

National Honor Society



SCHULENBURG SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character.

MOTTO OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

Noblesse Oblige which is French for "nobility obligates".

OFFICIAL COLORS OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

Blue and Gold

I. Membership

1. To be accepted as a member of the National Honor Society, a student sophomore, junior or senior must meet the qualifications of the National Honor Society.
2. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Schulenburg Secondary School.
3. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 95.0.
4. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

II. Selection Process

Scholarship

1. Candidates must be enrolled or have been enrolled in at least one advanced curriculum core class (Math, Science, English, or History).

Service

1. *Service to School*
 - o Candidates are to be active contributors to school organizations. (Examples: UIL, Athletics, FFA, FCCLA, Belles, Cheerleading, Student Council, Band, etc.)
2. *Service to Community/Participate in Community Activities*
 - o Candidates are to be active contributors to church groups, family duties, and/or volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged.

Leadership

1. *Demonstrate Leadership in School*
 - o Demonstrate leadership in promoting school activities.
 - o Contribute ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
 - o Exemplify a positive attitude and inspire positive behavior in others.
2. *Demonstrate Leadership in the Classroom*
 - o Demonstrate academic initiative.
 - o Contribute ideas that promote learning in the classroom.
 - o Participate in classroom activities and discussions.
3. *Demonstrate Leadership at Work and in Community Activities*

Character

1. *Cooperate by complying with all school regulations.*
2. *Observe instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both at school and in the community.*
3. *Demonstrate the **highest standards** of honesty and reliability.*
4. *Show courtesy, concern, and respect for others.*
5. *Uphold principles of morality and ethics.*

A. Initial Criteria Letter

Candidates will receive an initial criteria letter and student information packet, which will need to be completed and returned to the NHS advisor, complete with parent and student signatures.

B. Teacher Evaluations

Candidates will be evaluated by teachers, coaches, sponsors, etc. Teachers will submit their forms to the NHS advisor. Faculty members will evaluate the candidate on the qualities of leadership, character, and service. **Teacher evaluations will remain confidential, only to be seen by the NHS advisor and Faculty Council.**

C. Faculty Council Meeting

Five faculty members, who are appointed by the principal and will remain anonymous, will serve as the Faculty Council. The chapter advisor will serve as an ex officio, non-voting, sixth member of the council. No principal or assistant principal shall be included on the Faculty Council.

D. Selection

The selection of each candidate to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the NHS advisor shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations. If a candidate meets the criteria and evaluation standards set forth by the national and local NHS Constitutions, the candidate will be admitted into NHS. Students who do not meet criteria will be denied admission. Candidates will be notified of their selection status. A formal induction ceremony will follow.

E. Appeals

The appeals process is described below:

1. *NHS Advisor*

- o A student wishing to appeal the Faculty Council's decision may submit an appeal request in writing to the NHS advisor. The student may submit additional documentation that he/she believes may be helpful in the appeal. The Faculty Council will reconvene to make a determination. If the student is not admitted into NHS, the advisor will notify the student in writing, citing specific reasons for the Faculty Council's decision.

2. *Principal*

- o The student may appeal the Faculty Council's decision in writing to the campus principal. The principal will gather additional information, if necessary, from the student and the NHS advisor and issue a ruling. The ruling will be based on whether the Faculty Council appropriately followed the NHS constitution and policies and procedures in arriving at the decision. The principal will notify the student in writing of the ruling.

3. *Superintendent*

- o As a final option, the student may appeal the principal's decision to the district superintendent. The superintendent will issue a ruling and notify the student in writing.

III. Reasons for Receiving a Warning/Dismissal

A. Scholarship

1. *Low grades*

- o If a member's cumulative GPA falls below 95.0, he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

B. Service

1. *An unexcused absence from a NHS meeting.*
2. *Failure to participate in service hours/projects or fundraisers.*
3. *An unexcused absence from annual induction ceremony.*
4. *Not rendering service.*

C. Leadership

1. *Not taking an active role and initiative.*

D. Character

1. *Unacceptable behavior in school*
 - o This includes any behavior which requires disciplinary actions such as after school detention, lunch detention, in school suspension, alternative education placement, etc.
2. *Unacceptable behavior in the community*
 - o Not exemplifying the honorable characteristics of a NHS member, which also includes fighting and the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
3. *Academic dishonesty*
4. *Misbehavior or disrespect in an NHS meeting*
5. *All misconduct as outlined in the NHS warning/dismissal notice and Schulenburg Secondary School Student Handbook*

IV. Dismissal

Two warnings issued during one school year may result in the member's dismissal. Warnings may be issued for unacceptable behaviors occurring during school vacations. Any member who receives two warnings during one school year will be brought before the Faculty Council for a hearing, and the Faculty Council will administer an appropriate discipline action. Students who fall below standards will be warned in writing and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except in the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or the law.

For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required. If a member is dismissed, written notice of the decision shall be sent to the member, and the former member cannot reenter NHS. Students may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the principal and thereafter under the same rules of the selection process. The member must then surrender the National Honor Society membership card/certificate to the chapter advisor.

V. Duties of National Honor Society Officers

A. President

1. *Prepare agenda and preside over meetings.*
2. *Presides over induction ceremony.*
3. *Appoint committees and serve on them as an ex-officio member.*
4. *Serve as the official representative of the chapter.*
5. *Make service schedules.*

B. Vice-President

1. *Assume all duties of the president if it becomes necessary.*

2. *Assume duties delegated by the president or advisor.*
3. *Meet with president and advisor to prepare agenda for meeting.*
- C. **Secretary**
 1. *Prepare and present the minutes of each meeting.*
 2. *Compile chapter reports.*
 3. *Keep member attendance*
 4. *Write an article for the local paper after each meeting.*
 5. *Notify the local paper concerning any NHS service/fund-raising projects.*
- D. **Treasurer**
 1. *Receive and deposit National Honor Society funds.*
 2. *Make financial report to chapter.*
- E. **Parliamentarian**
 1. *Maintain order during meetings.*
 2. *Maintain files of members' service and tutoring hours.*
- F. **Historian**
 1. *Keep a scrapbook.*
 2. *Photograph all activities.*
- G. **Student Council Representative**
 1. *Represent the NHS Chapter at all Student Council meetings.*
 2. *Reports information from Student Council meeting to NHS.*

VI. Obligations of the National Honor Society Members

- A. **Scholarship**
 1. *Grades*
 - o Members must maintain a 95.0 cumulative average with premium points.
- B. **Service**
 1. *Service Hours*
 - o Twenty-five service hours are required in addition to any service projects as directed by the chapter president or sponsor. Service hours are time volunteered by members to contribute to the school and community. Service hours may be accrued during the summer months for the next school year.
 2. *Service to School*
 - o Members are to compete in non-athletic competitions, including but not limited to, UIL Academic Events, OAP, FCCLA Star Events, UIL Band Competitions, FFA Judging and Leadership contests. This includes representing the event as a participant at a district meet and/or beyond and completing the practice hours required by the event's sponsor.

- o Members are to serve by completing a minimum of thirty tutorial hours. Tutorial hours are documented by a teacher with the name of the student(s) being tutored. Tutoring occurs before school, during Power Hour, or after school, but not during a class period. A minimum of five hours must be completed in the Fall semester. Participation in non-athletic competitions can remove ten tutorial hours per event. If a member advances to area/regional and/or state level competitions, a credit of five tutoring hours will be given for each level of advancement. A maximum of twenty hours can be removed.
- 3. *Service to Community/Participate in Community Activities*
 - o Members are to be active contributors to church groups, family duties, and/or volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged.
- 4. *Service to NHS Chapter*
 - o Members are to be active contributors to committees and work groups within the organization.

C. Leadership

- 1. *Demonstrate Leadership in School*
 - o Demonstrate leadership in promoting school activities.
 - o Contribute ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
 - o Exemplify a positive attitude and inspire positive behavior in others.
- 2. *Demonstrate Leadership in the Classroom*
 - o Demonstrate academic initiative.
 - o Contribute ideas that promote learning in the classroom.
 - o Participate in classroom activities and discussions.
- 3. *Demonstrate Leadership at Work and in Community Activities*
- 4. *Delegate Responsibilities*
 - o Successfully hold school offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business efficiently and effectively, and without prodding, demonstrating reliability and dependability.

D. Character

- 1. *Cooperate by complying with all school regulations.*
- 2. *Observe instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both at school and in the community.*
- 3. *Demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and reliability.*
- 4. *Show courtesy, concern, and respect for others.*
- 5. *Uphold principles of morality and ethics.*

E. Attend NHS meetings and induction ceremonies

F. Community and school service hours/projects

G. Maintain a NHS notebook containing the following:

- 1. *NHS Constitution*
- 2. *Notes from meetings concerning any dates or duties*
- 3. *Service Documentation*

- o Each time service is rendered, you must document the activity: date & time, service, who, where, and signature of activity supervisor.

VII. Community and School Service Projects (performed as a group)

- A. Trick or Treat for non-perishable items for community food bank
- B. Delivery of Christmas Presents or Other Group Community Project
- C. Faculty Appreciation Week
- D. Volunteer projects in the community or at school

VIII. Annual Fundraisers

The profits from fundraisers are used for scholarships. Fundraisers for NHS are not service projects or service hours. Members not fulfilling their requirements for fundraising will have their senior scholarship proportionally reduced.

IX. Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded to graduating senior members. The account balance (in May) will be deducted twenty-five dollars per returning member or five hundred dollars, whichever is greater, for a working balance for the next school year. The remaining funds will be proportionally divided by the total number of senior membership semesters. This number is the amount to be awarded to each member for each good standing semester. A good standing semester is a semester where a member has been active and not on probation. The monies deducted for probationary/non-active semesters (including not participating in fundraisers) are proportionally distributed to the seniors with non-probationary/active semesters. A member that is dismissed from the National Honor Society will not receive any scholarship monies, regardless of any past "good standing" semesters.

X. Meetings

Meetings are scheduled monthly. Other meetings may be called if required. Every member is required to attend and participate in each meeting. A warning will be given to any member, including officers, absent from or disrespectful at a meeting.

XI. Induction Ceremonies

Induction ceremonies are held each spring. All current and new members are required to participate in the ceremony. Students should consult with the NHS advisor for dress requirements.

XII. Election of Officers

NHS members elect officers during the regular April meeting.

XIII. Transfer Students

A member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to the new school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

