



RAACHE Graduation Guidelines

Last updated 11/18/15

The purpose of these guidelines is to simplify and expedite the planning process with the goal of organizing a Christian graduation ceremony that is enjoyable and memorable. All decisions regarding the RAACHE graduation will be made by the families involved. The RAACHE board reserves the right to override any decision or guideline.

1. **The graduation ceremony will be Christian**, reflecting a common goal to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. A secondary goal is to positively represent RAACHE to those in attendance.
2. **Participants must have been RAACHE members for at least 3 years of high school or receive RAACHE board approval to participate.** RAACHE members who meet the guidelines will have the opportunity to receive the benefit of graduation before we consider special requests from those who do not meet the guidelines.
3. **Graduates must be home school students** who are graduating from high school. Please note the graduation guidelines require you to have home schooled your student **AND** have been a member of RAACHE for three high school years. Since a home school high school diploma is being awarded, *it seems reasonable that part of the consideration by the board should include whether a given student did any of his/her high school years (9th to 12th grade) at home and not simply two years of PSEO as a "home school" student.*
4. Participating families will be responsible for all expenses.
5. At least one parent from each family will attend and participate in all meetings. Notify facilitator, as soon as possible, if unable to fulfill responsibilities.
6. A full rehearsal will be held during the week of graduation, usually on Thursday.
7. The projected length of the ceremony should **not exceed two hours; therefore we have a limit of 30 graduates each year and a deadline for registration to participate in graduation.** On occasion the board may allow up to 32 graduates if registration deadlines and participant guidelines are met or special circumstances prevented the guidelines from being met (such as recently moved to the Rochester area or parental illness prevented homeschooling for a limited time during the high school years).
8. Each family will be allocated time (typically 2 to 4 minutes) for presentation of their diploma and will be introduced by a member of the RAACHE board.
9. Graduate attendance at planning meetings, rehearsal, the ceremony, and the reception is required. All other activities are optional.
10. A host/hostess will be appointed at the first meeting and will provide a location for all meetings (possibly instead of subcommittee participation).
11. Group decisions about the ceremony must be unanimous (after reasonable discussion has been held). Try to limit group topics to 10 minutes (including devotions) as group meeting time is precious.
12. A facilitator will be appointed before the first meeting and will have the following responsibilities:
 - Facilitate discussion and decisions on all proposals.
 - Ensure that all participants are included in decision making and are treated fairly by the group.
 - Facilitate organization of the committees with a balance between personal preference and goal attainment. If needed by the group, the facilitator may reassign committee members or work.
 - Maintain contact info (email, phone, address) of families planning to participate. Each committee will address the assigned tasks, bring proposals to the full group for discussion and approval.
 - A "spokesperson" will be designated by each committee. This person will help the committee to carry out equitable discussions, bring the committee proposals to the whole group, and accept any additional work assignments from the whole group. The spokesperson must ensure that they have a replacement from the committee, if unable to carry out their responsibilities.