

## NHS REQUIREMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Students are eligible for membership beginning with their sophomore year. The following four areas are considered:

**SCHOLASTIC:** Students must have an overall high school cumulative average of 90 percent or higher. (89.5 will be rounded up) All classes are included except office worker/teacher aide. When calculating averages, five points are awarded for each honors course in which you are enrolled. Students must be enrolled in at least four full credit academic courses the year of induction.

**CHARACTER:** Students may not receive more than one “B” in conduct in any one six weeks and no conduct grade lower than a “B” in any six weeks (during the fall semester of induction). Discipline cards are also checked, and information gleaned will be considered. No student who has spent time in ISS, MIC, or home suspension will be considered for membership. It goes without saying that you must abide by all school rules and civil laws to remain in the National Honor Society. Your behavior off campus is as important as your behavior on campus in regards to membership with NHS. You will be a representative of the Poteet Chapter of the National Honor Society; and as such, you should conduct yourself accordingly.

**SERVICE:** Students must have completed a MINIMUM of fifteen hours of community service during the school year or summer before the school year he or she is inducted. These hours must be completed in time for consideration by the Faculty Council and must be documented on the community service form. “Community service” must be acts that are done to “help those in need.” See the community service guidelines for clarification. If you are someone who does not currently do community service (and is not interested in doing any) then NHS is probably not for you. NHS is NOT just an academic society. Academics are only one of the four tenets of the National Honor Society.

**LEADERSHIP:** Students are asked to document any extracurricular involvement, work experience, or honor awards received. Leadership is not limited to these three categories however.

Induction is usually in February with the induction process beginning in December. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Reese in room 225 or Ms. Williams in room 105.

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To maintain your status with the National Honor Society once inducted, you must:

1. Maintain an overall average of 90 each semester. If not you will be placed on probation for the fourth six weeks, during which time you must bring your average back up to a 90 or better. Note: You can be placed on probation at the beginning of a school year for your grades from the previous spring semester.
2. Receive no office referrals! This includes tardies and dress code referrals. Discipline cards are checked at the end of each six weeks, and probation letters are sent to those NHS members who have been to the office. If you are in ISS or MIC, you will be dismissed immediately.
3. Not receive more than one “B” in conduct each six weeks or any conduct grade lower than a “B.”
4. Complete fifteen hours of community service each summer. These hours must fall under the guidelines provided below. NOTE: Hours done working with Student Council (helping with school-opening activities), performance activities (i.e. Mesquite Symphony, summer theater productions...) and so on do not fit the definition of community service that NHS upholds. We want you to go out in the community and help those in need. The activities listed in this section would better fit under the heading of leadership activities.

5. Participate in at least two NHS sponsored community service projects each semester OR one NHS sponsored community service project and volunteer at least 3 hours of self-initiated community service. We normally do several each semester, so you have some choices. Note: This is in addition to the fifteen hours of work you will be doing during the summer.

6. Attend meetings. We will meet once a month (usually the 2nd Tuesday--morning or afternoon). Once you have missed three meetings, you will be placed on probation and cannot miss another meeting for the remainder of the year or you will be dismissed.

It goes without saying that you must abide by all school rules and civil laws to remain in the National Honor Society. Your behavior off campus is as important as your behavior on campus in regards to your membership with NHS. You will be a representative of the Poteet Chapter of the National Honor Society; and as such, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If this role is not one you are willing to take on with due care and consideration for the reputation of the Society, you may reconsider seeking membership.

**Lastly, we are looking for students who are already well-rounded individuals: those who maintain excellent grades, who make volunteerism part of their daily lives, who display a character that is above reproach, and who display strong leadership skills. If you feel that you embody these four tenets, then we want you to actively pursue membership with our organization.**

### Community Service Guidelines

Below is a list of possible community service activities:

- \*Exemption service during final exams the last two days of school
- \*Helping the elderly at a nursing home
- \*Driving for Meals on Wheels
- \*Feeding the homeless at shelters
- \*Volunteering at a hospital or orphanage
- \*Working at an animal shelter
- \*Volunteering at the library
- \*Volunteering for candidates or election campaigns
- \*Church activities are limited to:
  - volunteering at a food bank/soup kitchen
  - disaster relief work
  - poverty assistance

Some activities not considered to be community service are:

- \*Working with any performance group or rehearsal times (i.e. theater production, community plays, Mesquite concert) unless you give free performances at nursing homes and/or orphanages.
- \*Helping family members
- \*Any work for which the member is paid
- \*P.I.T. Camp
- \*School activities including those associated with: cheerleading, drill team, ROTC, Fine Arts, any sports team, or any other school clubs/organizations.
- \*Volunteering at any school for any reason
- \*Church related activities, such as: volunteering in the nursery, keeping church grounds, VBS, teaching Sunday School, or any activity not designed to benefit the wider community.
- \*Volunteering at for profit companies or organizations.