

Selection Criteria for National Honor Society

Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Some Faculty Councils may wish to interpret leadership in terms of number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, although it is important to recognize that leadership also exists outside elected positions including effective participation in other co-curricular activities. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. The student who exercises leadership is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions. They demonstrate initiative in promoting school activities and exercise a positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals. They are able to delegate responsibilities and inspire positive behavior in others. They demonstrate academic initiative and exemplify positive attitudes. They can successfully hold school offices or positions of responsibility while conducting business effectively and efficiently. They demonstrate reliability and dependability. They are a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community activities. The student who is high in leadership qualities is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted and is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

Service

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service. In considering service, the contributions this candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed. The student who is high in service: 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 complaint; participates in some activity outside of school, for example, 4-H, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer service for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged; mentors persons in the community or students at other schools; and shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students. Candidates will need at least 10 hours of community service to be considered for membership.

Character

Character is probably the most difficult criterion to define. The Faculty Council will consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of character. All judgments in this and other selection criteria should be free of speculation and rumor. National Honor Society is a member of the 'Character Counts! Coalition.' Through this activity, the society supports and recommends the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the 'Six Pillars of Character'. A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In addition, it can also be said that the student of character: 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 of the classroom; has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies; manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others; and actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

Scholarship

Any student who desires to be considered for membership in the Colonel White National Honor Society must be a sophomore or junior with a B average (9.0 on a 12 point scale).