

National Honor Society Selection Guidelines

The New Hampstead High School National Honor Society strives to recognize students who excel in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. In order to be considered for NHS membership, students must comply with several required selection guidelines during their high school years. The guidelines outlined below are also available at the New Hampstead High School's website's Organizations tab.

These qualities are measured by the New Hampstead High School Faculty Council:

Scholarship: Any sophomore, junior, or senior NHS candidate must have a cumulative weighted G.P.A. of 3.5 or above at the end of first semester of the current school year. Additionally, students must have completed one semester at New Hampstead High School and be full time students to be eligible; this includes Dual Enrollment courses. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have met this GPA requirement will be invited to complete the required forms and on-line application at the beginning of second semester in order to be considered for membership.

Leadership: Candidates are asked to explain at least 3 instances when he or she has taken on a leadership role. Evidence of leadership may be demonstrated through an elected or appointed position held in school, community, or work activities. Only those positions in which you were responsible for directing or motivating others should be included. Examples of such leadership positions include but are not limited to: elected officer for the student body, class, or club; committee chairperson, team captain; newspaper or yearbook editor; section leaders in band or chorus; work area manager; or other community leader. If you choose a classroom experience as evidence of leadership, make sure to list evidence indicating how you went above and beyond what is expected of students in the class.

According to www.nhs.us, the official site of the National Honor Society, "Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others."

The following list of leadership qualities will be used as criteria for showing adequate evidence of leadership. In order for a leadership role to be considered sufficient it should include multiple items from the list.

The student who exercises leadership:

- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- 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 and spirit
- 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
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is able to motivate others
- Is able to effectively communicate what needs to be done and give clear directions on how to do it
- Listens to the concerns and questions of those that are being led
- Sets short and long terms goals

- Can accurately assess progress made and make necessary adjustments
- Models desired behavior

Service: Students being considered for NHS are expected to have participated in service activities throughout each of their high school years. Generally speaking, service activities are those done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation (monetary or other) has been given.

- Sophomore candidates need a minimum of 5 documented hours to be considered for membership.
- Junior candidates need a minimum of 10 documented hours to be considered for membership.
- Senior candidates need a minimum of 25 documented hours to be considered for membership.

These hours can accumulate throughout high school; however, any service hours reported on a candidate's Student Activity Information section of the application should not be ones that are required for another extracurricular activity (i.e. homecoming dance setup which is a requirement for student council membership). In addition, the hours reported may be used in conjunction with the mandatory hours for graduation as long as they meet the other requirements for service.

Service completed should also not directly benefit your activity or organization (i.e. raising money for your teammates to go to competitions, raising money for new uniforms, etc.).

Character: Character is demonstrated in the classroom and in students' participation in extra-curricular activities. Character is reported by the classroom teachers, extra-curricular sponsors and coaches, and by the students themselves through the selection process.

IMPORTANT: All candidates must complete a Student Activity Information section of the application in order to be considered for membership. Clear and detailed information provided by the students for each of these selection criteria will help provide the selection committee with a total picture of the student being considered. Completing the application and simply meeting the minimum requirements in each category is the first step for being considered for NHS membership. It does not guarantee membership in NHS. Candidates are reviewed based on the caliber and quality of their leadership and service experiences as well as their character as reported by teachers, sponsors and coaches. The Faculty Council reserves the right to consider extenuating circumstances which may have prevented any candidate from meeting the minimum requirements in any category.

Once students are selected for NHS they are expected to continue their commitment to service by completing an additional 15 hours of service during their sophomore, junior, and senior years (7 first semester and 8 second semester or vice versa). Students are also expected to uphold the standards of scholarship, leadership, and character for which they were selected. This includes following all school policies and regulations and remaining a law abiding citizen. Failure to do so could result in the student's dismissal from National Honor Society.

By following these procedures, New Hampstead High School anticipates that we will recognize and continue the proud tradition of excellence demonstrated by our National Honor Society member