



The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll recognition or entry on a resume, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Students are nominated for membership by a committee of faculty and staff, who meet, review any documentation, discuss, and determine those students who exhibit those attributes collectively known as the "four pillars" of the National Honor Society. Once the list of nominees for selection is populated, the qualifying students are sent an congratulatory letter informing them of the committee's decision. The students then have the option of accepting or declining the nomination.

The Four Pillars of the NHS:

Scholarship: Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter must have a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0.

Service: This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation. The student should be well-rounded with participation in extra-curricular activities in the school and in the community.

Leadership: The student should have held leadership positions such as a club or student government officer or leader, sports team leader, or some other manager-related position—not tied to class credit. Leadership characteristics should be seen as an established pattern with the student seeking and carrying out responsibilities over an extended period of time.

Character: Members should be of good character. They are cooperative; demonstrate high standards of integrity to include honesty and reliability; show courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally maintain a clean disciplinary record, which will be reviewed periodically.

The process of nomination begins with identifying 10th-12th grade students who have attended Tallulah Falls School for a minimum of one full semester and who meet the qualifying GPA standard. Students who meet these initial criteria are then provided with a *Candidate Activity Form* document that allows them to add additional information about service, activities outside of school, and other helpful insights. Once the forms are returned, they are given to the Advisory Committee for review. This committee is comprised of faculty and staff who meet to discuss eligible students and decide upon nomination, and who review member infractions and chapter policies. This anonymous committee does not include chapter sponsors or school administration, who have no say in the committee's decisions.

Completing the Candidate Activity Form:

- For each role you list, also describe the specifics of what you did, for how long, etc, to help you meet the standard of completing the form.
- Parents cannot verify activities unless they are/were sponsors of those activities AND INCLUDE SEPARATE DOCUMENTATION (organization letterhead is recommended); otherwise, your form will not be counted as complete.
- List the grade (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) of your involvement for each activity.

- You will not be given credit for any activity that has not been verified by the sponsor, so include the necessary contact information.
- Please be forthright and honest on the Candidate Activity Form. Inaccuracies misrepresenting alleged qualifications result in non-selection. Please ask the sponsors – PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE – if you have any questions about how to complete the form.
- While the Candidate Activity Form is not required for consideration, it is highly recommended. If the members of the Advisory Committee are unaware of involvement and accomplishments, you are likely diminishing your chances for selection. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
- Candidates are notified regarding selection once the Advisory Committee has met and reviewed all student applications.

Non-selection

A student who is not selected may only appeal to the Advisory Committee for the following reasons:

1) if a procedural error, such as a name is left off the list in error or 2) a mistake was made in calculating the student's weighted grade average.

Understanding the Obligations of NHS Membership

- Members are required to maintain the same level of performance (or better) in all four criteria that led to their selection. NHS members are expected to complete school and community service hours that are selected by the Tallulah Falls School chapter. Failure to complete the required hours or maintain the Selection Criteria may result in dismissal from membership.
- Students who accept membership must be aware of the time and commitment involved with this honor. For example, there will be mandatory chapter meetings and required participation at events and service projects to benefit the school and community.
- Service Hours: All members will volunteer for one NHS-related committee to work on specific goals during the school year. Students must also complete service hours with other organizations, as well. For example, NHS members can volunteer with the Key Club or FCA at a sponsored event. Members could volunteer at sporting events with the ticket booth, concessions, or some other responsibility. Service outside of the school community is also acceptable and must be verified by a supervising individual who provides contact information, length of service, and the activity (food bank, soup kitchen, trash pickup, etc.). Fundraising or drives (like can/clothes) are also options but cannot be used to fulfill requirements more than one of the four times over the course of the school year. A total of FIVE (5) hours per semester must be achieved to maintain service expectations. A *Service Verification Form* is available on the NHS Classroom and in the sponsors' classrooms. The completed form must be submitted to either the faculty sponsors or the chapter vice-president within two weeks from the date of service. It will not be accepted after that time.

The objective for involvement on NHS committees puts students in a collaborative situation that requires brainstorming, planning, implementation, preparation, and the successful completion of the committee's activity. A Committee Completion Report is maintained and submitted to the NHS Vice-President that indicates the committee goal, the members, what activity each member contributed, dates and time spent on the preparation, and a summation of the event for chapter records.

- Causes for removal involve not fulfilling the above criteria. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, lying, violations of the behavior code in the TFS handbook, excessive demerits/majors, etc.

- Active members are required to maintain a weighted cumulative GPA of 4.0. Failing to maintain a this requirement will place a member on academic probation. Member grades are routinely checked by the Faculty Sponsors.
- Any student who transfers in from another school and is a member in good standing with that school's NHS chapter may join the TFS chapter as long as the faculty sponsor sends a letter on school letterhead confirming the student's membership.

Please reach out to the faculty sponsors, Terri Bogan and Kelli Bly, if you have additional questions.