduation
Legacy Church – May 16, 2026

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"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7 –
FAN THE FLAME

Dear Parent and Graduate,

As you come to this point in the application process, CAPE-NM rejoices and celebrates with you in your success in homeschooling through high school! Congratulations! It is truly an honor to host this year's CAPE-NM Graduation Recognition Ceremony. Join us at Legacy Church, 7201 Central Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM, on **Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** **Parents and graduates are to arrive at Legacy Church by 1:00 p.m. on May 9th for practice.** No other family members will be allowed in the auditorium during practice. Lobby seating will be made available for elderly/handicapped who are waiting for the doors to open. **Doors will open at 2:30 p.m.** for other family members and the public. Please do not plan on saving seats.

To give you a better understanding of why CAPE-NM conducts the ceremony the way it is done, below is the **CAPE-NM Graduation Recognition Ceremony Statement of Purpose.**

Our purpose is to make a public statement that home educators can and should stay the course and finish the race. This ceremony is intended to inspire and encourage homeschool families, their extended family, and friends. CAPE-NM does not endorse any one educational program nor provide validation of individual success. Rather, CAPE-NM provides the opportunity to present hope and promise to the community of Christian home educators. It is CAPE-NM's intention to let our light so shine before men that they might see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:18)

Because the concept of ceremony suggests a protocol or standard to be followed, requirements and guidelines for participation have been established. **Most of your general questions can be answered by reading the following pages.** Please review them carefully. These have been established only after much prayer and deliberation. They are in no way intended as a means of "judging by appearance," but rather are an effort to make sure appearance does not distract from what has been accomplished academically. CAPE-NM has attempted to make the standards as inclusive as possible. However, should you find yourself unable or unwilling to comply with the standards, CAPE-NM respects your decision not to participate and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your graduate and encourage you to find an alternative way to celebrate your family's achievement.

May this year's celebration be a memorable one for you and your graduate.

In His Service,
The Board of Directors – CAPE-NM

The following are instructions for completing the application process.

The Application Fees

At this point, you have **partially applied** to be in the graduation. To complete the process, you will need to complete the items below... AND pay the fees in full. The breakdown of the fees is listed below as well as on the website. **The fee needs to be paid by March 8, 2026.**

Graduation pricing as follows:

Registration – \$125 (non-member) & \$80 (CAPE-NM member)

*If a refund is requested, the amount refunded (before April 15, 2026) will be less the credit card fee. After April 15, no refunds will be allowed.

Caps/Gowns/Tassels/Diplomas

Each family will need to order their own caps, gowns, tassels, and diplomas from the HSLDA store. When you go to the website, you will have some choices. For example, those who wish can have HSLDA personalize their diploma with the names/dates, etc. (for an extra charge of course). CAPE-NM is asking that you place your order by April 1, 2026, so that you have time to make sure your order is correct and to have the gown ironed prior to the ceremony. **Please use the following criteria when ordering your caps, gowns, tassels, and diplomas:**

- CAPE-NM uses **Navy Blue** for both the caps and gowns.
- The tassels are **Navy/Gold**.
- The diploma is actually just a paper certificate. You can purchase the **Navy** diploma case to match, or whichever color you want. You will also have a choice of font and which gold seal option you would like. *Also, please note that the diploma and case are not required. Some families have opted to create their own diplomas and some have rolled them up and tied with a ribbon. It is up to you.*

You can place your order at <https://store.hslda.org/graduation-essentials-c19.aspx>

If you prefer, CAPE-NM does have some gowns and caps with generic tassels to lend out for ceremonies. These are available on a first-come basis, with limited size choices. Spare diplomas/covers are not available at this time. Contact the Graduation Coordinator at Graduation@CAPE-NM.org to request one. You can also ask a previous CAPE graduate who might have a cap/gown to loan, then just order the tassel from HSLDA.

Visual Presentation

Please upload or email four (4) photos, preferably from youngest to oldest, designating one as a "Senior Picture." (*File size requirements: **Digital photos** – these will be blown up to put on the overhead screen; low quality pictures like those that are scanned may be too grainy. **Most modern digital pictures** will work. However, only files that are **.jpg or .png** can be added to the slideshow.*) As a statement of being "in the world, but not of the world," please submit only *modest photos*. The slideshow will be projected onto a large screen while the biography is being read, so they need to be good digital quality. If you plan a studio sitting, please do so well in advance, allowing plenty of time to get the photos submitted **by March 31, 2026.**

****Upload your .jpg/.png files to the CAPE-NM website, or email to Graduation@cape-nm.org.**

Student Testimony

Each student will submit a 250-word essay giving his/her testimony – or he/she can submit a 250-word essay telling what Jesus means to him/her. When filling out the application, you will be asked if excerpts can be used for promotional purposes for the ceremony. If you answer “no,” we will NOT use them.

NOTE: WE CANNOT IMPORT .PAGES OR .PDF FILES FOR THE ESSAYS – USE .DOC OR .DOCX OR SOMETHING SIMILAR, PLEASE!

****Upload your .doc/.docx file to the CAPE-NM website, or email to Graduation@cape-nm.org.**

Student Biography

The biography will be read during the graduation ceremony. **Parents, *please*** type a paragraph about your graduate and include items such as awards, honors, activities, future plans, prayer, Scripture, or praise. Due to the number of graduates and time considerations, biographies should be a **maximum of 69 words**. Please edit and proof. **CAPE-NM reserves the right to edit all biographies and cut out any excess of 69 words for length.** *If you need an example, please contact the Graduation Coordinator.*

NOTE: WE CANNOT IMPORT .PAGES OR .PDF FILES FOR THE BIOGRAPHIES – USE .DOC OR .DOCX OR SOMETHING SIMILAR, PLEASE!

****Upload your .doc/.docx file to the CAPE-NM website or email to Graduation@cape-nm.org.**

Policy Agreement

Students **AND** Parents must print, sign, scan, and return the signed copy of the ***Policy Agreement*** located on the last page of this packet. It may be submitted via an upload to the CAPE-NM website, mailed to the address at the top of this letter, emailed to the graduation committee, or you can text a picture to the number at the top of this letter.

****Upload your .doc/.docx file to the CAPE-NM website, or email to Graduation@cape-nm.org, or text a picture.**

****Please note: To access your profile on the CAPE-NM website, please use the link that came on the original email you received with this packet.**

Additionally,

Each year we choose a graduate to give the ending benediction. If you would like to be considered for the above opportunity, please email the graduation coordinator to indicate you would like to be considered. She/he will contact you for more information.

Also, Legacy has a “service dog policy.” If you or any family or friends intend to bring a certified service dog to the ceremony, they need to contact Legacy to have their names added to the approved list in order to bring the dog. They should contact Legacy Monday-Thursday during business hours to apply. Anyone bringing an animal without being approved will be turned away per Legacy rules.

2026 Graduate Requirements & Guidelines

Please Read Carefully

Checklist

- ☐ Pay the graduation registration fee by **March 8, 2026**.
- ☐ Students **AND** Parents must print, sign, scan, and return the signed copy of the ***Policy Agreement*** located on the last page of this packet. It may be submitted via an upload to the CAPE-NM website, mailed to the address at the top of this letter, emailed to the graduation committee, or a picture can be texted to the number at the top of this letter.
- ☐ Minimum 250-word essay of what Jesus means to you or your testimony - **.doc/.docx or similar only**
- ☐ Maximum 69-word biography of the graduate (see above for suggestions) – **.doc/.docx or similar only**
- ☐ Four (4) photos of the graduate; please note youngest to oldest and label the senior picture – **.jpg/.png only**
- ☐ Scanned Policy Agreement, Essay, Bio, & digital photos should be uploaded in the correct formats to the CAPE-NM website – you will use the link from the original email (in which you received this packet) to access the page to upload to your profile.
- ☐ All submissions are **due by March 31, 2026**.
- ☐ **Order your own cap, gown, tassel, and diploma from HSLDA by April 1, 2026**, to ensure they arrive on time and there are no problems with the order. It will also give you time to iron the gown for the ceremony.

Dress Code and Conduct Policy

With respect to the standards of CAPE-NM, CAPE-NM requires that participants (parents & graduates) follow these guidelines:

Hair: Natural hair colors only. (No pink, blue, bright red, etc.)

Gentlemen: Dress pants and button shirt with tie (can be a bowtie). No earrings or jewelry other than a watch and/or ring.

Ladies: Modest dresses or skirts, knee-length or longer, or dress slacks or pantsuits. Tops need to have sleeves – short or long with neckline not low-cut. Pierced earrings are acceptable, and all other jewelry should be modest & tasteful.

Body Piercings: Strictly prohibited. Examples of body piercings include but are not limited to nose, eyebrow, lip, or tongue rings or studs.

Decorating of the caps or gowns prior to or during the ceremony: There have been questions regarding the decorating of the graduation caps for the ceremony. The CAPE-NM board has decided to have the ceremony be more formal. Therefore, decorated caps and/or gowns ***WILL NOT*** be allowed for the ceremony. Your student can decorate their cap/gown following the ceremony.

Conduct: A manner that glorifies our Lord Jesus.

If rules are disobeyed or disregarded by graduate at any time, CAPE–NM reserves the right to refuse participation, without refund.

CAPE-NM GRADUATION POLICY

1. Students must have been homeschooled (as opposed to Public or Private School at home) at least two consecutive years prior to the graduation ceremony.
2. The CAPE-NM board must approve any exceptions.
3. Students must follow Dress Code and Conduct Policy set by CAPE-NM or are subject to removal any time prior to and including during the graduation ceremony.
4. A 250-word essay of what Jesus means to you (or your testimony) is a requirement to participate in the Recognition Ceremony.
5. CAPE-NM reserves the right to refuse participation at any time.
6. CAPE-NM cannot be responsible for any lost or stolen articles.
7. The views expressed by the main speaker giving the Charge to the Graduates are his own and are not necessarily those of CAPE-NM.
8. CAPE-NM reserves the right to edit biographies for length and content before they are read or posted.
9. The Diploma issued to the graduate is by the parent(s) and is not and cannot be in any way presumed accreditation by CAPE-NM.
10. You agree to abide by the policies and guidelines set forth by CAPE-NM for the CAPE-NM Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

We agree to abide by the requirements, guidelines, and policies set forth by CAPE-NM for the 2026 CAPE-NM Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date