

Membership: Membership in the National Honor Society is by invitation. It is recognition of the exemplary exhibition of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. At Father Lopez, membership is extended to eligible juniors and seniors who meet the high standards of the NHS as set forth by the national organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The constitution and governance for all chapters is located at www.nhs.us/Membership.aspx.

For information on the Father Lopez Chapter of the National Honor Society, please see below:

Selection Procedures

The following explanation of how a Lopez student is selected to the National Honor Society is published to dispel any misconceptions that parents or students may have. Please remember that the NHS is not a club that one can join, it is an honorary society to which one is selected based upon a student's exhibiting the four qualities of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. These 4 qualities are considered to be equal in importance.

In order to be selected to the National Honor Society a student must meet several criteria. The following list outlines these selection standards:

-at Father Lopez High School, membership is extended to juniors and seniors only.

-to be minimally eligible, a junior or senior must have a 3.5 or higher **cumulative** GPA. If selected, all members must then keep a 3.5 cumulative GPA until they graduate.

-students who meet the GPA requirement, must also meet the standards of outstanding **character**, generous **service**, and positive **leadership**.

-to determine the presence of character, service and leadership, each prospective candidate must fill out a self-evaluation packet in which they list their co-curricular activities, any leadership roles they have fulfilled, all service they have performed, and any academic honors or awards they have received. Everything written on this self evaluation must have been achieved while in high school. These self evaluation packets are given out by the NHS advisor, to the students who meet the GPA requirement. A list of those junior and senior students who have the minimum 3.5 GPA will be posted and announcements will be made for approximately 2 weeks reminding students to check the list to see if they are eligible. If eligible, the student must obtain the required paperwork from the NHS moderator, Mrs. Patterson, room 8122, fill it out, and return the packet by the due date. Students who have the minimum 3.5 GPA as a junior or senior are not sought out by the moderator, they must check the list and are responsible for coming to get the paperwork. This shows responsibility, a trait of good character.

-in addition to filling out the self-evaluation, the student must submit a typed essay addressing the following:

-Why do you want to be a member of the NHS?

-How do you demonstrate the four qualities of a NHS student (character, service, leadership, and scholarship)?

-In the above area in which you perceive yourself the weakest, how do you plan to improve?

-the required paperwork includes 6 blank teacher recommendation forms. The prospective member must give these to 6 of their **teachers** from the current school year to be filled out. The teacher will return the form to the moderator. Students must also agree in writing to allow the Faculty Review Committee to view their Facebook, My Space, or any other social networking site maintained by the student if they are asked.

-candidates must also divulge any referrals or suspensions from school. Students with serious or lengthy discipline issues or recorded incidents of cheating would not be considered able to fulfill the good character requirement needed to be a member of the National **Honor** Society.

-candidates must sign a statement agreeing that, if selected, they would willingly abide by the standards of the Father Lopez High School chapter of the National Honor Society. These standards are in agreement with the state and national NHS constitutions.

-all of this paper work must be submitted **on time** by the date given by the moderator. These students will then be given an appointment for an interview with the Faculty Council which is made up of 5 teachers from Father Lopez High School. This interview is conducted to discuss items documented on the application and to give the student a chance to explain any matters they would like to expound upon or ask questions regarding the NHS. The NHS advisor does not vote in matters of selection or disciplining of members.

-induction of new members takes place in the fall. Students who are not selected will be informed before the announcement of new members takes place.

-In the case of non-selection, a student may apply again the following year if they have improved in the areas which prevented them from being selected initially and if they still have the minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA.

Examples which have met the NHS Criteria for leadership:

Ran for class office

President of sophomore or freshmen class

Founder of Bring Joy to Children (brings toys to pediatric ward)

Secretary of Drama Club

Secretary of World Languages Club

Secretary of 4H

Group Leader of Star Gazers Organization

Group Leader of Junior Lighthouse (Christian youth group)

Soccer Captain

Ambassador Club

Captain of football team

Diocesan Youth Council member

Ran for captain of Dancing Green Waves

Co-Captain of Dance Team

Freshmen Facilitator at retreat

Ambassador for FLCHS

Treasurer of Freshmen class

SGA Freshmen President

Drama Club Treasurer

Ambassador Club Vice President

Political Debate Club Vice President

Ran Junior SGA

Political Debate President

Vacation Bible School Leader

Co-Captain of Cheerleaders

Officer in Church Youth Group

Boy Scout working toward Eagle Scout

What is Leadership?

In the high school setting, a true leader need not be the most vocal but rather leads by example. A leader is exemplary in his or her attitude, especially if the majority of his or her cohorts are resorting to negative actions or reactions by being positive in outlook and in expectations.

A leader inspires positive behavior in others by acting and speaking appropriately, especially when others are caught in a rut of negativity. A leader inspires positive behavior by trying to do and say the right thing at all times.

A leader is the reliable person in the group. When something needs to be done, the leader volunteers to get the job done. A reliable leader can always be counted on to do what they are responsible for, without fail. A leader is the dependable one in the group. Being trustworthy when handed responsibilities is the definition of dependability. A dependable person can always be counted on to perform up to task.

A leader is respectful of authority. By fostering respect, respect is usually returned tenfold.

A respectful leader has respect for himself/herself, their church, their family, and their school. A respectful leader is always aware of being a good citizen especially in consideration for the laws of the land, the rules of the community, and the rules of the school.

A leader is always fair and looks to see if fairness is being utilized by his/her cohorts. At the same time, a leader is a caring human being, helping others without seeking payback, volunteering, being thoughtful, genuinely caring for his fellow man. A true leader lives by the precept: "We are our brother's keeper."

The above is based on the six pillars of character: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship, as well as the credo of the National Honor Society, scholarship, leadership, service and character.

NHS Membership Obligations

Members of the FLCHS National Honor Society are required to do several things to keep their membership:

1. 2 Service Projects per Semester
Members must participate in at least 2 of the chapter's service projects per semester. These service projects include nursing home visits, participating in the Cancer Walk in October, attending a district meeting, or ANY OTHER PROJECT THAT THE CHAPTER DESIGNATES AS A SERVICE PROJECT.
2. Members must choose and participate in an individual service project each year that reflects his/her interests and/or talents. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members must contribute (per Article XIV, section 4 of national NHS constitution). Tutoring a student for a total of 3 hours per semester in the presence of the advisor, or a member of the faculty or administration of FLCHS is considered fulfillment of this requirement. There is a tutoring verification form available from the advisor to document this activity. This 3 hours of tutoring of the same student is separate from the after school tutoring which all members must do once or twice a semester. Each member must communicate in writing, a description of his/her individual service project to the advisor at the beginning of each year.
3. Members must participate in all FLCHS NHS Chapter activities.
 - a. These include bringing in items when asked (such as candy, canned goods, refreshments, etc.), raising \$35. minimum in pledges for the Breast Cancer Walk and participating in any fundraiser the chapter is conducting.
 - b. Signing up and showing up for after-school tutoring. The number of times one must tutor after school will depend on the number of members in the NHS each semester. Usually a member must tutor after school from 1 to possibly 3 times for about 15 minutes each time per semester.
4. Members must pay \$10. dues each year.
5. Members must follow the school rules, the NHS Constitution, the NHS discipline code, and all local, state, and federal laws to the letter, in all areas, without complaint.
6. Members must maintain a 3.5 cumulative average until he/she graduates.
7. Members must attend the 2 chapter meetings each month.

Basically members are to be a good influence and a positive role model in all areas of life. They should be persons who respect themselves and that deserve the respect of others.

