

The National Honor Society chapter of **Georgetown-RidgeFarm High School** is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Students are selected for membership by a 5-member Faculty Council, selected by the advisor, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each Spring, after the grades are posted for the third quarter.

Students in grades 10 - 12 are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 4.2 or better on a 5.0 scale. Each Spring, those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Candidate Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. On the Candidate Form/Application, two entries are the **minimal** requirements for each designated area.

To evaluate a candidate's character, all members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's leadership, character and service. These forms and the Candidate Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the Council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection in person and/or by mail.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance (or better) in all four criteria that led to their selection.

NHS at a Glance

CONSTITUTION: All chapters are governed by the national NHS constitution. Local needs and conditions are addressed through the chapter bylaws.

ADMINISTRATION: At the national level, the National Council and NASSP Board of Directors are responsible for administering the affairs of the National Honor Society. Locally, the principal reserves the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter, except in the case of a dismissal appeal through normal school district channels. The chapter adviser is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the chapter. The faculty council establishes, implements, and reviews selection and dismissal procedures.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY: The NHS constitution provides eligibility for sophomores, juniors, and seniors (10th, 11th, 12th grades). However, local chapters may decide to limit eligibility to one or a combination of these grade levels, in its bylaws. Freshmen (9th grade) are not eligible for NHS membership.

MEMBERSHIP: Active members must maintain the standards by which they were selected and meet other obligations as determined by the chapter. Members become graduate members upon graduation. Adults in the school and community whom the faculty council determines merit such recognition may become honorary members. Foreign and handicapped students who do not meet all the requirements may also be eligible for honorary membership.

ACTIVITIES: The chapter annually determines and describes which activity project the group will undertake. All members shall participate in the chapter project and other projects that reflect their own interests and talents.

MEETINGS: Meeting times are specified in the bylaws. The chapter adviser and the chapter officers make up the executive committee and meet regularly to discuss chapter business and plan meetings.

INSIGNIA: All insignia are available to official NHS members through the national office. Insignia may not be copied or used in an unauthorized manner.

DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL: The chapter advisor monitors members for compliance with obligations. Members receive a limited number of warnings (determined by the faculty council) for infractions. For flagrant violations of civil law or school rules, no warning is necessary. A variety of disciplinary measures can be taken by the

faculty council and adviser, with dismissal reserved for flagrant or chronic offenders.

Members who face dismissal must be given an opportunity to address the faculty council regarding their infraction before they are dismissed. Dismissal is never automatic. The dismissal procedure must be described in writing and must be available to those who request it. Dismissal should be used sparingly by the faculty council. Other disciplinary measures (loss of privileges for a specified amount of time, special counseling, etc.) are more appropriate for most situations.

The emphasis in both selection and dismissal should be on developing and consistently using a clear, objective, fair, and non-discriminatory process that is well understood by all concerned. Improving communication about these matters will help avoid many of the difficulties encountered with students and parents in the past.

U. S. Department of Education

GEORGETOWN
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Georgetown 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 members of the National Council.

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 students of Georgetown High School.

ARTICLE II.

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be based upon Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 2. Membership of this chapter shall be known as provisional, active, and graduate. The graduate members have no vote. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Provisional members, if they maintain high standards, may become active members in their junior year.

Section 3. Members of the sophomore class may be chosen as provisional members of the chapter of the National Honor Society if they satisfy all the requirements placed upon candidates from the junior and senior classes. Such provisional members shall have voice and vote in the chapter but may not hold office.

Section 4. Candidates shall have spent at least one semester in Georgetown High School, and shall be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates eligible to election to the chapter shall have a scholarship average of 4.2, or its equivalent. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be for this chapter the required scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy for membership in this chapter. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard level shall be admitted to candidacy for election to membership. Their eligibility shall then be considered on their Service, Leadership, and Character.

ARTICLE III.

Election of Members

Section 1. The election of members to this chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by a chapter council, consisting of the principal and members of the faculty; in no case should there be fewer than four teachers.

Section 2. Any member of the faculty may propose to the council the names of students eligible for membership in the chapter.

Section 3. Any member who falls below the standards which were the basis of his election shall be promptly warned. If during the next regular marking period of the school, the member fails to meet the standards used as bases for his election to the Society, his case shall be passed upon by the faculty council. A National Honor Society member must maintain the standards for membership in order to retain his membership. A member will be allowed only one warning period. Once a member is dismissed, from membership, he is never again eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 4. When a member is dismissed, he must be notified in writing and his emblem and membership card returned to the adviser or principal. Notice of his dismissal must be indicated on the Annual Report submitted to the national secretary at the end of the school year.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his membership and signed by the principal.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. This transfer member must maintain the membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain his membership.

Article IV.

Officers

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of this chapter.

Section 4. The vice-president shall fill the chair of the president in his absence.

Section 5. The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all businesses, and all records on file. He shall, with the approval of the principal or adviser, certify to the national secretary of the National Council the names of all members for the current school year on the Annual Report submitted to National Headquarters.

Section 6. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

Article V.

Chapter Executive Committee

Section 1. The chapter executive committee shall consist of four members of the faculty council and the officers of the chapter.

Section 2. The chapter executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter, but any action on the part of the chapter committee may be subject to the review of the chapter.

Section 3. All accounts of the treasurer must be audited annually by an auditing committee appointed by the chapter executive committee.

Article VI.

Supervision

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

Article VII.

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of this chapter shall be held monthly during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and approved by the principal.

Section 2. The officers of the chapter for the following year, shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the school year.

Section 3. Special meetings, approved by the executive committee, may be called by the president.

Section 4. All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the principal or some member of the faculty selected by him.

Section 5. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order in all points not expressly provided for in the constitution of this chapter.

Article VIII.

Emblem

Section 1. Each member of this 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 as a gift, a personal purchase, an award, or from whatever source, the title to the emblem shall rest with the chapter of which he is a member; and, therefore, the emblem can, on motion of the council, be commandeered. Furthermore, each member agrees that his acceptance of the emblem shall be considered affirmation of this stipulation in regard to the title of the emblem.

Section 4. All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. All insignia are registered in the United States Patent Office, and cannot be duplicated by anyone.

Article IX.

Dues

Section 1. Annual dues for each member shall be charged to each member. The amount shall be subject to the approval of the executive committee of the chapter.

Article X.

Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided that the proposed amendment has been approved by the executive committee of the chapter and by the national secretary of the National Honor Society and that notice to members has been given at least one month prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.