

# 2012 NICHE Graduation *Ceremony Information*

## **NICHE GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

Last year, for the first time, NICHE sponsored two statewide graduation ceremonies held on the same day. Based on the success of last year's ceremonies and the positive feedback received from graduate families, NICHE will again be hosting two ceremonies. They will be held at **11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at First Assembly of God Church, 2725 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines.** Please register early to be included in your desired ceremony.

Our cap and gown supplier sets very early deadlines! Because of this, NICHE must remain firm in adhering to the following graduation participation deadline:

Those who want to participate in the NICHE graduation service must apply by **February 1, 2012.**

***GRADUATION PARTICIPATION APPLICATIONS  
MUST BE REGISTERED (ONLINE)  
OR POSTMARKED (MAIL-IN)  
BY FEBRUARY 1, 2012  
—NO EXCEPTIONS!***

You may apply in one of two ways:

1. Go online to [www.homeschooliowa.org](http://www.homeschooliowa.org) and click on the link for Graduation 2012. Please have your credit card ready. Checks will not be accepted with the online application.
2. If you are more comfortable using a written form, and/or desire to use a check for payment, please fill out the accompanying application in full, and return it to NICHE with a postmark on or before **February 1, 2012.**

We make our NICHE Graduation participation information and form available more than two months ahead of the participation deadline in order to allow potential participants ample time to apply.

*Permission is granted to copy this information form and graduation application and pastor's verification form. Support groups are encouraged to make this information available to their members. Please help us spread the word about the availability of this opportunity! Forms are also available online at [www.homeschooliowa.org](http://www.homeschooliowa.org).*

## **CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION**

The NICHE graduation service is open to all homeschooled seniors of NICHE member families who adhere to the NICHE graduation participation guidelines (see form on facing page). Not yet a NICHE member family, or your membership has expired? Sign up online to join, and then proceed with the graduation application.

***THE FEE FOR PARTICIPATION IS \$85, WHICH INCLUDES THE CAP AND GOWN, DIPLOMA AND DIPLOMA CASE.***

*Please note:* The graduation service and diplomas **do not indicate any official endorsement** by NICHE or any other authority of the graduate's status. Diplomas are issued and signed by parents.

Sources for graduation announcements will be included in the information mailed to all graduates who send in the required application materials and payment.

**Our graduation ceremony is a complete package, designed for the exclusive use of our ceremony participants.** All items are ordered specifically for our ceremony and may not be substituted with like items, ordered outside of our ceremony uses, or discounted for any reason.

## **GROUP PHOTO ORDERS**

A photographer will be onsite to take a group photograph of the graduating class. This will be printed for purchase as an 8x10 only, and will be available for **an early bird rate of \$15 per photo, if ordered by February 1.** Requests ordered after February 1 may be purchased at the **regular rate of \$18.** Cut-off ordering date for requests is **May 25.**

## **QUESTIONS?**

For more information on the NICHE graduation service, leave a message for Erin:

(800) 723-0438; or e-mail: [graduation@homeschooliowa.org](mailto:graduation@homeschooliowa.org)

# 2012 NICHE Graduation Participation Form

*Firm Deadline: February 1, 2012*

**ONLINE APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE! GO TO: WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.ORG**

**ALL FORMS MAY BE COPIED OR PRINTED FROM THE WEBSITE, IF NEEDED**

Participants in the 2012 NICHE Graduation Service **must** adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Be a child of a parent or parents with a current NICHE membership (Not a current member? Please sign up online before beginning application process, or mail membership application, and \$30 payment, with graduation application.);
- 2) Provide a written testimony of personal faith by the graduate or a letter of testimony from the parent regarding the Christian character and conduct of the graduate;
- 3) Provide verification from the pastor or an elder from the participant's church that the participant has been homeschooled for the past year—**please use the form provided for this purpose on the following page** (graduate may fill out ahead of time all but the confirmation box, which requires the pastor's signature);
- 4) Mail, or submit online, your completed 2012 NICHE Graduation Participation Form, your written testimony, your pastor/elder verification form (must be mailed for signature purposes), and payment of \$85 **by February 1, 2012** to NICHE Graduation, PO Box 208, Bondurant IA 50035—**MUST BE POSTMARKED OR SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 1. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 5) Agree to attend the graduation rehearsal on the day of the graduation service; and
- 6) Agree to adhere to the appearance and deportment standards outlined below.

*The NICHE board reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant for participation.*

Questions? Leave a message for Erin at the NICHE voicemail (800) 723-0438, or e-mail graduation@homeschooliowa.org

**INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE OF CEREMONY TIME: \_\_\_ 11:00 AM \_\_\_ 3:30 PM**

*(This request cannot be guaranteed with mail-in application. Please register online for immediate confirmation of ceremony request time.)*

## 2012 NICHE GRADUATION CAP AND GOWN ORDER INFORMATION

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

Graduate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of years homeschooled: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Important! Please list current e-mail that is checked often, as we will use this as the primary medium to communicate information to you.**

Male  Female Height: \_\_\_\_\_ feet \_\_\_\_\_ inches Weight (accurate within 5 lbs.): \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.

Head measurement (for cap size): \_\_\_\_\_ inches (use sewing tape measure wrapped snug but not too tight, approx. 1" above the ears)

Graduation Class Photo: \_\_\_\_\_ photos @ \$15 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please include photo payment with application.

## 2012 NICHE GRADUATION DIPLOMA AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

Graduate's name—as you want it to appear on the diploma and in the program:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your homeschool—as you want it to appear on the diploma and in the program:  
(example: Anderson Home Academy or Prairie Heights Christian School)

Names of graduate's parents, including title, if any (example: John and Susan Smith or Pastor John and Susan Smith):

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2012 NICHE GRADUATION APPEARANCE AND DEPORTMENT STANDARDS

***"I beseech you therefore...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...***

***Provide things honest [literally 'take thought for things honorable'] in the sight of all men." (Romans 12: 1, 17)***

We are grateful for everyone who wants to participate in our graduation service and we make every effort to assure that the ceremony is a lovely memory to cherish. The 2012 NICHE graduation standards for appearance appropriate to this formal and solemn occasion include: no body piercing (excluding earrings on ladies), no vivid hair colors, no immodest dress, and no excessive make-up or jewelry. In consideration of the other graduates and their guests, graduates and their parents are to refrain from performing actions/antics or displaying supplemental items/apparel which would draw attention to themselves during the ceremony. Examples would include, but are not limited to, holding up signs, shouting names or chants, performing acrobatics, taking photos while onstage, or wearing sashes, pins, or other personally expressive apparel items on caps and gowns. While we understand that many of our graduates are in different clubs and organizations and have achieved high standards in different areas, items representing those organizations or achievements may not be worn during the ceremony, as we do not want our graduation ceremony to honor one particular type of accomplishment over other equally valuable achievements. Opportunity will be given to acknowledge these accomplishments in the graduation program.

**I agree to abide by the above appearance and deportment standards:** \_\_\_\_\_

*This statement must be signed by either the graduate or a parent, on behalf of all family members involved, in order to take part. By signing, you are assuming the responsibility to ensure that all parties are aware of these standards.*

*Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators*  
G R A D U A T I O N C E R E M O N Y 2 0 1 2  
P A S T O R ' S V E R I F I C A T I O N

**Dear Pastor or Elder:** Since 1992, Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators [NICHE] has held an annual graduation ceremony, offered to its members for the recognition of their student's high school graduation. The graduate named below is applying to take part in our 2012 event. One of the requirements for a graduate to take part in our ceremony is that they be homeschooled for at least one year prior to their graduation. Since we cannot know each family personally, we are asking that you, as their pastor or elder, verify for us that this young person has been homeschooled for at least the past year of their education. Thank you for your assistance.

**Name of Graduation Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

Name and address of church:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor or elder name: \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that the above named applicant from my congregation has been homeschooled for at least the past year of their education.

Pastor or elder signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments (optional):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this document to the applicant for them to turn in with their application or mail to the address below by **February 1, 2012**.

NICHE Graduation  
Box 208  
Bondurant IA 50035

Please direct any questions or concerns to [graduation@homeschooliowa.org](mailto:graduation@homeschooliowa.org), or to the above address or leave a message at 800-723-0438 (in Iowa) or 515-830-1614 and one of our graduation coordinators will gladly get in touch with you. Thank you for your time.