

Chapter Bylaws
Of the
La Pryor High School Chapter
Of the
National Honor Society
Adopted: February 2009

The La Pryor High School Chapter of the National Honor Society functions under the *national constitution* and operates locally under this set of *bylaws*.

Article I: NAME:

The name of the chapter shall be the La Pryor High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of La Pryor High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See www.hs.us/constitutions.

Section 2. The Chapter Advisor (s) 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: Non -discrimination. 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, sex (gender), or 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.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate 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 **10th, 11th, or 12th grade classes.**
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at La Pryor High School.
- c. In order for a student to be considered as a candidate they must be selected by a teacher. The teacher must have taught the student in the past year or current semester.
- d. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a **minimum cumulative grade point average of 90 or a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.**
- e. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards candidates shall then 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 high school principal. The Chapter Advisor shall be the sixth, non-voting, member of the Faculty Council. The Advisor is to provide clarification of the bylaws of the chapter and the NHS National Constitution.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held twice each school year: from 12th grade in mid- November for induction in early December; and from 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in early April for induction in late April or early May.

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

- a. Students' academic records shall be received to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate's Service Activity Form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter advisor.
- d. The faculty Council shall review the Candidate's Service Activity Form, faculty evaluations and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. There will be no fixed membership quotas. All 10th, 11th, and 12th, grade students, who meet membership standards and are willing to accept the responsibility of membership, can be elected as full members.

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

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating 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 Counsel 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. **Membership Standards.*** Active NHS members are expected to maintain excellence in scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action as outlined in Article X of these bylaws.

- a. Members' cumulative GPAs will be regularly verified.
- b. It is expected that members will not be involved in disciplinary action as evidence of their continued excellence of character and leadership.
- c. Students are also expected to continue making contributions to their school and community including the La Pryor High School, NHS tutoring program. [For reference, see Article IX of these bylaws.]

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

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 4. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the gold honor cords at graduation. Seniors who do not meet NHS requirements are considered inactive and are denied the privilege of wearing the gold NHS cords at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, historian and promotions coordinator.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. 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. 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 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. The historian shall collect and preserve information that provides a clear and concise record of all chapter activities for the year.

Section 8. The promotions coordinator shall lead committees to discuss and plan ways to make the school community more aware of the chapter's ideals and its role in the school.

Section 9. Officers and the faculty advisor(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the Executive Committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular membership meetings of this chapter shall be on the last Friday of each month. Meetings will be held during lunch. The Chapter President with the approval of the Chapter Advisor (s) can call special meetings.

Section 2. Members are expected to attend all meetings. Students who are absent during the school day will be excused. Members absent due to extracurricular activities will also be excused.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall provide free tutoring services to students for whom a request for tutoring is presented to the Chapter Advisor. All active members are expected to make themselves available for tutoring services.

Section 2. The chapter shall determine one or more additional service projects for each school year. All members shall participate in at least one of 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 participating in a minimum of ten hours of individual community service approved by the chapter advisor(s) each year (April-March). This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5. Each active member must submit a form and reflection on the individual community service that they have performed during the year. The form and reflection must be submitted to the Chapter Vice-President no later than April 1 of the current school year. The service forms will be available on the school's web site.

Section 6. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X: SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

Section 1. NHS members who exhibit outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and character may be eligible in their senior year to be nominated to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship Awards program.

Section 2. Any number of seniors may be nominated by the chapter at the final membership meeting of the first semester.

Section 3. The chapter shall vote secretly on these nominations and the member receiving the majority of votes will be the scholarship candidate from the chapter.

ARTICLE XI: 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 La Pryor High School 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 falls below the standards in effect when he/she was selected, he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time 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 a member (see Section 6 below). These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as the use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, 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 Chapter Advisor/Faculty Council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charges (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 High School principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the Chapter Advisor.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the High School Principal.
- e. Any member, who is dismissed or resigns, cannot be considered for membership in the National Honor Society again.

Section 7: In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1. These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative majority vote of the Faculty Council, Chapter Advisor(s) 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 XIII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 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 High School Principal (selection and discipline).