

# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

**Section 1** - The name of this chapter shall be the Saint George School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

**Section 2** - The objective of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to encourage the development of character in all students of Saint George 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 shall be based upon scholarship, service, leadership, and character. 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 become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

**Section 3** - To be eligible for election to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period equivalent to one semester in this school.

**Section 4** – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony in Spring.

**Section 5** – A National Honor Society member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter adviser to the Saint George school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in this chapter. Transfer members must meet Saint George Upper School's chapter standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

**Section 6** – Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## ARTICLE III - Election of Members

**Section 1** - The election of members to this chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by a chapter Faculty Council consisting of five voting members and chaired by the adviser(s) (non-voting).

**Section 2** – To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (sophomore, junior, or senior) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. Candidates must have been in attendance at Saint George Upper School the equivalent of one semester.

**Section 3** – Candidates must have a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.60 or higher out of a possible 4.00. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

**Section 4** – The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

**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.

## **ARTICLE IV – Dismissal**

**Section 1** – The procedure for dismissal is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society.

**Section 2** – Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser(s) or Principal and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except in the case of a 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** – For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

**Section 5** – A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the Administration of the school.

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

## **ARTICLE V – Officers**

**Section 1** – The officers of this chapter shall be President, Vice President, and Secretary.

**Section 2** – A majority of members voting shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

**Section 3** – The positions of President and Vice President must be held by senior members.

**Section 4** – It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings of this chapter.

**Section 5** – The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President.

**Section 6** – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all business, and all records on file.

## **ARTICLE VI – Meetings**

**Section 1** – Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the adviser(s) and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

**Section 2** – The officers of the chapter shall be elected in May for the upcoming year.

## **ARTICLE VII – Activities**

**Section 1** – Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects for the year.

**Section 2** – All members are expected to 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.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Emblem**

**Section 1** – Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem or pin 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 or pin to the chapter adviser(s).

## **ARTICLE IX – Bylaws**

**Section 1** – A chapter may wish to include bylaws to amplify sections of its constitution. Bylaws do not need to be approved by the National Council if they are consistent with regulations outlined in the constitution.

**Saint George School  
National Honor Society  
Bylaws**

**I. GOALS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

The official National Honor Society Handbook establishes the following goals: “The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.” In addition, the Handbook identifies general principles governing membership eligibility and selection. “Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Membership is granted to only those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school.” Students meeting eligibility requirements are further considered “on the basis of service, leadership, and character.” Students who meet eligibility requirements and who submit supporting information “should understand that such surveys are not applications for membership, and that a review of information gathered does not guarantee selection.” Finally, “membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility.”; and “parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Honor Society.”

**II. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Student academic eligibility is determined on the following bases. Students must:

1. Be at least a sophomore who has attended Saint George Upper School for three or more semesters.
2. Have at least a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.60 out of a possible 4.00.

**III. MEMBERSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURES**

1. All students who meet academic eligibility requirements will be notified and provided with one packet containing the following papers:
  - A. A Student Activity Information Form,
  - B. Four-Six Sponsor Forms,
  - C. Saint George Upper School’s NHS Eligibility, Selection, and Membership Guidelines
  - D. Required Student/Parent Signature Form

Students wishing to be further considered for NHS selection will be given the opportunity to complete the Student Activity Information Form and to obtain four-six Sponsor Forms. At least three forms must be completed by their Upper school’s faculty/staff members. One of the Sponsor Forms may be completed by an adult, community-based activity leader when appropriate. Relatives may not complete sponsor forms. A total of four sponsor forms must be completed in a specific time period. Students must complete the top of each sponsor form and provide each sponsor with an envelope.

2. Students must turn in a transcript from the Record’s office along with their paperwork.
3. A Faculty Council composed of five voting members and chaired by the advisors (non-voting) will review all eligible students’ documentation in order to assess their leadership, service, and

character. The Faculty Council may interview eligible students if deemed necessary to render judgments.

A. Leadership includes the following more specific characteristics:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities.
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- 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.
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

B. Service includes the following more specific characteristics:

- 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 any complaint.
- Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Youth activities, church groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools.
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

C. Character includes the following more specific characteristics:

- 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 faithful both inside and outside the classroom.
- Has self-discipline and sustain's attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding plagiarism in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

4. After the administration has reviewed the list of eligible students and has indicated whether any name should be withdrawn as the result of disciplinary infractions, remaining candidates receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council will be invited to be inducted as members of NHS. All eligible students will be notified in writing of the Faculty Council's decision. Students not selected for induction in their sophomore or junior year will be reconsidered without prejudice the following year provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements.

5. In accordance with the official National Honor Society Handbook, appeals from non-selected students and their parents will be reviewed by the advisor and or Principal.

A. If it is determined that a technical error such as, “the inadvertent omission of a student’s name from the list of those qualified for induction or the erroneous averaging of grades”, the Faculty Council will be reconvened to render a decision. \*Student error in paperwork does not constitute a technical error.

B. If, however, it is determined that it is the Faculty Council’s judgment regarding a student’s leadership, service, and/or character which is being questioned, the principal and/or advisor, “. . . in the absence of specific evidence to the contrary, . . . must assume that the members of the council are exercising their discretion in a legitimate manner and with the good faith expected of them.”

C. An appeal of the principal’s decision may be put in writing to the Administration of Saint George School.

#### **IV. MAINTAINING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

1. In general, the standards for scholarship, leadership, service, and character required for eligibility and selection must be maintained in order for students to remain active members. According to the official National Honor Society Handbook, the advisor will periodically review the standing of members for compliance with Society standards. However, a member is never automatically dismissed for failing to maintain standards. “A hearing must be conducted by the Faculty Council to dismiss a member”, unless the student elects to resign from the society. A resignation must be submitted in writing to the NHS advisor and or Principal.

2. Each member is required to notify the advisors of any disciplinary infractions. This includes but is not limited to lateness, detention, as well as any offenses outside of school. Failure to notify the advisors will result in an immediate pre-dismissal hearing.

3. “In the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a warning is not necessarily required for dismissal.” A flagrant violation is defined as, but is not limited to, a blatant disregard for a school policy as determined by the faculty council. Such a violation may or may not have received other disciplinary consequences.

4. For infractions or offenses of a minor nature, the principal /advisor will inform the student in writing, and when possible, in a conference about the nature of the violation, provide the student with a reasonable time period for improvement. Should the faculty council determine that an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings, a faculty council pre-dismissal hearing will be held.

5. In the event that a Faculty Council (teachers from the student's grade level) pre-dismissal hearing must be convened, the hearing and any consequent dismissal appeal will be conducted in strict accordance with procedures outlined in the National Honor Society Handbook. “Furthermore, a student who is dismissed or resigns may never again become an Honor Society member.”

6. Each member is required to maintain a 3.60 weighted. A member whose GPA falls below this level will be warned and given a period of one semester to raise his/her GPA to the minimum level.

7. Members of the Society must remain active in their National Honor Society chapter to be eligible to wear the NHS emblem or pin during their graduation.

## **V. Meetings**

Meetings are held throughout the school year during club period after school. If you are not able to attend a meeting, it is your responsibility to notify the advisors **before** the meeting to request information about what you will miss. Failure to do so will result in jeopardizing membership.

## **VI. Chapter Elections**

Elections are held during a May meeting. Members running for office must be nominated by a current member of the National Honor Society and verify the nomination. The offices of President and Vice President must be held by a senior member of NHS. The office of secretary may be held by a senior or junior member of NHS.

Members who fail to maintain their service/activities status and GPA requirement may be precluded from running for an office.

## **VII. Graduation**

1. Members must have earned the required number of activities and maintained the cumulative, weighted GPA of 3.60 or higher to wear the NHS emblem or pin at graduation and to be listed in the Commencement Program as an active member of the Society.

2. Approximately one month prior to graduation, all members who have not met these requirements will be notified in writing by the principal or advisors.

## **VIII. Service/Activities**

Members are required to continue participation in school activities, individual and community service. Members must maintain the standards for membership. Members could lose their membership in NHS due to 15 unexcused tardiness to school.

A member will be allowed only one warning period. If the member fails to comply with the standards, a dismissal hearing will be set in motion. Once a member is dismissed, he/she is never again eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.



