

Hello,

We've received your registration for the **Homeschool Wyoming 2025 Senior High Graduation Ceremony**.

Mark your calendar now; graduation will be held on **Friday May 31, 2025, at 6:00 pm** at College Heights Baptist Church, 1927 South Walnut Street, Casper, WY 82601.

PLEASE READ THIS PACKET IN ITS ENTIRETY!! It contains very important info for graduation!

All registrants will receive a cap, gown, tassel, personalized diploma, graduation program, as well as participation in our graduation ceremony with commencement message by Douglas Pietersma, PhD, a homeschool Dad, part time pastor, and homeschool researcher. Part of the cost of graduation also goes towards the sound team and cleaning fee.

GRADUATE REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

These items will need to be submitted via email **NO LATER THAN May 1, 2025** to brenna@homeschoolwy.org

- Graduate's photos: one baby - one current
- Graduate's accomplishments, future plans, and favorite Bible verse, quote, or life motto (More Details Below)
- Senior Class Address and/or Musical Performance Applications

MANDATORY REHEARSAL

Saturday, May 31st CHECK-IN OPENS AT 4:00 PM

The ceremony is a choreographed event. All **participating graduates and parents are required** to attend the rehearsal at College Heights Baptist Church. It is critical that ALL graduates are present for the rehearsal— on time! Musical performers will do a sound check at 4:00 PM

This mandatory rehearsal will begin promptly at 4:30 PM. All graduates and parents must arrive no later than **4:15 PM** to get checked in and seated. ***Please, do not be late.***

Parents will award their student their diploma and will have up to 2 minutes (possibly less depending on the number of graduates) to share a bit of encouragement, accomplishments, commissioning, etc. from the stage while presenting their diploma. For this reason, parents will need to participate in rehearsal.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FUTURE PLANS, AND FAVORITE VERSE OR QUOTE

We encourage each graduate to share your accomplishments, future plans, and favorite Bible verse, quote, OR life motto.

Please write complete sentences in third person starting the paragraph with the student's first name. For a Bible verse (**one verse only**), please provide the verse written out along with the citation of the verse. Please do not use quote marks around the Bible verse unless the Bible verse itself is a quote as in the example below. For a life motto that is a quote, please cite the author of the quote. Do not include quote marks.

We recommend writing these out in a Word document first so that you can polish and edit the text and also easily calculate the total word count. Homeschool Wyo reserves the right to edit for length or content if needed.

COMBINED MAXIMUM WORD COUNT: 125 Words

The total **combined word count for all three sections should not exceed 125 words**

(accomplishments, future plans, and favorite Bible verse or quote).

Example ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alissa played soccer for five years at Christ's Church. Her team won four championships and she received the Charlie Hustle Award twice. She participated in archery for two years with Wyoming HEAT. In 2019, the team earned 1st place at state and qualified for nationals. Alissa enjoys volunteering. One highlight was organizing a group of friends to help assemble 3,000 hygiene bags for people in need with Trinity Fellowship Church.

FUTURE PLANS

Alissa plans to pursue assistant coaching positions with her P.E. group and archery team. One of her goals is to be a certified archery instructor to help share her love of the sport with others.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

As for me, I will always have hope. I will praise you more and more. - Psalm 71:14

This is a formal, reverent ceremony and the program reflects that. Accomplishments, future goals, and quotes can reflect the graduate's personality, but should not be foolish or offensive. Please refer to the **STYLE GUIDE** at the end of this information packet for formatting instructions and information. Homeschool Wyo reserves the right to edit for length, format consistency, grammar, etc.

SENIOR CLASS ADDRESS

Submissions for the Senior Class Address will be accepted from graduates participating in the Homeschool Wyo Senior High Graduation ceremony. The speech should be 3-5 minutes long, must be the student's original work, and should reflect how being homeschooled through high school has impacted his/her life or helped shape who he/she is. Speeches will be judged on content (please be careful to highlight homeschooling without criticizing other methods of education), structure, presentation, and overall effectiveness.

Send a cover letter with your name, address, phone number, a written version of your speech, and a video recording of your presentation via electronic file (.wav, MP4), online video sharing such as YouTube or Vimeo so that your video is received by **April 15, 2025**. The decision of the judges is final.

SPEECH SUBMISSION

info@homeschoolersofwy.org AND brenna@homeschoolwy.org

CONTENT

What you choose to write about will be the most important decision because it will affect every aspect of your speech. Consider first your audience. Take into consideration the parents in the audience who have sacrificed greatly to reach this point with their children. Be sure to recognize their efforts and thank them on behalf of all the graduates.

Have something original to say. This is a reflective point in your life and in others' lives listening to you. What have you learned about life? How will you make your mark on the world? Who are people from the past or present who inspire you? Is there a historical event that helps you put life in perspective? Feel free to share something about the centrality of your faith to your future goals and direction, but keep in mind there will be a diverse audience with varying views. Also avoid mentioning specific branches of faith and/or presenting specific political figures or parties.

Be humorous! Find a way to lighten the moment with a funny observation or a transparent moment. This doesn't mean you have to search for joke books, but as you have others read your speech, ask them where you could add some lighthearted words to put others at ease (and yourself at the same time!)

DELIVERY

Videotape your speech in good light, standing up facing the camera, and looking at the camera. Memorize your speech, but feel free to use a few note cards, if needed, to remember your outline and next point. Use gestures where they are natural to do so. Be sure to make eye contact with different sections of the audience, rather than focusing your attention in one spot the entire time. Keep in mind you are trying to connect with your audience in a meaningful way. Don't forget to smile occasionally!

MUSIC AUDITIONS

Senior high graduates that are registered for the 2025 Homeschool Wyo Graduation are invited to audition to perform a musical selection at the ceremony.

Please submit an online application and a video recording of your presentation to be considered as one of the performers.

Up to three students will be chosen to perform during the ceremony.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The audition selection should be no longer than four (4) minutes in length.
- Videotape your audition in good light, facing the camera as much as possible.
- Music should be memorized, but feel free to use sheet music if needed for the audition or during the ceremony.
- Please submit the written text of the lyrics for a vocal performance.
- If only performing part of a song, please specify the specific movement or section being performed.
- You may submit up to two selections. Please submit a separate application for each selection.
- Duets (or more) are welcomed.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Auditions will be chosen based on the following areas:

- Appropriateness of the lyrics (if any) and the selection's theme or origin
- Performance standard
- Professionalism
- Participant's presentation

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Send a cover letter with your name, address, phone number, a written version of lyrics (if any) and video recording must be received no later than **April 15, 2025**.

Video recordings should be submitted electronically (as an MP4 file or link to your video posted on a hosting site such as YouTube or Vimeo) via email to info@homeschoolersofwy.org AND brenna@homeschoolwy.org

RESULTS ANNOUNCED

All applicants will be notified of the results by **April 30, 2025**. The decision of the Music Committee is final.

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY

Family, friends, and the homeschool community are invited to attend the ceremony free of charge. Guests should arrive early enough to get parked and get seated before the ceremony begins at 6:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 PM. No air horns, helium balloons, or confetti cannons will be permitted inside the building.

GRADUATION QUESTIONS

Please contact Brenna Lowry, Homeschool Wyo Graduation Coordinator with any questions. brenna@homeschoolwy.org, 307-275-2836 cell

Thank you and we look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with you and your family on Saturday May 31, 2025!

Brenna Lowry - Homeschool Wyo Graduation Coordinator

STYLE GUIDE FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

BIBLE VERSE

- Only one Bible verse or quote
- Include the text AND the reference
- Do not put Bible verses in quotes
- Put a dash between the end of the verse and the reference with spaces on each side.

How precious are your thoughts, O God; how vast is the sum of them. - Psalm 139:17 NIV

QUOTE

- Include the quote and the author of the quote
- Do not use quote marks.
- Put a dash between the end of the verse and the reference with spaces on each side.

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value. – Albert Einstein

AWARDS

- When talking about awards or rank in competitions, use 1st place, 3rd place, 7th place, etc.
- Spell out first, second, third, etc. when saying, “She placed first in...”

PUNCTUATION & SPELLING NOTES

- **For numbers ten and lower**, spell the word out (one, two, three, ten).
- **For numbers 11 and higher**, use numerals, unless listing a range of ages or numbers

where one is smaller

than ten and one is larger.

- She studied piano for seven years.
- He took karate for 12 years.
- She participated in Awana from age 4 to 12.
- **Use the Oxford comma in a series.**

○ She knows how to solve the Rubik's cube, can ride a unicycle, and has been to

Canada six times.

- **Use a single space after end punctuation.**
- **Hyphenate age when it precedes a noun.**
- As a four-year-old child...
- **Do not hyphenate age following a verb.**
- ...since she was four years old.
- **Spell and punctuate college and organization names correctly.**
- Cheyenne - Laramie Community College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University ● **GPA** (not spelled out, no periods)

CAPITAL VS. LOWERCASE LETTERS

- In general, **avoid unnecessary capitalization.**
- **Fields of study** are not capitalized (unless they contain a word that is normally capitalized).
 - applied technology, civil engineering, sports medicine
 - French Literature, English, Christian ministries
- **Degrees**
- Do not use capitals when degrees are referred to informally, but do capitalize

complete names of degrees.

Example: Jen will pursue a bachelor's degree in political science, followed by a law degree.

Example: Sam will pursue a Bachelor of Science in biology.

- Use small letters and an apostrophe for **bachelor's degree** and **master's degree**
- No apostrophe in **associate degree**
- Example: Ian has received his associate degree in general studies.
- If abbreviations are used for degrees, use capitals and periods (B.A., M.S., M.B.A., Ph.D.)
- **Job titles are not capitalized.**
- Example: Sally was class president. Example: Jim served as team leader.
- **Do not capitalize "state" or "nationals"** when referring to competitions unless it is the official title of the competition.
 - He placed top ten in state.
 - Her team won the state championship.
 - She qualified for nationals.
 - He placed third at the Science Olympiad National Tournament.
- **Organization and team names are only capitalized when they are proper nouns.**
 - worship team, leadership team
 - Central High School varsity football team, EXIT girls basketball
 - All State Boys Choir, Converse County Archers
- **Do not capitalize dean's list or honor roll.**

- **Do not capitalize honors unless it is a proper name.**
 - She is graduating with honors.
 - He earned an A in Honors English at the community college.
- **Pronouns referring to the Lord** should be capitalized (He, Him).
- **Do not capitalize seasons** (fall, summer, spring, winter).
- **Do not capitalize black belt.**

MISCELLANEOUS STYLE NOTES

The following bullet points are given to maintain consistency for the graduation program:

- **Worldview Academy** (Worldview is one word with a lower case “v”)
- **Awana** (not all capital letters; no s on the end)
- Capitalize the name of the award: Awana Citation Award
 - **Abeka** (one word, lowercase b)
 - **TeenPact** (one word, capital P)
 - **MoezArt Productions** (one word, capital A)
 - **4-H** (with a hyphen)
 - **Chick-fil-A** (hyphens, small f, capital A)
 - **cross country** (two words, lowercase)
 - **mission trip** singular (not missions trip)
- Shannon went on three mission trips during high school. ● When a student is **going into missions**, leave it plural
- Shannon is going into missions after graduation. ● **The following are spelled as one word:**
 - Audiovisual
 - Childcare
 - filmmaker, filmmaking
 - firefighter, firefighting
 - Taekwondo (no capitals)