

National Honor Society



**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
HOWARDS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

Background

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

Today, it is estimated that over one million students participate in activities of the NHS and its middle level counterpart, the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). NHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and many U.S. territories and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and to provide community service. The NHS chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These four criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society.

Section 2 The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to encourage the development of character in the students of Howards Grove High School.

Section 3 The Howards Grove High School National Honor Society shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Honor Society and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

ARTICLE II

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1 The control of this organization shall be vested in the National Council.

ARTICLE III

THE PRINCIPAL

Section 1 The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2 The principal shall annually appoint a chapter Advisor, who may serve consecutive terms.

ARTICLE IV

THE CHAPTER ADVISOR

Section 1 The chapter Advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2 The chapter Advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter Advisor shall send the annual report to the national office.

Section 3 The chapter Advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4 The chapter Advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

ARTICLE V

FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1 The Faculty Council shall consist of five faculty members appointed by the principal. In addition, the guidance counselor will be present as a non-voting member.

Section 2 The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3 The chapter Advisor shall be an ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 4 The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to select members and to consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning cases.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership in Howards Grove High School National Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, leadership, service, service and character.

Section 2 Members shall be known as active and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice in chapter affairs.

Section 3 The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, National Honor Society Advisors, or citizens in recognition of outstanding service rendered to school in keeping with the purpose of the National Honor Society.

Section 4 New members shall be inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5 Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to nominate to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship Program.

Section 6 A National Honor Society member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter Advisor to the new school Advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new schools chapter. Transfer members must meet the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

ARTICLE VII

SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester.

Section 2 Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.5. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

Section 3 The selection of members to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

Section 4 A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication, which is widely available to all students and parents in the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE VIII

DISMISSAL

Section 1 The procedure for dismissal shall be determined by the Faculty Council in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2 Members who fall below the standards, which were the basis for their selection, shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter Advisor and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civic laws a member does not need to be warned prior to dismissal.

Section 3 The Faculty Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

Section 4 In regards to all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council.

Section 5 A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Section 6 When a member is dismissed, he or she must return the National Honor Society pin. Notice of dismissal must be indicated on the annual report.

ARTICLE IX

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1 The Howards Grove High School National Honor Society chapter officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2 A majority of votes cast by the members shall be necessary to elect any chapter officer.

Section 3 It shall be the duty of the president to preside at meetings of this chapter.

Section 4 The vice-president shall fill the chair of the president in his or her absence.

Section 5. The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings. The treasurer shall keep a record of all business, shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter, and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

**ARTICLE X
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1 The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the chapter Advisor.

Section 2 The executive committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings, make recommendations to the Chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in the chapter bylaws.

Section 3 Any action on the part of the executive committee may be subject to the review of the chapter.

Section 4 The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policies and regulations.

**ARTICLE XI
MEETINGS**

Section 1 There will be two regular meetings of the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society in September and May with the date being left open to adjust for yearly calendar changes and school regulations.

Section 2 Special meetings approved by the executive committee may be called by the president. Special meetings may also be called by the chapter Advisor without the approval of the executive committee.

**ARTICLE XII
ACTIVITIES**

Section 1 Service Activities/Hours

Each member of the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society will spend a minimum of fifteen (15) verifiable hours per school year performing Faculty Council-approved tutoring and/or community service hours. A maximum of five (5) verifiable hours may be designated for any one activity. Tutoring hours must be approved by a staff member, faculty council member, or the NHS advisor. All other service hours must be verified with a signature from a supervisor for the activity (non-relative).

National Honor Society members who fail to involve themselves with Service hours will be warned in writing by the advisor and given one week to begin. Any member who fails to initiate this service will be subject to dismissal as will any member who fails to complete the Service Activities/Hours. The advisor will convene the Faculty Council for all such disciplinary action and due process procedures will be followed.

Example: 5 hrs. tutoring + 1 hr. Salvation Army bell ringing + 2 hrs Pause for a Cause + 5 hrs. Habitat for Humanity + 2 hrs. River Cleanup with Church = 15 total hours

Section 2 NHS Induction Ceremony

The second major activity of the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society is participation in the NHS Induction Ceremony in November. Members failing to participate will be required to perform one (1) additional hour above the required amount stated in Section 1.

Section 3 Annual Blood Drive (or other selected service activity.)

The third major activity of the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society is the organization and execution of the school district annual blood drive.

HOWARDS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SELECTION PROCESS

Membership of the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society is open to qualified juniors and seniors. The academic requirement is a 3.5 grade point average (G.P.A.) on a 4.0 scale in both the cumulative academic G.P.A and cumulative total G.P.A. The Faculty Council, a group of five faculty members appointed by the principal, will review and judge all academically qualified students on leadership, service and character. During this evaluation process, the Faculty Council may choose to elicit the opinions of fellow staff members. Final selection of potential members shall be made by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. Academically-qualified individuals not selected may request a hearing with the Faculty Council.

Upon the authority of the Faculty Council, the chapter Advisor will then offer membership to the selected potential members. Those individuals will also be made aware of the fact that membership in the National Honor Society requires completion of the activities mentioned in Article XII of the Howards Grove High School National Honor Society Constitution. Any individual that agrees to these requirements and standards will become an active member upon acceptance into National Honor Society.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

- A. All students interested for consideration of induction to National Honor Society will need to submit the following information to express interest in becoming an NHS member. This packet of information should include:
 1. A completed interest form that includes documented service hours. Verified service requires signatures for service hours from the respective supervisor for the service activities.
 2. The essays regarding service and character as described on page three of the Candidate Form.

- B. Students must meet the minimum requirements as listed below in regards to Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

Scholarship

"Students who have both a cumulative academic and cumulative total grade point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character."

Leadership

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activity while working with or for others.

Students who meet the Criteria for Scholarship and have participated in 4+ extracurricular, co-curricular, or community activities are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service and leadership. (ie. Athletics, FFA, 4H, Eagle Scout, Pep Club, Skills USA, Student Council, etc...)

Service

This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

Students are expected to complete at least 15 hours of “service work” to be considered for NHS induction. Therefore, students who meet the criteria for Scholarship and Leadership and have completed at least 15 hours of verifiable “service work” (please see criteria for service project Article XII, Section 1) are then eligible for consideration on the basis of character.

Character

The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability and shows courtesy, concern and respect for others.

Students are expected to not have any suspensions or athletic code violations within one calendar year of the induction ceremony date. Students who meet the criteria for character, service, leadership and academics, will be accepted into the HGHS National Honor Society.

Once selected by the local selection committee, a student is awarded membership in the local chapter at a special induction ceremony. With induction, a member assumes certain obligations. At Howards Grove High School, each member performs a minimum of 15 hours a year of Faculty Council-approved service hours.