

# Merlin Shelton Chapter of National Honor Society

## Member Selection Procedures

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CHARACTER  
SCHOLARSHIP  
LEADERSHIP  
SERVICE

### About NHS

For many students, selection as a member of the National Honor Society is the pinnacle of their achievements in high school. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member. Because of the importance placed upon this aspect of high school life, local chapters are charged with creating a selection process that conforms to the national guidelines, is applied fairly and consistently to all candidates, and provides a meaningful recognition of deserving students.

Selection to NHS is a privilege bestowed upon students by the faculty of the school, and is not considered a right inherent to any student. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council in each school on the condition of their having met the standards for selection based upon the four pillars of the National Honor Society: scholarship, service, character, and leadership.

Each member must demonstrate not only good grades, but also strength in each of the remaining three pillars. NHS is more than an honor roll; membership is not automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance. Your candidate information form is your only chance to convey how you meet the qualifications of NHS. Represent yourself well in each section of the form. Please see below for more information about each of the four qualifications on which your form will be evaluated.

### Scholarship

If a student meets the following requirements, then they will be considered for NHS:

1. Student is in either of the following grades: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>
2. Student has a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
3. Student has a GPA of 3.5 or higher for three consecutive quarters

## Service

Service is generally considered by the Faculty Council to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done on behalf of others without any direct compensation, recognition, or benefit to the student. Service should be ongoing. The committee looks for continuity and quality as well as overall hours. Paid positions, fundraising activities for school or personal trips do not qualify as service activities. To be selected as a member of our chapter, a candidate must demonstrate on their candidate information form **at least 10 hours** of service undertaken at school or in the community since the start of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. All such service references by candidates should include verification by an adult supervisor of the activity under consideration.

## Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. The faculty council interprets leadership in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, as well as those positions that exist outside elected positions. These types of positions include, but are not limited to, positions of responsibility in other activities offered on campus, such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and choir, and committee chairs in student groups. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered. To meet the leadership criterion for selection into our chapter, a student must name **at least one leadership role** at school or in the community achieved since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and indicate the roles and the name of the adult who supervised each activity on the candidate information form.

For leadership roles listed, each candidate should fill out a **Leadership Evaluation Form** provided with the candidate information form. Please provide a clear explanation of the active leadership activities performed in each leadership role. Students must be specific about their duties, responsibilities and actions in their leadership roles. After filling out the candidate portion of the evaluation form, students should give the form to the supervising adult for them to finish the evaluation. More than one role may be listed, but there must be adult verification for each role.

## Character

The faculty council will consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of each candidate's character. National Honor Society is a member of the *Character Counts! Coalition* and supports and recommends the use of a multifaceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character. A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. A candidate must be able to demonstrate an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies, or be able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies. The following will be considered for each student in order to evaluate their character:

- One (1) adult community member (non-family member) recommendation letter and two (2) teacher recommendation letters
  - Candidates must give their recommenders plenty of notice in order to allow them time to get their letters submitted by the established deadline.
  - Letters of recommendation shall be submitted directly to the adviser and will be considered confidential student documents.
- All teachers at Princeton High School will have the opportunity to provide comments and scores of a candidate's character in and out of the classroom using the *Teacher Input Form*.

- After the initial screening by the Faculty Council, the principal may review discipline records of candidates and provide relevant information to the Faculty Council if needed.

If a student feels like a character issue may arise in the evaluation process, they may write an explanation reflecting what they have learned from the incident. If a student is forthcoming with the information, the infraction **may** be overlooked. Please use the **Character Issue Explanation Form** that is provided with the candidate information form for this process.

## **Essay**

Students wishing to complete the candidate information form will also be required to write a short essay. The Faculty Council will determine the topic of the essay each year. Students should take care when writing their essay and proofread for mistakes as they could be held against them. Candidates should use this opportunity to highlight their compositional skills and the value of the four criteria in ways the rest of the information form does not allow for.