

***Londonderry High School
National Honor Society
Bylaws***

Criteria for Selection

Selection for membership in the National Honor Society (NHS) is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. Candidates must have been in attendance at the high school the previous semester.

Selection for the National Honor Society will be based on the following criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Scholarship will be demonstrated by a student who has attained a career grade point average of 3.75 or above with no rounding up of the average based on the grade point value table of Londonderry High School. This career grade point average is based on cumulative semester grades.

Leadership may be demonstrated by a student who:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive 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; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school and community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any accepted responsibility
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude

Service may be demonstrated by a student who:

- Volunteers and provides 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 renders 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 without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school; for example, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Character may be demonstrated by a student who:

- 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
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Has the power of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoids cheating in written work, and shows unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others

Selection Procedure

In the *fall*, the NHS advisor will obtain from the Guidance Department a list of the **seniors** who have a minimum career grade point average of 3.75. In the *spring*, the NHS advisor will obtain from the Guidance Department a list of the **sophomores and juniors** who have a minimum career grade point average of 3.75. The Advisor will then distribute a Student Information Form so that all students may list their school and community activities as well as school and community service.

In addition to the Student Information Form, students will be asked to submit an essay defining their service to the community and the school. This essay should be no more than two pages in length.

A survey will be distributed to all faculty members in the high school so the faculty may rate scholastically eligible students in character and leadership as well as supply any further information that may be helpful in the selection process.

The faculty ratings are averaged and a comment sheet is compiled for each eligible student. In conjunction with these averages, each appropriate Student Information Form is presented to the Faculty Council without the students' names to ensure objectivity during the selection process.

The selection of members to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. All five members of the Council must be present for the selection process. In the event a member of the Faculty Council is unable to fulfill the responsibilities of his or her position, the principal will designate a substitute.

The selection procedure for seniors will take place in the fall so that the information can be used in the college application process. Even though they will be officially inducted in the spring, seniors have full membership status and are expected to participate in all chapter activities, fulfill community service requirements, and attend monthly meetings if they accept their nomination.

Due Process-Review of Non-Selected Students for Membership

Any student who has qualified for consideration as a member of the Londonderry High School Chapter of the National Honor Society by meeting the academic standard and was not selected as a new member may request an appeal of the criteria for character, leadership, and service. Such a request must be made by the student to the advisor of the National Honor Society by submitting a letter of appeal within five school days of their notification.

The National Honor Society Appeals Board will review submitted appeals and announce any additional new members within twenty school days after the deadline for submitting letters of appeal. The decision of the Appeals Board is final and not subject to further review.

Grounds for Dismissal

Members who fall below the National Honor Society standards, which were the basis for their selection, may be dismissed from the society. Two examples include a student whose grade point average falls below 3.75 for more than one semester, or a student who flagrantly and/or repeatedly violates school rules and/or civic law, such as the Londonderry High School substance abuse policy.

Dismissal Procedures

Members who fall below the standards that were the basis of their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor and be given reasonable time to correct the deficiency; no warning shall be given in the case of a flagrant violation of school rules and/or civic law.

This warning procedure is ordinarily initiated by the NHS advisor, although violations of standards can be pointed out to the advisor by members of the faculty and administration.

Failure to remedy the deficiency after a written warning shall result in a hearing by the Faculty Council concerning impending dismissal. In all classes of impending dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. The student will be informed of the action taken as a result of any hearing within five school days after the hearing.

A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council. One final letter of explanation can be drafted and submitted to the Appeals Board. The Appeals Board and the Principal will then make the final decision.

Students who resign or are dismissed from the National Honor Society will remain ineligible for future membership or its benefits.

A written description of the Londonderry High School National Honor Society dismissal procedure will be available to interested parties upon request.

Chapter Offices

All members of the National Honor Society will be eligible for selection as officers. Members of the Chapter Executive Board will include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Community Service Coordinator, and the Chapter Advisor.

The election of the officers will take place prior to the spring Induction of newly selected members. Passing of the gavel will take place during the Spring Induction Ceremony. If any vacancies of the elected officers exist at the time of the Induction, newly selected members may be elected to fill these positions. In the event an elected officer is unable to fulfill the requirements of office, the position will be filled at the next general meeting of the National Honor Society. Students who are considering early graduation may not run for office.

Membership, Meetings, Dues, Community Service Hours

Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character by which they are selected.

Chapter meetings will be scheduled monthly by the Executive Board and attendance is required. A member must notify the Chapter Advisor when an absence is necessary. If there are two unexcused absences, a warning will be given. If more than two unexcused absences occur, dismissal from the Chapter is possible. Special meetings approved by the Executive Board may be called by the President.

Membership dues for the year will be determined by the Executive Board and approved by the Faculty Council as needed.

Community Service Hours are required of each member. A total of 10 hours are needed to fulfill this requirement. They are divided by semester-5 hours will be checked off in December and April. A list of appropriate service hours will be available to all members at the first meeting of the year.

Activities

Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year. All members shall regularly participate in these projects. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and faculty; be appropriately well-planned, organized, and executed.

Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in a service project, of a length to be determined by the advisor and the Executive Board, which reflects his or her particular talents and interest. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Faculty Council to be implemented in September of the following school year.

Drafted	June, 1984
Revised	October, 1986
Revised	May, 1988
Revised	May, 1989
Revised	October, 1991
Revised	March, 1994
Revised	March, 1997
Revised	September, 2005
Revised	May, 2007