

# **CHINA SPRING CHAPTER NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the China Spring Chapter of the National Honor Society of China Spring High School.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of China Spring High School.

### **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

#### Section 3. Eligibility

- a. Membership is by invitation only.
- b. To be eligible for membership, candidates must be a member of the Sophomore, Junior, or Senior class.
- c. Candidates must have been in attendance at China Spring High School the equivalent of one semester. NHS members transferring in from another school district may be eligible.
- d. Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average (GPA) of at least 3.500 and be graduating on the recommended or distinguished plan. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for the admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- e. Candidates must fill out and return by a specific date a student activity information form which verifies their service and leadership.
- f. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

### **ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

#### Section 1.

- a. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council (a committee of five (5) faculty members [teacher and non-teaching person] but not including the principal or advisers) after the faculty council reviews the China Spring High School faculty recommendations.
- b. The faculty advisor shall be the sixth, non-voting, member of the Faculty Council.

- c. The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.
- e. Appeal process ??????

Section 3. The selection of new, active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year.

- a. A student is eligible during the first semester of his/her sophomore year.
- b. If a student is invited to join as a sophomore and/or junior and declines that invitation and decides to join in his/her senior year, the faculty council will consider this in its evaluation and expect to find service and leadership present in those years that the student declined membership

Section 4. Candidates become active members when inducted at a special ceremony.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 1. Members are reevaluated each year by the Faculty council.

- a. Each member's GPA is checked every semester. Members are responsible for submitting a copy of their report card each six weeks to the advisor.
- b. Members are evaluated on character. Administrative records such as detentions, referrals, days in ISS, behavior/conduct records, as well as teacher evaluations may be considered by the Faculty Council.
- c. Service hours are checked to see that each member has a minimum of 10 verified hours: 3 of which are club-sponsored hours, 3 of which are personal hours, 2 of which are recycling, and 2 of which are committee meetings.
- d. Each member is also evaluated on his leadership role in and out of the school community. Members are expected to be resourceful, demonstrate leadership in promoting school activities, exercise influence on peers, exemplify positive behavior, successfully hold school offices or positions of responsibility, be able to delegate responsibilities and be dependable.

Section 2. To maintain membership in the organization each member is expected to meet certain minimum requirements.

- a. Each member is required to participate in a minimum of two (2) club sponsored service projects each year.
- b. Each member is required to be a chairman or member of at least one NHS committee each year of membership.

- c. Each member must attend society meetings and is responsible for all information discussed at both the monthly and called meetings. It is the member's responsibility to know the date and time of the meeting. Monthly meeting dates are posted on the NHS bulletin board and called meetings as well as committee meetings are announced at school. If you miss a meeting, you have 1 week to visit with the sponsor and find out the details of the meeting. If you fail to meet this requirement, probationary action will be taken.
- d. Members must pay dues of \$25/year due by the date as set by members at first meeting.

## **ARTICLE V: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL**

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the China Spring chapter of the National Honor Society.

- a. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below required level, he/she will be given a written warning and a time period of six weeks for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below required level at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that may include dismissal from the chapter or academic probation.
- b. Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.
- c. Violation of the school code of conduct as found in the China Spring Student Handbook will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct, the member may be dismissed.

Section 2 In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the advisor/Faculty Council. The member and advisor will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held.
- c. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in writing. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- d. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor.
- e. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the appeal process and set forth by China Spring ISD policy.
- g. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may imposed disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.
- h. Neither the National Council nor the national office (NASSP) has the authority to hear

appeals in cases of dismissal.

### Section 3: If a member is dismissed

- a. Written notice of the decision is sent to the member, his/her parents and the principal.
- b. The member must then surrender the NHS membership card and the NHS emblem to the chapter advisor
- c. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society
- d. Appeals are handled in the same fashion as discipline appeals as outlined in the China Spring Student/Parent Handbook. Neither the national Council nor the national office (NASSP) has the authority to hear appeals in cases of dismissal.