

# **National Honor Society**

## **Requirement Information**



The **National Honor Society** (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an **honor** roll, **NHS** serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Juniors/seniors whose have an average grade of 88% or higher will be invited to apply for membership in NHS in October of their junior year. To apply, students will create a **digital** portfolio (using PowerPoint or Adobe Spark) that provides examples, descriptions, explanations, and pictures (if available) that show how they demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. This portfolio must be submitted on Schoology. The information provided will assist the National Honor Society Faculty Council in making a fair decision for candidacy during the selection process. Information included should be from grades 9 through 12. Applications will be due in early November, reviewed mid-November and acceptance letters will be sent in early December. The induction ceremony will take place in early January.

Requirements:

**1. Scholarship:**

- Students applying for NHS should have received Academic awards/Achievements during their high school career. These can include high honor roll, academic excellence in a class, or academic recognition in their sport. Students will list these awards on their application.

**2. Leadership:**

- Students will need to show they are well-rounded by listing activities they have participated in high school and outside of school. Additionally, they should have held a leadership position either in high school or outside of school.
- **School Affiliated Co-curricular Activities –**  
These are all activities in which students have participated **in high school** (grades 9-12). It should include clubs, teams, musical groups, etc., and major accomplishments/descriptions in each. Students cannot include a class from school (like band) unless you participate in it as an afterschool activity. Jazz band and Vocal Jazz do not count as they are graded courses. The Council's expectation is that you have participated in a **minimum of one** school affiliated co-curricular activity.
- **Extracurricular Activities –**  
These are all activities in which students have participated in **outside of school** (grades of 9-12). It should include clubs sponsored outside of school, religious groups, musical groups, girl/boy scouts, community art endeavors, explorers etc., and major accomplishments/descriptions in each. Students

may also list any paid work experience. Please note that a paid work experience **is not a requirement** for membership in the National Honor Society. The Council's expectation is that you have participated in a **minimum of one** other activity outside of school.

- **Leadership Positions –**

These are all elected or appointed leadership positions held in any of the activities that you listed above from your time in high school (grades 9-12). Only those positions in which students were directly responsible for directing or motivating others should be included. For example, elected student body, class or club officer, committee chairperson, team captain, newspaper editor, work area manager, or community leader. Students will include the name and email of the adult responsible for supervising their leadership in each position.

### **3. Service:**

Students applying for NHS need to show that they value service to others and the community.

- **Service/Community Activities –**

These are service activities in which the student has participated from their time in high school (grades 9-12). These can be service projects done with a group either in or out of school, or done as individual projects performing service. Generally speaking, service activities are those which are done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation (monetary or other) has been given. Students will be asked to provide a description of what the service entailed. They must state the number of hours of total service you have completed for each activity. **It is a requirement that students need to have at least 20 hours of service since the start of your freshman year for acceptance.** Students will provide the NAME and email from an adult supervisor who can verify their participation.

- **Community Service this school year-**

At least 2 of the 20 hours of required community service mentioned above must be from the academic school year in which they are applying. Students have a month to complete this requirement. There are lots of ways you can help the community, both in person and remotely: support essential workers, help feed the hungry, help isolated seniors, make/donate face mask, and/or support non-profits. Students will provide the name and email of an adult supervisor who can verify their participation. Additionally, student will list where they volunteered, what they did and the number of hours that were completed.

#### 4. Character

Students applying for membership in NHS should be of good character. This requirement will be fulfilled in the letter of recommendation section.

#### 5. Recommendations -

Students need to have **three** recommendation forms completed (by three different adults) and turned in on time.

- **Scholarship Recommendation:** The first recommendation is to be completed by a **teacher** at Spencerport High School (students cannot use a middle school teacher). The teacher must be a previous or current teacher who can assess your academic abilities.
- **Leadership Recommendation:** The second recommendation is to be completed by an adult that is able to assess the student's leadership abilities. Some potential adults could include a coach, dance teacher, girl/boy scout leader, youth group leader, priest/pastor, employer, volunteer coordinator, etc.
- **Character Recommendation:** The third recommendation is to be completed by an adult that is able to speak on behalf of the student's character. Some potential adults could be an employer, or someone who knows the student outside of the classroom. The recommendation **cannot** be completed by a family member.

Once accepted in NHS, students must maintain their required academic standing, academic integrity, complete 20 hours of community service in both their Junior and Senior years, and participate in the NHS induction ceremonies. Additionally, students may be asked to tutor fellow classmates which would count towards community service hours.