

GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
Paul R. Rainey Chapter

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Each year during the fall, members of the junior and senior classes are selected and inducted into the Georgetown High School Paul R. Rainey Chapter of the National Honor Society. The selection procedure is prescribed by the national constitution by which all chapters must abide. One of the requirements of the constitution is that a description of the selection procedure be published in an official school publication which is widely available. The following description of the National Honor Society selection procedure is provided in part to fulfill the requirements of the constitution but more importantly to inform the community of the high standards which Georgetown students attain and maintain for membership in the society.

From its inception in 1921, the National Honor Society has flourished so that now more than 20,000 chapters are chartered. The Paul R. Rainey Chapter of the National Honor Society was formed in 1961, and since that time numerous Georgetown High School students have been granted membership in the Society.

Selection for membership is based on the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These criteria have been established by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Eligibility is limited to 11th and 12th grade students.

To meet the scholarship standard, eleventh grade students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.500 for their high school career; twelfth grade students need an average of 3.500 for their high school career. Effective with the class of 2023, students will need a cumulative grade point average of 3.750 for their high school career. Only those students who have been in attendance at Georgetown High School for at least one semester will be considered for membership.

To meet the service and leadership standards, students will provide documentation of projects and volunteer activities in which they have participated. A total of at least twenty hours must be documented showing a minimum of ten hours of service to the school and ten hours of service to the community. Service is defined as an activity or project where one assists the community, school, or individual without compensation for the effort. Leadership is not necessarily limited to elected or appointed offices. It can also be effectively demonstrated by promoting and supporting worthy projects, showing initiative and perseverance, exemplifying a positive example, participating in resourceful problem solving, presenting and positive role model, etc.

To meet the character standard, candidates will be evaluated using the definition of character selected by the NASSP—The Six Pillars of Character. These six core ethical values form the basis of the CHARACTER COUNTS! youth-ethics initiative:

1. Trustworthiness — is truthful in communications, not misleading or deceptive in what is said. Volunteers information when it's needed. Has the courage to make choices based on ethical principles even if another way is easier or personally beneficial. Makes all reasonable efforts to keep promises and commitments, so that others can rely on him/her. Does not justify dishonesty, unfairness or broken promises. Is loyal to family and friends, and protects confidentiality unless it is an issue of safety.
2. Respect — Treats others with consideration. Conforms to accepted notions of taste and propriety in dealing with others. Does not resort to intimidation, coercion, or violence. Tolerates other people's beliefs and accepts individual differences without prejudice.
3. Responsibility — Acknowledges responsibility for the consequences of his/her own actions or inactions and does what should be done. Does not unfairly shift blame to others or claim credit for the work of others. Leads by example, teaches and inspires through personal conduct and appropriate role-modeling. Strives for excellence. Is reliable and committed to finish what is started. Will not adopt a win-at-any-cost attitude.
4. Fairness — Makes decisions based on the merits of the issue at hand. Avoids taking unfair advantage of the mistakes or ignorance of others. Voluntarily corrects personal mistakes.
5. Caring — Is considerate, kind, compassionate and generous. Takes into account how his/her decisions and actions are likely to affect others. Tries to live The Golden Rule— Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
6. Citizenship - Acknowledges a civic duty that extends beyond self-interest. Demonstrates a social consciousness by contributing to the overall public good. Recognizes that responsible citizenship involves community service and doing one's share.

Social media is a reflection of your character.

The selection process begins with the guidance department compiling a list of those juniors and seniors with the minimum cumulative grade point average. Students on this list are eligible for consideration for membership; however, simply being on the list is not a guarantee of selection for membership in the Society.

Students who meet the minimum grade point requirements will receive a letter informing them of their status. The students are asked to indicate on a form whether they wish to be considered for membership. Those students who respond in the affirmative are given a candidate packet which includes an information sheet, teacher evaluations, and sports/activities evaluations, a legal form, the chapter by-laws, responsibilities of membership, the Six Pillars of Character, and instructions for the candidates. The teacher evaluations are to be completed by five teachers of the students' choice with the requirement that the students must have taken a high school course under each teacher they choose to have evaluate them. In addition, the students are given two sheets to be completed by two adults who have served as either advisors or coaches of activities or sports of which the students have been participants. These evaluations will not be returned or shown to the students submitting them, to their parents, or to any other person not serving on the faculty council. Students will be asked to sign off on their completed candidate packets before they will be officially submitted to the Faculty Council for consideration for membership.

Selection to membership of the National Honor Society will be determined by a Faculty Council consisting of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. A member of the Faculty Council will serve as the chairperson.

The selection procedure then proceeds as follows:

1. The student information sheets must be filled out and submitted by the deadline. The specific date will vary from year to year.
2. The teacher and advisor/coach evaluation sheets must be submitted by the same deadline.
3. The essay must be submitted by the same deadline.
4. The legal form must be submitted by the same deadline.
5. The student meets with the advisor to verify the completeness of the candidate packet. Should items be missing, the advisor and student will determine an appropriate course of action. The candidate packet will not be submitted to the Faculty Council without the signatures of the student and the advisor on the verification form.
6. The chapter advisor verifies for the Faculty Council that all selection materials in the candidate packets are complete and ready for review.
7. The Faculty Council reviews the information form, the teacher evaluation forms, the advisor/coach evaluation forms, and the essay.

8. The Faculty Council may seek input from other faculty members to assist them in their selection.
9. Student nominees may be personally interviewed by the Faculty Council.
10. Each member of the Faculty Council, after reviewing all submitted materials, will vote by secret ballot. Based on available data, the Faculty Council will vote “yes” for the candidates whom they believe meet the requirements. They will vote “no” for the candidates whom they believe do not meet the requirements.
11. The committee chairperson will tally the votes and all students who receive a majority of “yes” votes will be selected for membership.
12. Students chosen for membership will receive a congratulatory letter. Students not chosen for membership will also receive a letter informing them of their status.
13. All materials submitted by students, teachers, advisors, and coaches which are used in the selection process will be destroyed as soon as the process has been completed. Questions regarding the procedures used during the selection process will be directed to the Principal for a response.

This selection procedure is the culmination of a sincere effort of the Faculty Council to devise a process that is as fair and objective as possible within the guidelines established by the national constitution of the National Honor Society. The primary objective is to maintain the high standards of the Society while providing all eligible students with an equitable opportunity for selection and induction into the Society.