

Welcome to the newsletter for homeschool group leaders

Homeschool Leader

October 2008

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Creating a Budget for Your Homeschool Group By Carol Topp, CPA

Start early

Ideally, your organization should prepare a budget before your program year starts. Some people think that budgets are only for tracking spending, but you must plan for income also. List all the sources of revenue you can think of (dues, class fees, fund-raisers, etc). Don't be too optimistic. Conservative estimates will serve you best.

Predict expenses

Next try to predict expenses such as postage, copying, building use fees, supplies. Think of everything you might spend money on. On the expense side it is better to include too much rather than too little.

Compare and adjust

Compare revenue to expenses and adjust until you have a balanced budget or even a small surplus as protection for the unexpected. If you cannot balance your budget, you have two choices: cut expenses or increase income. Recalculate your income with more membership dues. Try increasing dues until the budget balances.

To read more about budgets for homeschool groups and to see a sample budget, visit my website
www.HomeschoolCPA.com and go to the Articles page. Or go directly to the article [Preparing a Budget](#)

**My blog,
www.Homeschoolblogger.com/HomeschoolCPA
answers your questions**

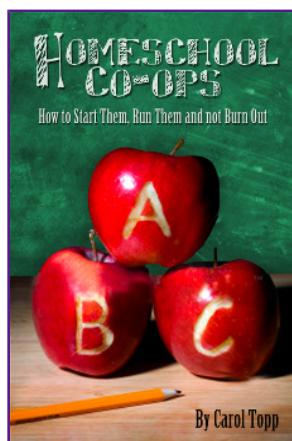
I am asked a lot of questions from homeschool leaders across the country, so I use my blog to answer them. Each entry is a question from a homeschool leader like you and covers topics such as nonprofit organizations, leadership and finances. Some recent entries include:

[Starting a homeschool conference](#)

[Homeschool group avoids IRS tax notices](#)

[Tips for newbies to homeschool co-ops](#)

NEWS!
Promote or review my book and receive a free copy!



(click on the book to learn more and read a sample chapter)

I have been collecting reviews for my book *Homeschool Co-ops: How to Start Them, Run Them and Not Burn Out*. Here's a favorite:

Carol Topp is wonderful, buy her book, it's worth 4 times the price, subscribe to her blog, download her free ebooks.
-Janet Hellerman, CHAMPS Homeschool Co-op leader

Do you do book reviews on your group's website or in your newsletter? I'm looking to get out word about my book to homeschool leaders. Please e-mail me at [Carol @HomeschoolCo-ops.com](mailto:Carol@HomeschoolCo-ops.com) and we can discuss getting you a review copy.

Do you host a forum, yahoo site, etc? I was a "guest speaker" on a large Yahoo group for Indiana homeschooled where we discussed a number of topics related to homeschool groups such as conflict, burn out, leadership skills, etc. Two lucky Indiana homeschooled received free copies of my book. If you manage a homeschool forum or Yahoo group, and would like to host me as a guest, I would be happy to offer a free copy of my book as a give-away gift. Please e-mail me at [Carol @HomeschoolCo-ops.com](mailto:Carol@HomeschoolCo-ops.com).

Coming Up Next Issue November 2008

Article: Writing a Statement of Faith

Blog Entries: Q&A from homeschool leaders

News: Homeschool Leaders Conference in Texas

This is a monthly newsletter for homeschool group leaders. Thanks for reading! Please feel free to pass this along to other homeschool leaders.