

# Frequently Asked Chartering Questions

What does a  
typical MOPS  
group look like?

A TYPICAL MOPS MEETING USUALLY LASTS ABOUT TWO hours. Most groups meet every other week during the traditional school year. This may be modified by the Chartering Ministry or Steering Team if desired. A MOPS meeting is designed to deliver the MOPS Experience\* and typically includes a teaching session, small group discussion, creative activity and fellowship time.

Children are lovingly cared for in the MOPPETS program.

A MOPS group meeting can be held whenever it best suits the moms and they are able to work out the space and childcare availability with the Chartering Ministry.

## MOPS Group Types

- **Classic** — more than 12 members, provides childcare, larger leadership team
- **MOPS@** — small group format with 1-3 leaders and up to 12 members
- **MOMSnext** — groups for mothers of school-age children
- **Teen** — meets the needs of teenage mothers of preschoolers
- **Incarcerated** — groups for moms in women's correctional facilities
- **Military** — chartered/sponsored by a base chapel, either domestic or international
- **International** — non-military groups chartered outside the United States

Is a MOPS  
meeting a  
Bible study?

AS AN OUTREACH ORIENTED CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION, our goal is to share our faith through our actions and the way we live, believing that through first meeting the needs of the mom, we demonstrate Jesus' love. Over time, the care and love exhibited builds trust and relationship which opens the door to share the full salvation message of Jesus Christ. Chartered MOPS groups present the Gospel at least twice a year.

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THE CURRICULUM PROVIDED IN THE CHARTERING MATERIALS provide six sessions of content, including ideas for more meetings. Additional speaker topics include anything relevant to mothering, being a woman, marriage, etc. Seek to understand the needs of moms in your area and build your teaching sessions around these needs. Speakers are often eager and honored to speak to MOPS groups. Many groups alternate the MOPS International theme curriculum provided in your charter kit with speakers. Field leaders are also a good source for ideas and suggestions for local speakers.

*Where do groups find speakers?*

*How much does it cost to run a MOPS group?*

THE INITIAL CHARTER FEE IS \$399 FOR THE FIRST GROUP. All additional groups are free. There is an annual renewal fee of \$159. In addition, each regularly attending mom and mentor must pay the annual MOPS International membership fee. The current fee is \$23.95 per mom and \$28.95 per mentor. In addition, individual groups often charge their own fees to cover costs of hospitality items, MOPPETS workers, speakers and creative activity materials. Some groups fundraise to cover these expenses, while other chartering ministries underwrite these expenses to allow as many moms as possible to attend. Typically there are costs at the local level which cover childcare, craft supplies and paper products.

- 30+ years of experience in meeting the unique needs of mothers of preschoolers
- Templates and curriculum are provided, making it a turn key operation
- Ongoing leadership training for Steering Team leaders
- Support from Field Leaders and MOPS International staff just a phone call away
- Leadership website and group management tools
- MOPS brand recognition and group awareness
- Group locator which directs moms coming to our website to a local group

*What is the benefit of chartering a MOPS group instead of having our own moms group?*

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What do I receive in the Charter Box?

MOPS INTERNATIONAL PROVIDES EVERYTHING YOU NEED to administer your MOPS group including leadership training DVDs, annual theme curriculum, book and planning outlines and marketing materials. In addition, you will receive access to the MOPS Guide on the leader's website which is full of resources and networking opportunities to learn from others. MOPS International provides ongoing personal coaching from a volunteer Field Leader to get your group up and running as soon as possible.

1. MEET WITH YOUR PASTOR OR CHURCH LEADERSHIP team to share the vision of MOPS and to receive their blessing and approval to get going. The *Why MOPS?* DVD is a great resource for this.
2. Recruit 1-2 other Steering Team leaders that share the vision for impacting moms and their families. Together ask God to provide the leadership team that is needed.
3. Complete the Charter Agreement and return it along with your chartering fee. This may be faxed to 303-733-5770 or mailed to MOPS International, 2370 South Trenton Way, Denver, CO 80231.

How do I get started?

How many leaders do I need to start a MOPS group?

TO GET STARTED YOU NEED TO SELECT A COORDINATOR or co-coordinator and a MOPS Mentor. You also need to engage a MOPPETS Coordinator if your group plans to offer a MOPPETS children's program. If you need help identifying potential MOPS group leaders, check with your women's ministry leaders or children's ministry leaders for ideas and suggestions. We require Steering Team leaders to be Christians so they share the vision for helping moms grow toward Jesus.

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## *Typical Steering Team Positions*

- **Coordinator** — Responsible for the overall leadership of the MOPS group (may be an individual or shared responsibility)
- **Creative Activities** — Organizes the creative activities for the group
- **Discussion Group Coordinator** — Oversees and trains small group table leaders
- **Finance** — Oversees group finances and membership registration
- **Hospitality** — Creates a welcoming atmosphere and coordinates food for each meeting
- **MOPS Mentor** — A mom who has “been there and done that” to offer perspective and hope
- **MOPPETS** — Oversees the MOPPETS (childcare) program
- **Publicity** — Coordinates internal communication and external marketing for the group
- **Service** — Identifies and plans service opportunities for MOPS groups

*Who can charter a MOPS group?*

ANY CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION THAT CAN SIGN THE MOPS International Statement of Faith can charter a MOPS group. At this time, Charters are not available through individuals.

MOPS IS A MINISTRY AND OUTREACH OF THE LOCAL CHURCH. Therefore, it is vital to the success of a MOPS group to have the full support of someone on the staff or church leadership team who will champion the MOPS group within the church, support the group with prayer and provide and advocate for needed funding and resources. The *Why MOPS?* DVD is a good resource to share with this “church champion” and congregation to help them understand the vision of MOPS. We also have a power point presentation available upon request to use for staff presentations, if needed.

*Why does the Charter Agreement need to be signed by a pastor or church staff?*

## *\*The MOPS Group Experience is ...*

- **Relevant**, so that every mom will know MOPS is for her
- **Relationally Inclusive**, so that every mom will feel welcome and accepted in community
- **Growth-oriented**, so that every mom will be challenged to grow as a woman, mother and leader
- **Purposeful**, so that every mom will know she’s part of God’s bigger purpose, picture and plan
- **Passionately Christian**, so that every mom will be drawn one step closer to Jesus.