



Homeschool Convention *Survivor's Guide*

Pre-planning can help you get the most out of your time.

What do you want — or need — most from this convention?

Why are you planning to go? If you're new to homeschooling, you may want to focus on researching curriculum. If not, you may be looking for encouragement and motivation. Maybe you hope to discover new resources or ideas.


Find a schedule of speakers and topics online, and look it over. For myself, I double-star the events I don't want to miss, and single-star the ones I would like to attend, if possible, then try to figure out what is manageable. (And since recordings are often available, I'm happy enough to take advantage of them, when necessary.)

I also **think through as many transitions as possible**, as these can be points of stress. Do I know not only how to get there, but where to park? How much parking costs? Have I given some thought to meals or snacks, whether it be hotel breakfasts or a general search for good pizza within walking distance? (Everything seems better with enough food.)

Practically, convention halls are often cold in some areas and hot in others. **Wear several light layers and, of course, comfortable shoes.**

Plan to bring a tote or backpack, even if you aren't wanting to buy on the convention floor — vendors will be happy to offer you catalogs and other literature. And don't forget a notebook and pen, if you learn best by taking notes during a talk.

Once **at the convention**, review the convention literature. Look over the map; mark your priority vendors on the exhibit hall layout, and plan a route. You might want to "sweep" the whole exhibit hall on day one; collect information while you explore what's out there. For vendors you are really interested in, invest some time — go to a workshop if they have one, or skip the featured speakers to meet with them while they're not so busy.

 **Have a great time!** And may you return, refreshed and encouraged.