



Texas Tech High School Raiderland Chapter of the National Honor Society Bylaws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Texas Tech High School Raiderland Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, to encourage the development of character and create a sense of connection and community among the students of Texas Tech High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NHS National Constitution. See www.nhs.us/constitutions. In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal. [For reference, see Article V, Section 1 of the National Constitution.]

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Once selected, it is the member's responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Honorary members are selected at the discretion of the faculty council. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have completed at least four courses at Texas Tech High School and remain in full-time status.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Candidates must maintain adequate progress to stay at, a minimum, their age appropriate grade level.
- e. Candidates shall be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, ex officio member of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held during the school year in the fall of 2018 for the inaugural year with up to two selections per calendar year thereafter.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. A minimum GPA of 3.70 is required for eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration.
- c. All students who are eligible scholastically will be asked to submit an essay and three external recommendations.
- d. The TTU K-12 advisors shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- e. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, essay, external recommendations and advisor evaluations and other relevant information to determine those students who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. Full-time students enrolled under an official international partnership with TTU K-12 can become members if they fully meet the selection criteria and receive a majority vote of the faculty council.

Section 5. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 7. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The faculty council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20 along with an administrative fee of \$30. All fees will be due upon submitting the candidate information packet.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be granted the privilege to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall surrender the privilege of wearing the emblem to the chapter.

Section 4. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords at graduation.

Section 5. Students must complete the required number of group and individual service hours to remain in good standing.

Section 6. Students must attend a minimum of one virtual chapter meeting each semester.

Section 7. Students must maintain a 3.7 GPA or higher.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, and secretary and international ambassador. International ambassador will be elected from each region of the world and held by full-time students under an official international partnership.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected in the fall of each year. Student officers will hold their position until new officers are voted in during the following school year. All returning active members in good standing can run for office with the exception of international ambassador which is reserved for students enrolled under an official international partnership.

Section 3. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4. All officers are responsible for attending all meetings of the National Honor Society, officer meetings, and the induction ceremony. They are expected to help organize all NHS activities, to be available to help with special projects and activities which may arise, and to assist the adviser with communication and record keeping. If unable to attend a general meeting or officer meeting, it is the responsibility of the student to visit with the adviser both before and after the meeting.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 6. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service as well as attendance at meetings.

Section 7. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings, to prepare and submit announcements, to assist the presiding officer with a visual presentation (such as Slides or PowerPoint) to accompany the meeting and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 8. The international ambassador from each region will serve as a liaison between the stateside student population and the international student population of Texas Tech High School.

Section 9. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter. Any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Section 10. If an officer is placed on disciplinary probation during his or her term of office, the officer may be relieved of duties based upon review by the faculty council.

Section 11. In the event of an office vacancy, whether by resignation or dismissal, the candidate with the second highest number of votes will assume office. If the office went unchallenged, an open election will be conducted in order to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. General chapter meetings shall be held at least once a semester. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

Section 2. Officers shall meet one week prior to the general meeting to determine the material to be discussed at the general meeting.

Section 3. All meetings are open and shall be attended by the chapter adviser or another faculty member.

Section 4. Meetings will be announced in advance. It is the member's responsibility to maintain awareness of the meeting dates.

Section 5. Members are expected to attend a minimum of one virtual chapter meeting per semester and are responsible for signing in as evidence of attendance.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community, have the support of the administration and the faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Texas Tech High School Raiderland chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.7, he/she will be given a written warning and a one semester probation period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of the member. These violations include, but are not limited to DUI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of four Texas Tech High School courses and maintain adequate progress to stay at, a minimum, their age appropriate grade level. The campus principal maintains ultimate authority regarding issues of student discipline.

Section 4. Offenders of school regulations (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, etc.) will receive a written warning. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of school regulations, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the faculty council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns, may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL and REVIEW

Section 1. These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all members of a chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles V and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal (selection and discipline).