

THE CHAPTER CONSTITUTION
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
of the
National Association of Secondary School Principals

CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER
of the
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
6300 Independence Avenue, Bealeton, VA 22712
Adopted January 10, 1995
Revised September 25, 1997
Second revision May 17, 2002
Third revision April 12, 2004
Fourth Revision February 18, 2007
Fifth Revision April 2013
Sixth Revision March 2016

Article I
Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Liberty High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the Director of Student Programs and the Executive Director, NASSP, in 1994.

Section 2. 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 Liberty High School.

Article II
Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter 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.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter 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.

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.

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

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. The local chapter may give at least one scholarship to a senior member in good standing with the NHS. Interested seniors shall apply and the Advisory Council shall determine the recipient(s) and the amount of each scholarship.

Section 7. 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 of the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one term in order to retain membership.

Section 8. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership and its benefits.

Article III
Membership Eligibility

Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have attended the school the equivalent of one term before eligibility.

Section 2. Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of *3.5 or higher* from the ninth grade forward. Candidates shall also be evaluated based on service, leadership, and character.

Section 3. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council. Teachers will be asked to evaluate scholarship, leadership, service, character, and classroom attitude of the possible candidates. Satisfactory evaluations from teachers who evaluate a student will be required for candidacy. Two unsatisfactory evaluations will negate consideration of a student as a potential member of the NHS. Students will not be considered if there have been any flagrant violations of school rules.

Section 4. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication that 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.

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.

Section 6. The Faculty Council may recommend to the principal for his/her review student membership eligibility having mitigating circumstances. The principal shall then have discretionary authority to make a final determination regarding eligibility.

Article IV
Maintaining Membership

Section 1a. Once inducted, members must maintain a 3.5 or better grade point average. Grades will be checked at the end of each term.

Section 1b. If a member should fall below the standard of 3.5 grade point average, he or she will be given a written warning concerning this problem and may be placed on an automatic one-term probation having one term to raise his or her average to the required 3.5 average.

Section 2. Attendance at meetings and active participation in NHS are required. Active participation is defined as regular meeting attendance, committee meeting attendance, committee/individual community service requirements, maintenance of a verifiable community service record, and participation in at least one (1) major fundraiser per year. Failure to fulfill these requirements may result in automatic one-term probation and reinstatement as a member in good standing will depend on the outcome of a pending review of the member.

Section 2a. Attendance: Members cannot miss more than two (2) meetings per year.

Section 2b. Participation: *Each member will be required to join a club committee and perform 10 (ten) hours of club and/or committee work per term.* Additionally, all members shall participate in at least one NHS group service project per year. Members are responsible for maintaining a verifiable record of all club/committee work in their *Community Service Book* and surrender it when requested to the faculty adviser. Students who do not comply with this request or who fail to complete the necessary service work may be placed on

automatic probation until the issue has been corrected. If this issue is not resolved, within the time allotted, dismissal procedures will be initiated.

Section 2c. Students attending Lord Fairfax Community College, Fauquier High School, Mountain Vista Governor's School, or other Liberty High School sanctioned classes who are unable to attend the regularly scheduled membership meetings shall attend a special after-school meeting with the president and the adviser of the NHS. This special meeting will be held after school in the adviser's classroom on the day of the regularly scheduled meeting. The standards of attendance and participation (sections 2a and 2b) shall apply to them as well.

Section 3. The standards of leadership, service, and character must also be maintained. Noncompliance may result in dismissal. Failure to do so may result in probation, except in the case of a serious offense that violates school rules (including cheating). Serious school rule violations (including cheating) may result in dismissal.

Article V Dismissal

Section 1. The faculty council in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2. Members who fall below the chapter selection standards shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given one term 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. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the faculty council.

Section 4. 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 5: The principal shall review appeals in the cases of dismissal of members.

Section 6. The National Council and the NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

Section 7: When a member is dismissed, he/she will be notified in writing and his/her membership card, pin, and certificate will be returned to the sponsor or principal. These items are considered property of Liberty High School and are on loan to the student.

Section 8: Once a member is dismissed, he/she will never again be eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.

Article VI Officers

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, historian, and sergeant-at-arms.

Section 2. A combination of application, teacher recommendations, and majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect the president, vice-president, secretary, fundraiser, public relations officer, historian, and sergeant-at-arms.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings and work closely with the chapter adviser.

Section 4. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and serve as the chapter's committee liaison.

Section 5. The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all business and all records on file.

Section 6. The treasurer shall keep an accurate accounting of receipts and fundraising forms in accordance with school regulations.

Section 7. The historian shall preserve the memorabilia of the NHS throughout the year and will maintain a scrapbook to be passed on to future NHS members.

Section 8. The sergeant-at-arms shall enforce the tardiness rule by denying admission to those who are late.

Article VII Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of this 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 review by 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 VIII Meetings

Section 1. The 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. Meetings shall be held at least monthly and more often at the discretion of the chapter adviser and approved by the executive committee.

Article IX Activities

Section 1. The chapter shall select and carry-out 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 committee that reflects his or her particular talents and interests. Members are required to complete *10 (ten)* hours of club and/or committee hours per term.

Section 5. These service projects shall include, but are not limited to, the following: blood drives, elementary school reading/assisting, LHS tutoring sessions, food, clothing and blanket drives, Habitat for Humanity etc.

Section 6. Fundraisers are necessary for the maintenance of the NHS. Therefore, each year each member of the NHS must participate in at least one of the major fundraisers sponsored by the NHS.

Section 7. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Article X Supervision

Section 1. The activities of the chapter shall be subject to the approval of the principal.

Article XI
Emblem

Section 1. Each member of the chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem.

Section 3. Each member agrees that whether the emblem comes to him or her as a gift, a personal purchase, an award, or whatever source, the title to the council can by a majority vote request that any member return the emblem. In the case where the emblem can be shown to have been a personal purchase, the council shall reimburse the member the original cost of the emblem upon its surrender. Furthermore, each member agrees that his or her acceptance of the emblem shall be considered affirmation of this stipulation in regard to the emblem.

Section 4. If a student retains membership and actively participates as required, he or she shall be entitled to wear a pendant during graduation.

Section 5. All insignias must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091. All insignias are registered in the United States Patent Office and cannot be duplicated 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.

Article XII
Dues

Section 1. The annual chapter dues for each member shall be submitted to the adviser by the required deadline. If a student retains membership and actively participates as required, he or she shall be entitled to wear a pendant at graduation. Membership shall not be denied to students who are financially incapable of paying dues.

Article XIII
Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Liberty High School National Honor Society Advisory council.

Section 2. This Constitution shall be revised on a regular basis