



MOMSnext Frequently Asked Questions

What is MOMSnext?

MOMSnext is a group experience designed to encourage, equip and develop mothers of school-age kids. This is a new ministry arm of MOPS International extending the current mission statement to reach more mothers and their families for Christ. Groups will provide relevant community for mothers of school-age kids while developing leaders and sharing the hope of Christ with moms who attend.

Who attends a MOMSnext group?

Every mother of school-age kids is welcome to a MOMSnext group. Most groups will focus on a target age range i.e. elementary years, so moms may feel some groups to be more relevant to their current mothering stage than others. With the likelihood that many alumni will participate in these groups, MOMSnext leaders need to be highly mindful that groups are open to NEW moms, and are welcoming to NEW moms.

Who will lead a MOMSnext group?

Mothers of school-age kids will lead the group with support of their local Chartering Ministry. All leaders must be able to sign the MOPS International Faith Position Statement to ensure unity on the leadership team. Chartering Ministries may place other requirements on leaders if desired. Every MOMSnext group is encouraged to have a coordinator and at least one MOMSnext Mentor, a mother past the school-age years of mothering to offer perspective and encouragement. Other than the Mentor, all leaders should be mothers of school-age children.

What are the requirements for a MOMSnext group?

Every MOMSnext group should reflect the community in which it is taking place. For this reason schedules and content of meetings will vary from group to group. There are four elements that will be required of every MOMSnext group. They are:

- Value on mothering during the school years
- Leadership development
- Lifestyle evangelism
- Connection to a Chartering Ministry
- Service (highly recommended, though not required)

What does it cost to get started?

If this is the first type of MOPS group at your church, there will be an initial Chartering Fee of \$399. If your Chartering Ministry already has at least one MOPS group (and renews annually), there is no cost to start any additional MOPS or MOMSnext groups. Every MOMSnext member will register for the MOMSnext Membership (Mentors will register for the MOMSnext Mentor Memberships).

Will we use the MOPS International annual theme?

MOPS International encourages groups to use the annual theme. Not only does it provide some guidance for planning the year, it could allow for resource sharing with a local MOPS group (i.e. table decorations, group curriculum, etc).

MOPS International

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Where and when should my group meet?

Your group will likely look different than a group on the other side of the country or even on the other side of your city. Why? Because different moms have different needs. This is the time to be creative, to try new things, in order to reach new. Think of what would draw moms from *your* community to a mothering group. Also consider what would keep them away. Build your group to most effectively reach out to mothers who do not know Jesus' love. Meet their felt needs, their relational needs, for an effective ministry.

Should our group provide a children's program?

That depends on the needs of your moms. Would lack of childcare prevent some moms from attending? If so try to provide at least a limited amount. Would intentional Christian instruction for kids be a draw for the moms you are reaching? If meeting during the day when many kids are in school, will some moms have younger kids or home schooled kids that will need care? Take all of these questions into account when making your decision about a children's program.

What about home school moms?

All mothers of school-age children are welcome at MOMSnext regardless of their schooling approach. Like MOPS groups, MOMSnext groups will focus on mothering as the connecting factor. School related issues will certainly come up and leaders will need to be sensitive to making topics and discussions broad enough to include all schooling options. Childcare needs may be affected by home schooled kids if meetings are held on weekdays.

What kind of support will MOMSnext groups and leaders receive from MOPS International?

Ministry Service Representatives and MOMSnext Field Leaders are available to answer questions and offer general support to MOMSnext leaders. An electronic guidebook with specific MOMSnext information will be available online. MOMSnext leaders will also have the opportunity to attend training events like the MOPS International Convention and the MOPS Leadership Summit. Leaders will have access to all MOPS leadership materials including the Leaders' website, the MOMSnext forum, leadership curriculums and *Connections* magazine.

Will there be workshops available at Convention for MOMSnext leaders?

There will be many workshops available that will be relevant, but not exclusive to MOMSnext leaders. A suggested MOMSnext track will be indicated on Convention registration. A MOMSnext special workshop/networking time will also be available.

Is a mom already registered for the MOPS International Membership, required to also register for the MOMSnext Membership?

A woman will not be required to register for the MOMSnext Membership if she holds a current MOPS International Membership. However, she will not receive the MOMSnext specific benefits, including the MOMSnext E-zine, which may impact her ability to participate in group discussions.

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