

# Countdown to *Home Education Day at the Capitol*



Mark your calendar and begin to plan your field trip to attend Home Education Day at the Capitol – **Wednesday, February 25, 2004**. An excellent field trip for individual families or support groups, Capitol Day provides learning opportunities as well as the fun and excitement of going to Atlanta, riding MARTA to the Capitol, spending the day getting to know more about Georgia state government and our beautiful Capitol, and meeting other home educators and legislators from around the state. Here's what you can do now to prepare for this exciting event:

## **November/December:**

1. If you don't already know the names of your state representatives, look them up at [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org). Just put in your zip code to find your representatives.
2. Call or arrange a meeting with your House Representative and your State Senator to discuss your interest in home education issues in Georgia.

You may wish to tell them you're interested in protecting the freedom of Georgians to home educate and that you'd be happy to be contacted for your perspective as a home educator anytime they need insight. Do not be intimidated. Our representatives are ordinary folks and will appreciate your sincerity and willingness to talk with them. Be friendly and assume they mean well, regardless of their political party, their stance on other issues, or their current position on home education. The aim is to establish dialog with them so that you will have future opportunities to persuade them. Later, in the potential heat of political conflict, yours will be a friendly name and voice they will respect and be willing to listen to.

Our interests are best protected by being involved citizens! Legislators have told us they get incredible numbers of requests for their attention every day. The ones they listen to, they tell us, are those ***from their constituents*** who want to talk with them, not coerce them or threaten them or try to "shut down the switchboards" with canned position statements.

3. Visit [http://www.sos.state.ga.us/onlinetour/Guided\\_online\\_tour.html](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/onlinetour/Guided_online_tour.html) to familiarize your children with our Capitol and take a virtual tour in preparation for the real thing.
4. Look for more information in next month's newsletter about times, tours, transportation details (including MARTA stations and fees), Atlanta attractions and accommodations, specific activities, home ed t-shirts (and totes) you can buy to wear to the capitol, and more.
5. Visit [www.heir.org](http://www.heir.org) regularly to get up-to-date information on specifics as they are posted.

## **Yours for freedom in education,**

The *Home Education Day at the Capitol* Planning Committee  
(See [www.heir.org](http://www.heir.org) for a list of Planning Committee members)

## **For Newsletter Editors: (not part of newsletter announcement)**

If your support group wishes to organize a field trip to Atlanta as part of joining other home educators on Capitol Day, the Planning Committee will send your group a packet of information about activities and opportunities you may want to include in your plans as well as travel information, directions, and specific Capitol Day events including times and locations. Please contact Sylvia Dibb at [jsdibb@aol.com](mailto:jsdibb@aol.com) or 770-483-5842 for a *group fieldtrip information packet*. The packets will not be available immediately, but Sylvia will take your name and contact information so that we can send one when they are complete.

If you know you are going to organize a support group field trip for Capitol Day, you may wish to include an announcement such as the following just beneath the closing in the above announcement.

Please contact *insert your group's contact person here* at *insert contact person's information here* for more information about attending Home Education Day at the Capitol with members of *Insert your group name here.*

We will be e-mailing further announcements similar to this one for your January and February newsletters. Unless otherwise notified by you, we will assume your newsletter deadline to be the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to each edition. Because there is a significant amount of specific information to disseminate, we would ask that you include the complete set of further announcements regarding Capitol Day in your next two newsletter editions.

If you have feedback or questions, please send them to [info@heir.org](mailto:info@heir.org).