

# National Honor Society

Additional information may be found at:

[http://www.sbschools.org/schools/sbhs/activities/club\\_details.php?action=details&id=56](http://www.sbschools.org/schools/sbhs/activities/club_details.php?action=details&id=56)

Students are invited to apply for the National Honor Society in their Junior and Senior years if they have met the following criteria:

## **Leadership**

Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school and community activities
- Exercises positive influence in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school and community
- 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 or community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
- Initiates, manages, organizes, or leads school and community activities

## **Service**

In considering service, the contributions this candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed. The student who serves:

- 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, i.e., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Show courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students

Service should be completed out of a passion for helping others and cannot include payment for goods or services rendered.

## Character

According to the National Honors Society Constitution a person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In addition, it can also be said that 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
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and honors those behaviors both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, 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 rid the school of bad influences or environment
- Follows the school's guidelines against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)
- Follows proper AUP guidelines and demonstrates appropriate online behavior both inside and outside of school

Here you will find Frequently Asked Questions and other important information.

## Important NHS Dates for the 2015-2016 School Year:

- **New candidate meeting:** October 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 a.m. in the auditorium or 2:30p.m. in the auditorium. All candidates will receive a letter home with this information and **MUST** attend one of these meetings
- **Candidate Packets Due:** Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> by 2:25. No exceptions or excuses will be accepted. **ALL PACKETS MUST BE TURNED IN BY THIS TIME! Packets received after the due date and time will not be considered.**
- **New Member Inductions:** February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the auditorium

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### ***What is the minimum required GPA to be in NHS?***

The current GPA stands at a 3.6. If a student has met this GPA requirement by the beginning of their junior year they will receive a letter home stating that they are a potential candidate and will be required to attend the candidate meeting.

### ***Can I be accepted into NHS as a senior if I was not accepted as a junior?***

Yes. You can be accepted as a senior if you meet the requirement of a 3.6 GPA at the beginning of the year and you were not already accepted into NHS.

### ***How many service hours are required to be eligible for NHS selection?***

NHS students usually complete 40 hours of service per high school year. Eligible juniors should have 80 documented hours. Seniors should have 120 documented hours. These hours should be from multiple (at least 4) organizations.

### ***What is a sample example of service required?***

A minimum of 80 hours for juniors and 120 hours for senior applicants is required. The applicant must demonstrate service in at least three different community environments and a minimum of four organizations. Students can submit no more than 40 hours from or through a single location or sponsoring organizations.

Below is a chart to give you a basic example of communities and organizations. Remember, this is just a guide and there are other examples of communities and organizations. Also, keep in mind that your application should focus on quality of service, not just quantity.

<b><u>Communities</u></b>	<b><u>Organizations</u></b>
South Brunswick Township (Town Community)	SB Food Pantry, SB Parks and Recreation, SB Public Library
South Brunswick High School (School Community)	Viking Closet, Homework Help Center
Religious Community	Teacher at religious school

\*\*\*The chart above would be an example of a student application having experience in three communities and six organizations.

Keep in mind, the required minimum is three communities and four organizations.

### ***How many leadership hours are required to be eligible for NHS selection?***

While there is no set number of leadership hours the students must demonstrate leadership with at least one organization. Please have candidate list any examples of leadership which can be found in the description above. We are looking at the quality and duration of the leadership position held. Leadership positions must be sustained over a period of time.

### ***What counts as leadership or service hours?***

**Service** can be described as participation in any activity for a **non-profit** organization. Service should be done on a volunteer basis and not only as a requirement for club or group membership.

Non-profit is defined as *“A corporation or an association that conducts business for the benefit of the general public without shareholders and without a profit motive.”*

<http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Non-profit+organization>

For Example:

- Doing yard work for a family member does not count towards your service hours because it is not an organization where the hours can be professionally verified.
- Kumon, doctor’s offices, lawyer’s offices, and family businesses are profit organizations and do not count as service.

**Leadership** is anything where you provide leadership to the community by organizing, initiating and managing, please see description above. E.g. Tutor/teacher, officer in a club, captain of a team, organizer of a recognized activity or group, etc.

### ***Can something be both leadership and service?***

Yes. We leave this up to the candidate to decide. For example, if you have 45 service hours at an organization and five of those were in a leadership position, 40 could be written under service and five could be considered leadership hours.

### ***When do service and leadership hours start counting? When do they stop counting?***

Hours for both begin the first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The cutoff for hours is 7 days prior to the candidate packets being turned in (Monday, November 16th). Anything completed before or after these dates **WILL NOT be** counted towards your hours. Once the packet has been submitted, additional hours, regardless of when they were completed, will not be taken into consideration.

### ***How are hours verified?***

Hours completed in school need to be verified with a signature from a staff member. If hours were completed with an organization we need to see a signed letter on **letterhead** or **certificate** from the organization. Any legitimate organization will have a letterhead. In the documentation your dates of service and hours completed **MUST** be stated. It must also provide a specific description of the service or leadership performed. The documentation must all be submitted in unalterable ink. Having a parent or family member’s signature does not count. Please do not send us pictures or work that you have created. We need to see a verified signature from the organization or person with whom you have worked.

### ***How does an integrity violation affect my eligibility?***

If you have a Level 2 violation or greater after your freshman year it is unlikely that you will be accepted in the initial selection process. A Level 3 or greater violation in any year will prove even more difficult. The National Honor Society focuses equally on academics, character, and integrity. We value honesty above all else.

***When we will know if we were accepted into NHS?***

Letters will be sent home approximately 1 month prior to the induction ceremony in February. Any student who did not get accepted will have the chance to appeal to a selection committee. During the appeals process, hours that were completed after the original November cutoff date **will not** count toward your appeal in any way. Additional hours for service or leadership that did not appear in the initial application cannot be added during the appeals process regardless of when the hours were completed. Appeals only allow for additional evidence toward pre-existing service or leadership hours in the initial application. Please make sure that you have thoroughly completed your application.

***After I am a member of NHS what is required of me?***

If you are inducted as a senior, you are required to complete 8 additional hours of service before May of your senior year. If you are inducted as a Junior, you are required to complete 24 additional hours of service before May of your Senior year.

***Can I be removed from NHS?***

Yes. You can be removed from NHS if you fail to complete your required service hours, your GPA falls below the required number, or if any other issues of integrity or character arise.

***How do we contact the NHS advisors with any further questions?***

You can email the NHS advisors at [NHS@sbschools.org](mailto:NHS@sbschools.org)