



# SAIL Co-op Frequently Asked Questions

Sharing Adventures In Learning

[www.SAILHomeschoolers.org](http://www.SAILHomeschoolers.org)

## **What is a homeschool co-op?**

A homeschool co-op is a group of homeschooling families that come together in an organized, cooperative way to provide various group activities that enrich the homeschooling experience. The structure of different co-op programs varies widely among different groups and may include classes, field trips, sports, and other events.

## **What type of co-op is SAIL Co-op?**

SAIL Co-op is a group of SAIL member families that meets six times during each fall and spring semester in order to provide enriching, educational classes in a group setting. Classes are taught by co-op members. SAIL Co-op strives to provide our families with an enriching, educational experience that fosters a love of learning, encourages friendships, and provides a sense of community as an extension to the home education environment.

## **When is co-op?**

SAIL Co-op meets 6 Fridays during the fall semester and 6 Fridays during the spring semester. Each Friday consists of 4 class periods and runs from 10:00 am -2:50 pm. Fall classes are usually scheduled during September/October and spring classes during March/April.

## **Where is co-op?**

SAIL Co-op is held at a church or other facility in McKinney, although some sessions have been held in surrounding areas such as Plano and Allen.

## **Are classes offered for all ages?**

Classes are offered for students ages 5 and older. Classes for 3 and 4 year old siblings are offered on occasion pending enrollment levels. Students are divided into groups based on age and groups may vary from session to session. A typical age breakdown for co-op would be as follows:

Nursery (0-3 years)

4-5 years

6-7 years

8-10 years

11-12 years

13+ years

## **How are the age ranges determined?**

Age ranges are determined both by developmental needs and by the current co-op enrollment levels.

## **How long are the classes?**

Each class period is 50 minutes.

## **Who teaches co-op classes?**

Co-op classes are generally taught by the parents of the member families. New families are not required to teach during their first session.

## **Will my children receive a transcript of classes?**

SAIL does not provide transcripts.

## **What does a typical co-op day look like?**

The co-op class schedule is as follows:

Hour 1: 10:00 am – 10:50 am

Hour 2: 11:00 am – 11:50 am

Lunch/Playground: 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

Hour 3: 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm

Hour 4: 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm

### **Does SAIL Co-op go on field trips?**

SAIL Co-op does not go on field trips. Member families are generally very involved in the overall SAIL organization which offers numerous field trips throughout the year.

### **Do I have to join SAIL to attend co-op?**

Yes, SAIL Co-op is only available to SAIL member families in good standing.

### **Who can attend co-op?**

SAIL families who have completed the application and received a co-op membership invitation may register and enroll in classes.

### **How do I sign up for co-op?**

To sign up for co-op, each family must complete the online co-op application found in the co-op section of the SAIL member site: <http://www.homeschool-life.com/tx/sail>

### **How do I get on the wait list?**

Applicants are placed on a membership wait list if they meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must be a registered member of SAIL, in good standing, for a minimum of four months.
- The applicant's oldest child who will be participating in co-op must be at least 5 years old.
- The applicant must show involvement in SAIL by attending or hosting events during the four months prior to the application.
- The applicant must read and agree to abide by the SAIL Co-op policies.

### **How are families on the wait list selected to receive an invitation to join co-op?**

Membership invitations are extended to new families on the wait list 8-10 weeks prior to classes. New families are selected for invitations based on a variety of factors. While we make every effort to extend invitations in order of application, this is not always possible. The availability of class spaces within age groups is the primary determining factor. Due to the level of commitment required of co-op families, the Co-op Team also heavily considers the level of SAIL involvement when extending invitations.

### **How long does it typically take to get into co-op?**

Most families do not stay on the wait list for more than one co-op session. Invitations to new families are extended primarily based on the availability of class space.

### **How much does co-op cost?**

Co-op membership fees include a registration fee per family and supply fees for individual classes. The current registration fee is \$40 per family. Supply fees are class specific and determined by each teacher based on the needs of the class. Supply fees are usually less than \$10 per class.

### **What is orientation and when is it held?**

Orientation is an informational meeting that is mandatory for all new member families. An orientation meeting is scheduled approximately 2-4 weeks prior to the first day of classes each session. During this meeting, the Co-op Team will provide important information for parents and answer any questions. The families are also taken on a tour of the co-op facility, turn in all paperwork and payments, and receive ID badges during orientation.

### **Does my child have to stay for all classes?**

No, families can choose to register for 1, 2, 3, or 4 class periods.

### **What if my child works above/below grade level?**

SAIL Co-op class placements are determined by the age of the child on the first day of co-op classes. Special requests for placing students in classes outside their age groups may be submitted to the Co-op Team prior to the registration deadline. Each request will be considered by the Co-op Team on an individual basis.

### **What if my child has special needs?**

SAIL Co-op strives to accommodate all of its members. The co-op application provides an area to describe any special needs. The Co-op Team will make every effort to accommodate all families as resources allow.

### **Is nursery care provided for young children?**

Nursery care is provided for children ages 0-3 years. Nursery age children must have another family member at least 5 years of age participating in co-op.

### **Does co-op require a specific homeschooling or teaching method in class?**

There is no specific homeschooling or teaching method or curricula required.

### **Do I have to have a specific religious practice or sign a statement of faith?**

Inclusivity is fundamental to the mission of SAIL, and the SAIL Co-op is an extension of this mission. We do not require families to submit a statement of faith or share any specific belief systems. We do require Co-op families to be respectful of the host facility.

### **Do I have to teach?**

New member families are not required to teach during their first co-op session. All returning member families are required to teach a class during each co-op session.

### **What classes are offered?**

Class offerings vary widely from session to session and each teacher is responsible for choosing and designing his/her class. co-op classes are usually designed to be fun, hands-on, and less academically rigid than standard coursework. In general, the Co-op Team uses the following class categories for each age group to prevent subject overlap:

- The Arts
- Active/Physical Education
- Science
- Other (Social Studies, Math, Language Arts, Computers, Games, ...)

### **Can I drop my children off at co-op?**

Drop-offs are not permitted. Children must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian listed in their family's SAIL membership.

### **Can my teenagers attend co-op alone?**

Teenagers may not attend co-op alone. All students must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian.

### **Can my children attend co-op with another parent?**

Children are *generally* not permitted to attend co-op with a parent or guardian other than those listed in their SAIL membership. The Co-op Team will consider special circumstances on a per case basis when notified in advance.

### **What is the level of commitment required to participate in co-op?**

When you become a member of SAIL Co-op, your family makes a commitment to the other participating co-op families. We plan with each family in mind, including facility rental, required fees, teaching positions and class offerings. Planning a quality program requires significant time and effort from both the Co-op Team and parents. Please consider your family's ability to attend all co-op class days before applying.

### **How can I meet some of the other co-op families before joining?**

The best way to meet co-op families is by attending SAIL events, such as Park Day. Many co-op families attend Park Day on a regular basis. All co-op families are listed as such in the SAIL membership directory on the SAIL member site. If you are having problems connecting with co-op families, please contact a member of the Co-op Team and we will be happy to introduce you to other co-op members.

### **What are the benefits of participating in co-op?**

The benefits of participating in co-op are immense, both for children and parents. Co-op is an affordable way to provide a number of learning opportunities for children. They learn to take instruction from other adults, adapt to different teaching styles, interact with their peers, develop friendships, build character, and thrive in an environment other than home. Often, students get the chance to learn from parents who are passionate experts in subjects you might not have even considered teaching at home. Parents get to interact with and learn from the other parents. It can be very helpful to draw on the expertise of other parents in subject areas that you do not

enjoy teaching or where you may feel weak as an instructor. Co-op also provides the opportunity for homeschool families to enjoy classes that work best in a group environment. The sense of community and fellowship with the other families at SAIL Co-op is priceless. For our families, co-op provides a fun-filled day away from home that everyone in the family looks forward to!

**Who do I contact if I want more information?**

For more information, please email the Co-op Team Leader at [coop@SAILhomeschoolers.org](mailto:coop@SAILhomeschoolers.org)