

# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is a nationwide organization of students who have qualified within the definition of the society and the school as outstanding individuals.

## *Criteria for Membership*

1. Scholarship – earned a cumulative weighted average of at least 90.0 calculated after the second marking period of their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year.
2. Character – demonstrated a high standard of personal character. The candidate respects self, peers, and staff, has no known instances of cheating or dishonesty, has little or no discipline history.
3. Service – involved in service to the community and/or school
4. Leadership – served in a leadership position in the community and/or at school or has demonstrated qualities of leadership

Students are considered for induction during their sophomore, junior and/or senior year. The applications will be reviewed and selected by a faculty committee chaired by the National Honor Society Advisors in March or April, with a formal induction ceremony in May or June.

Members of the National Honor Society must maintain a cumulative average of at least 90.0, participate in all NHS activities, and maintain high standards of personal character in order to maintain membership. Those who do not will be subject to review by the Faculty Council.

## *Selection Process*

- Students may apply for membership in the National Honor Society in the spring of their sophomore, junior, or senior year if the overall academic weighted average is 90% or above.
- Character: Ratings by staff survey is required. The final decision is made by the Faculty Council based on the information provided by the staff survey. (See criteria listed below).
- Service: Recommendations by teachers, scout leaders, clergy, and Service leaders, etc. The student may submit rating forms to persons who know about his/her SUSTAINED and NOT-FOR- PAYMENT service activities and who have been the supervisors of these activities. Additional information may be solicited by the Faculty Council and the final decision is made by them.
- Leadership: Recommendations by teachers, scout leaders, clergy, etc. The student may submit rating forms to persons who know about his/her SUSTAINED and NOT-FOR-PAYMENT leadership activities and who have been the supervisors of these activities. Additional information may be solicited by the Faculty Council and the final decision is made by them.
- Eligible activities to demonstrate leadership and service include SUSTAINED commitment to school, church, temple, hospital, charitable, or community organizations, and the like. Note that service activities must be UNPAID and that leadership activities are not limited to elective offices.
- It is required that students submit a written essay.
- There is no membership quota. All who meet the standards are invited to become members.

- The standards of the National Honor Society, as made known in its published handbook, are the guide for the Walter G. O’Connell – Copiague High School Chapter.
- The standards for character, service, and leadership are listed below.

*Note carefully* - The Faculty Council is very concerned that candidates demonstrate all four qualities: scholarship, character, service, and leadership during their high school years. Students meeting the academic and character criteria should be aware that they must be able to demonstrate service and leadership as well.

*Please Note* - A minimum of 10 hours of participation in NHS activities, including attendance at the meetings, will be required of each member. Failure to meet these requirements will result in losing the honor of wearing the NHS stole at graduation.

*Dismissal Process*

If all four of selection criteria standards are not constantly upheld, the student may be recommended for dismissal from the Society.

*Transfer Students*

Students transferring from other schools, who were members of the National Honor Society Chapter in their former school, should see the Chapter co-advisers. (Membership is not automatically continued).

*Standards*

The following guidelines will give further help in the definition of leadership, service and character. (From the National Honor Society Handbook).

Leadership – The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestion
- Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business efficiently and effectively, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Demonstrates leadership in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted

Service – The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
- Participates in some outside activity: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged
- Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities

- Cheerfully and enthusiastically Tenders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work uncomplainingly
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Character – The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (Cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside of the classroom
- Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps to rid the school of bad influences or environment