

# The Learning Adventure Begins

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Last Updated Tuesday, 06 September 2005

Homeschool families in Manhattan, Kansas embarked on a new adventure in learning by forming The Learning Adventure Co-op last fall. Many families were looking for an alternative to "cluster groups" (small groups of students meeting in designated homes for short time periods for a specific class) and the learning co-op has provided a new, refreshing avenue to group studies.

In the spring of 2004, Cathy Barfield, upon the request of CHIEF, presented a short workshop on how to build a co-op for homeschoolers in our community. I went to the meeting thinking I could volunteer to teach a class for a few interested kids, but left the workshop with a clearer and larger purpose—to build a co-op for the homeschool families of Manhattan! With the diligent help of Lisa Hoffman, Jeanette Schwartz, Ellen Barber and Kathy Olds, the Learning Adventure Co-op began in October, 2004.

Many, many families have been blessed by faithfully participating in the 2 ½ hour co-op. The children learned about the Presidential Election and held a mock election between Skittles and M&M's; oddly enough, Skittles prevailed! Geography was given practical application as we followed the Kansas City Chiefs throughout the United States. P.E. and art were also offered. The junior high and high school students learned about banking and money management and enhanced their creative writing skills.

The goodness of our Lord continues as we begin the spring co-op session in February. As we meet weekly and persevere to the end of the school year, our prayer is that not only would our children learn more and grow, but God would be glorified as well. Our mission statement summarizes the vision of the homeschool families participating in TLA.

The goal of the Learning Adventure Co-op is to provide meaningful support for homeschooling families, enhancement of curriculum being taught at home and unique learning opportunities for children and parent teachers. We desire to build love for the Lord in our children through the lifestyle we live before them as we teach and interact together.

Many thanks to Cathy Barfield for sharing her wisdom and vision of the Lawrence co-op. Her thoughts and encouragement have truly been a blessing.