

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Connecting Hands: Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures (CHOLLA)



CHOLLA is a wide-ranging collection of agencies, organizations, and passionate individuals, working together to support the Southern Nevada education community. Specifically, CHOLLA uses informal education opportunities to support student learning. This membership packet will provide you with information on the organization, including:

1. Organizational Structure
2. Member Benefits
3. Member Requirements
4. Guiding Principles

Acceptance as a CHOLLA Member acknowledges your receipt of this information and your site's agreement to support the Membership Information. **If you have any questions about CHOLLA or our work, contact the current CHOLLA Facilitators, Jeniffer Calimbahin and Iris Bratton, at [chollanv@gmail.com](mailto:chollanv@gmail.com).**

1. **Organizational Structure** includes organizational positions, events, and the meeting schedule. CHOLLA is a volunteer organization staffed by its members.
  - a. **Executive Committee:** Leadership positions include a facilitator(s) and a secretary. These positions are occasionally called upon to provide input for special meetings, conferences, or organization direction. The facilitator(s) and/or secretary are nominated by the members for two-year appointments.
  - b. **Members:** Those not in a leadership position in CHOLLA are "members." CHOLLA is made up of *provider* members and *professional* members. Provider members deliver or manage informal education programs in schools or at informal learning sites. Professional members are formal educators including administrators and project facilitators from government agencies and educational institutions.
  - c. **Meetings:** CHOLLA meetings take place in-person or virtually every third Wednesday of the months and time frames agreed-upon by the CHOLLA members (8 total meetings). Meeting dates will be approved by the Executive Committee and Members during the last meeting of the school year. Meetings take place at rotating CHOLLA member organization sites. Typically, the agenda contains a networking session, an update from school district representatives, a professional development session, a breakout session for committee work, and a tour of the host facility.
  - d. **Optional Workshops:** CHOLLA may also host other workshops and events throughout the year that may include a symposium for informal education professionals and partners.
2. **Member Benefits** details the benefits of CHOLLA membership.
  - a. **Networking and Partnerships:** CHOLLA members stay abreast of current

news, events, regulations, opportunities and initiatives in the Southern Nevada education community. Provider members are connected to others in similar positions, and can seek advice and feedback from professional members. Professional members are provided opportunities for partnering with informal education providers and building relationships to better serve students.

- b. **Professional Development Workshops:** CHOLLA offers its professional and provider members a variety of professional development topics and opportunities. These may include topics such as program development, marketing, Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core, and field trips.
  - c. **Resources:** Members support education through their combined efforts. Services include: (1) Field Trips, (2) Informal Education Programs, (3) Training, (4) Community Events, and (5) Informal Education Resources.
  - d. **Program and Job Promotion and Marketing:** CHOLLA maintains an active email list and website, which are available to members to promote programs, events, jobs, training, or other needs.
  - e. **Representation in State and Local Events:** CHOLLA represents member interests in the Nevada STEM Coalition, Nevada Academic Content Standards workgroups, Clark County School District, etc.
3. **Member Requirements** details the requirements of being an active CHOLLA member (e.g., agency, organization; not as individuals).
- a. All CHOLLA members are required to attend at least four (4) meetings during the school year.
  - b. All CHOLLA members must represent an organization that supports students through formal and/or informal education programs.
  - c. All CHOLLA members and/or the organizations they represent must submit up-to-date information via [THIS FORM](#) or QR code for the website.
4. **Guiding Principles** detail the specific ideas CHOLLA supports and follows and provide examples of how CHOLLA works to improve student learning. The CHOLLA organization members follow the following guiding principles, taken from the National Research Council's *Surrounded by Science, Learning Science in Informal Environments* (2010).
- a. Engage learners in multiple ways, including physically, emotionally, and cognitively;
  - b. Encourage learners' direct interaction with phenomena of the natural and designed world, largely in learner-directed ways;
  - c. Provide multifaceted and dynamic portrayals of science and other fields;
  - d. Build on learner's prior knowledge and interests; and
  - e. Allow learners considerable choice and control over whether and how they engage and learn.

