



# Constitution of the National Honor Society

## ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

*Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools (NHS).

*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 develop character in the students of secondary schools.

*Section 3.* The NHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, Va. 22091.

## ARTICLE II THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

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

*Section 2.* The National Council shall consist of seven members appointed by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The executive director of NASSP shall be ex-officio of the National Council and shall serve as treasurer of NHS. The director of NASSP's Division of Student Activities shall serve as secretary of the National Council. (see pages 2, 13, 38)

*Section 3.* The seven members shall be appointed for a three-year term.

*Section 4.* Four members shall constitute a quorum of the National Council.

## ARTICLE III STATE/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

*Section 1.* Local chapters may choose to organize state associations. The state principals association may form regional associations as defined by NASSP. (see Appendix 6)

*Section 2.* Any state or regional association of National Honor Society chapters shall conform to this Constitution and shall work with the NASSP Division of Student Activities in furthering the purpose of this organization.

*Section 3.* All state and/or regional associations shall be affiliated with the National Honor Society.

*Section 4.* The state or regional affiliation shall NOT serve as an appeal board for local chapter non-selection or dismissal cases. (See Appendix 5 for Affiliation Agreement.)

#### ARTICLE IV LOCAL CHAPTERS

*Section 1.* Any secondary public school is eligible to apply for a charter for a local chapter. Nonpublic secondary schools accredited or approved by state departments of education or by accrediting agencies approved by the National Council are eligible to apply for a charter for a local chapter. Each school shall have its own chapter. Two or more different schools may not share the same chapter. A middle level unit in the same building with a high school unit will be appropriate cause for two separate chapters (one for the National Junior Honor Society and one for the National Honor Society).

*Section 2.* Each chapter shall pay a chartering fee determined by the National Council (see page 32).

*Section 3.* Each school with a chapter shall pay an annual affiliation fee recommended by the National Council and approved by the NASSP Board of Directors.

*Section 4.* The annual *individual* member dues paid to a chapter, state, or regional affiliate, if any, shall not exceed five dollars inclusively. The exact amount shall be determined by the executive committee of the chapter and shall be subject to the approval of the chapter membership.

*Section 5.* Duly chartered local chapters shall conform to this Constitution as set forth by the National Council. Failure to do so may result in the loss of the charter.

#### ARTICLE V THE PRINCIPAL

*Section 1.* The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter. (see pages 14 & 38)

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

*Section 3.* The principal shall be a part of the local school district appeal process for non-selection or dismissal cases.

#### ARTICLE VI THE CHAPTER ADVISER

6 *Section 1.* The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day

supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community. (see page 14)

*Section 2.* The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser shall send the annual report to the national office. (see page 28)

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

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

#### ARTICLE VII FACULTY COUNCIL

*Section 1.* The faculty council shall consist of *five voting faculty members* appointed annually by the principal. **No principal or assistant principal may be included on the faculty council.** (see page 14)

*Section 2.* The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

*Section 3.* The chapter adviser shall be an ex-officio, **non-voting, sixth member** of the faculty council.

*Section 4.* The faculty council shall meet at *least* once a year to select members and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

#### ARTICLE VIII MEMBERSHIP

*Section 1.* Membership in local chapters 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 these qualities. (see pages 15, 37, 41)

*Section 2.* Membership shall be known as active and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs. (see page 15)

*Section 3.* The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisers, or adults in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Honor Society. (see page 15)

*Section 4.* Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony. (see page 20)

*Section 5.* Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters 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 former principal or chapter adviser to the new

school adviser 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. (see page 15)

*Section 7.* Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

#### ARTICLE IX SELECTION OF MEMBERS

*Section 1.* To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (sophomore, junior, senior) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. (Freshmen [ninth graders] are not eligible.) Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester. Some candidates may be ineligible for induction because of the semester ruling. Many students, including students of military parents, are required to move with parents or guardians that have transferred in their work. The present school principal should seek a recommendation from the previous school principal pursuant to the candidate's selection. Based on the recommendation of the previous principal, the faculty council may waive the semester regulation. (see page 16)

*Section 2.* Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 85 percent, B, or 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or the equivalent standard of excellence. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. (see pages 16-20)

*Section 3.* The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council. (see page 16)

*Section 4.* A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication which is widely available in a timely fashion to all students and parents of 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. (see page 16)

*Section 5.* The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the faculty council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

#### ARTICLE X 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. (see pages 25 & 43)

*Section 2.* Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws a member does not necessarily have to be warned.

*Section 3.* The faculty council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

*Section 4.* In 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.* The National Council and the NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

#### ARTICLE XI CHAPTER OFFICERS

*Section 1.* The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by the members of the chapter and be described in the chapter bylaws.

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

*Section 3.* New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony.

#### ARTICLE XII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

*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. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

*Section 3.* The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

#### ARTICLE XIII MEETINGS

*Section 1.* Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

*Section 2.* The regularity of the meetings (i.e., weekly, monthly, bimonthly) shall be designated in the chapter bylaws.

*Section 3.* Special meetings approved by the executive committee may be called by the president.

*Section 4.* Chapters shall conduct meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* in all points not expressly provided for in this Constitution or the chapter bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV  
ACTIVITIES

*Section 1.* Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

*Section 2.* All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

*Section 3.* These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

*Section 4.* Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in a service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

*Section 5.* Each chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE XV  
OFFICIAL INSIGNIA

*Section 1.* This organization shall have an official emblem selected by the National Council. The emblem shall be uniform. (See page 32)

*Section 2.* The distribution of the emblem and the rules for its use shall be under the exclusive control of the National Council.

*Section 3.* Each active, graduate, or honorary member shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

*Section 4.* Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser.

*Section 5.* All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, Va., 22091. All insignia are registered in the United States Patent Office and may not be copied by anyone.

*Section 6.* The motto of the National Honor Society shall be *Noblesse Oblige*.

*Section 7.* The official colors of the National Honor Society shall be blue and gold.

*Section 8.* A graduate member may replace a lost emblem by verifying membership to the national office.

ARTICLE XVI  
AMENDMENTS

*Section 1.* This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the National Council or by mail by an affirmative vote of four members of the National Council.

ARTICLE XVII  
BYLAWS

*Section 1.* Each chapter shall write bylaws to amplify sections of this Constitution and to clarify operating procedures of the chapter. Bylaws do not need the approval of the National Council but must be consistent with this Constitution. (see pages 13, 39)

*Section 2.* The chapter bylaws shall contain information concerning the election and duties of officers, the schedule of meetings, member obligations, dues, and the like.

*Section 3.* State or regional affiliation bylaws must be approved by the secretary of the National Honor Society (Director of NASSP's Division of Student Activities) and must be consistent with this Constitution.

Bylaws of the Eagle-Union Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools

Article I. Name and Purpose

Sec. I. The name of this chapter shall be the Eagle-Union Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools

Sec. II. The object 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 all students of Zionsville Community High School.

Article II. Membership

Sec. I. Divisions of membership in this chapter shall be active, graduate, and honorary.

Sec. II. Membership in this chapter shall be based on character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

Sec. III. An active member shall meet the following qualifications:

- A. Shall have completed four semesters of high school, one of which shall have been at Zionsville Community High School.
- B. Shall have attained a cumulative previous semester and previous grading period average of a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.
- C. Shall have completed steps toward membership as designated in Article VII of these bylaws.
- D. Shall have been re-evaluated by the faculty of his/her choice during and at the end of the fourth semester.
- E. Shall have been accepted by a faculty council appointed by the school administration.
  1. The Committee shall take under consideration the suggestion made by the re-evaluation committee.
  2. A faculty committee may abstain from voting on a candidate if they feel they do not know the candidate well enough.
  3. A minimum of two-thirds of the committee who vote must approve the candidate for acceptance into National Honor Society.
- F. Shall have participated in the induction ceremony and pledged to uphold the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.
- G. Shall continue to express an interest in the organization by regular attendance and participation in meetings and assigned activities. Shall not exceed the two unexcused absence maximum, and will face dismissal upon the third absence.
- H. An active member of National Honor Society who transfers to Zionsville Community High School will present a letter indicating the status of their standing membership and signed by the principal of the previous school. Upon approval of the sponsor, the transfer member will be accepted for membership in this chapter. The transfer member must maintain the requirement of this chapter to maintain membership.

Sec. IV. A graduate shall meet the following requirements.

- A. Shall have graduated from Zionsville Community High School as a National Honor Society Member in good standing.
- B. The last previous grading period average as well as the last previous semester average rules shall be waived. The accumulated grade point average must be the required grade point average at induction for a graduate to be in good standing.

## Sec. V. Honorary Membership

- A. Shall be conferred upon school officials, principals, teachers, National Honor Society Sponsors, and outstanding students with a physical handicap which prevents their meeting fully the requirements of membership.
- B. Foreign exchange students, or citizens will be considered for this honor in recognition of outstanding service to the school.
- C. Shall not be conferred upon regular students that attend the school.
- D. Shall be voted on by a simple majority of the actives and confirmed by a sponsor or faculty council.
  1. The usual membership card may be presented to the honorary member with the word "Honorary" typed on it. Honorary members are also permitted to wear the insignia.
  2. Names of the honorary members shall appear on the Charter's annual report.

## Article III. Privileges of Membership

Sec. I. Actives in good standing shall have a voice, vote, and if a senior, the privilege of holding office.

Sec. II. Any active member who falls below the standards which were the basis for his election shall be dismissed by the procedure outlined in Article VIII of these Bylaws, and never be eligible again for membership in the National Honor Society.

1. All the members of the NHS are expected to uphold all laws that pertain to them. This includes signing a pledge to remain alcohol and drug free during their membership in NHS. Upon breaking this contract members will be dismissed.

Sec. III. When a member is dismissed, he must be notified in writing and his membership card shall be returned to the sponsor. Notice of his dismissal shall be indicated on the annual report submitted to the national secretary at the end of the year.

## Article IV. Officers and Duties

Sec. I. A president shall preside at all regular meetings and be ex-officio member of all committees.

Sec. II. A first vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence, and assume any duties assigned to him in the Bylaws.

Sec. III. A secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and carry on the correspondence of the organization.

Sec. IV. A treasurer shall receive and disperse all funds of the chapters and keep an accurate record of all assets and deficits.

Sec. V. A devotional leader shall have charge of devotions at all meetings and other official functions, and keep the official attendance and service project record.

Sec. VI. Officers of this organization shall be elected by secret ballot at the last meeting of the year by a simple majority vote of the active members present, provided that there is a quorum (2/3 of the active members) present.

Sec. VII. Two members of the junior class shall serve as voting members on the executive board along with the above officers. They will be elected during the first meeting of the academic year.

## Article V. Supervision

Sec. I. The activities of this chapter shall be subject to approval of the principal.

Sec. II. The principal shall appoint a faculty sponsor who shall advise the chapter and shall carry out such evaluation and selection procedures as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

#### Article VI. Meetings

Sec. I. Regular meetings shall be held once a month according to the school activities schedule.

Sec. II. Special meetings may be called at the direction of the president and sponsor.

#### Article VII. Steps toward membership

##### Sec. I. Candidate Period

- A. A candidate shall meet the following requirements:
  1. Shall have completed at least four semesters of high school, one of which shall have been at Zionsville Community High School.
  2. Shall have attained a grade point average of 3.6 on a 4.0 scale in all subjects.
  3. Shall have expressed a desire in writing to work toward membership in Honor Society. This is done also by participating in all required activities.
  4. If a student moves here from another school as a senior and wants to gain membership to National Honor Society, they must have letters of approval from two teachers from the school from which they came.
  5. Shall exhibit the standards for membership.
  6. Shall be evaluated by the faculty of his choice in terms of the membership standards.
  7. A candidate may not attend meetings nor have a voice.

##### Sec. II. Probationary Period

- A. A probationer shall be defined as a candidate who has met the requirements for membership, been approved by the faculty council and has been notified in writing of his admission but has not been inducted.
- B. A probationer may have a voice but no vote in meetings.
- C. Shall exhibit the standards that were the basis for selection.

#### Article VIII. Termination of Honor Society Association

##### Sec. I. Probationers

- A. If cumulative grade point average drops below the specified standard, the faculty sponsor shall so advise the candidate and shall drop the said candidate for consideration of active membership.
- B. Probationers who do not attend meetings or participate in required activities without valid excuse will be considered as no longer expressing desire to work toward membership. The faculty sponsor, with approval of the organization officers, shall so advise the candidate, and shall drop the candidate from future active membership.
- C. See Sec. II., G for definition of excused absence.
- D. If probationer compromises any of the standards that were the basis for selection, the probationer shall be reevaluated by the faculty council and may be dropped from future active membership.

##### Sec. II. Active Members

- A. If the cumulative grade point average of an active member falls below the standards specified in Article II, Sec. III, part B. of the Constitution, the faculty sponsor shall so advise that member and shall drop said member from the organization roster.
- B. If the previous nine weeks or semester grade point average falls below the standards specified in the Constitution for activities (Article II, Sec. III, part B.) then that member shall be placed on probation for a period not to exceed one semester.
- C. Any active member on probation shall have a voice but no vote in any meetings of National Honor Society held during the probation period.

- D. If at the end of the probationary period, that member fails to bring his grade point average back to the minimum standard, then that member shall be notified in writing that his membership in the Eagle Chapter of the National Honor Society has been terminated, and that he shall never again be eligible for membership in the organization.
- E. Actives who do not attend the meetings or participate in required activities without a valid excuse shall be considered as no longer expressing desire for membership within the organization. After the first unexcused absence from a meeting, the active will be given a written reminder that his attendance is substandard. Upon the second unexcused absence, the active will have a verbal meeting with the sponsor regarding his attendance issues. Upon the third unexcused absence, the active will be dismissed from the organization. The active will be notified of his dismissal in writing upon approval of the faculty sponsor. He shall never again be eligible for membership in the organization.
- F. Actives who are not participating shall be given a written reminder following his second excused absence.
- G. All absences from a meeting will be unexcused except for excused absences from school, sickness, or by prior arrangement with the president or sponsor.
- H. Any active member who falls below the standards expected of them shall be dismissed and never again will be eligible for membership.

#### Article IX. Amendments

##### Sec. I.

- A. Any active member may submit a suggested amendment in writing to the secretary.

##### Sec. II.

- A. The secretary shall reduce the proposed amendment to proper form and present it to the organization at the next regular meeting.

##### Sec. III.

- A. The amendment shall become effective immediately upon the ratification of two-thirds active members at the next regular meeting after it was presented.

#### Article X. Ratification

##### Sec. I.

- A. These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon ratification of two-third of the active members present at two consecutive regular or called meetings.