

Character

Service

**Kaiserslautern High School
Membership Handbook
National Honor Society
2010 - 2011**

Leadership

Scholarship



Table of Contents

History.....	3
Creed.....	3
Motto	3
Insignia.....	3
Colors.....	3
Expectations for members.....	4
Monthly Meetings.....	4
Scholarship.....	4
Service.....	4
Leadership and Character.....	4
Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.....	4
Name and Purpose.....	4
Membership.....	5
Officers.....	5
Faculty Council.....	6
Activities.....	6
Meetings.....	7
Attendance.....	7
Dismissal.....	7

Kaiserslautern High School National Honor Society

History

National Honor Society was formed in 1919 when a proposal by J.G. Masters, a principal at Central High School in Omaha, Nebraska, was adopted at the National Association of Secondary School Principals convention. Within the proposal, Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service were chosen as the “fundamental virtues most worthy of encouragement” in young people. The first chapter was established at Fifth Avenue High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 15, 1922, under the leadership of Dr. Edward Rynearson. The Kaiserslautern High School chapter of National Honor Society was established in September, 1997, under the leadership of then Principal, Dr. J. Richard Dewey.

Official Creed

I believe in the joy of study, the delight of acquaintance with books, the discipline of diligent learning and the rediscovery of the world of nature and of humanity through an open mind.

I believe in character as essential to the highest type of scholarship. I hold that no intellectual achievement, however keen or clever, is worthy of deep respect unless it goes hand in hand with accuracy, reliability, honor, humility, tolerance, and truth.

I believe in service, that it is the privilege and responsibility of the enlightened member of any society to minister with kindness and understanding to the needs of the less fortunate in talent or in opportunity.

I rejoice in the burden of leadership which scholarship, character, and service lay upon me, for I believe that my torch should light others to lives of greater beauty, richer joy, and fuller service.

Official Motto

Noblesse Oblige – “nobility obligates” or in other words, “to whom much is given, much is expected.” In broader terms, it signifies that those of high rank have the obligation to behave honorably, generously, and responsibly to others.

Official Insignia

The emblem of this society is the keystone and flaming torch. The keystone bears at its base the letters “C,” “S,” “L,” and “S,” which stand for the four cardinal principles of this organization: character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

As the keystone is placed by the builder to hold the perfect arch in perpetual stability, so the structure of our education must be held firm and true to the purposes of life by the virtues represented in this symbol.

The flaming torch is symbolic of our purpose to bear forward the searching light of truth, to lead that others may follow in the light, to keep burning in our school a high ambition for the enduring values of life, and to serve with unselfish loyalty to truth and honor.

Official Colors

The official colors of National Honor Society are **sky blue and gold**. The colors are symbolic of a brilliant sun in a clear blue sky. More formally, the blue is the representative color of education scholars and the gold represents excellence.

Expectations for members

Monthly meetings

Our chapter meets formally once a month and members **MUST** arrive early and attend every meeting. Attendance is recorded at every meeting and the attendance is reported in the monthly minutes. If you should miss a meeting because of an illness or some other event, you must contact the chapter Secretary to explain your absence. Members who fall short of this commitment or struggle to attend meetings, will be dismissed from the chapter.

Scholarship

Members are expected to continue to have a positive disposition and influence in the classroom and demonstrate excellence of scholarship. Member's habits of scholarship are audited each quarter through a faculty email questionnaire to assure that a standard of scholarship excellence is maintained and the integrity of our chapter is not compromised.

Service

The minimum service requirement for members of our chapter is 30 hours per semester. Members are encouraged to perform service beyond the minimum requirement. Furthermore, members **MUST** follow through on their commitments; if you have signed-up for an opportunity you need to honor your commitment or find an appropriate replacement. Service hours are due in January and again in June and members **MUST** turn in their "Service Hours Form" on time or risk being dismissed from the chapter.

Leadership and Character

Kaiserslautern National Honor Society members are expected to abide by all school rules and regulations and strictly follow the school's "Academic Honesty and Integrity" policy. Failure to behave in a manner that is fitting of this organization puts you at risk for dismissal. Candidates shall have no prior suspensions or disciplinary actions. Furthermore, any members who engage in drugs, alcohol, or other chemical substances will be dismissed from the chapter.

KAISERSLAUTERN HIGH SCHOOL – NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Chapter Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this chapter shall be the Kaiserslautern High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools (NHS), which appears on the charter granted by the National Honor society, duly signed by the national secretary.

Section 2: The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to encourage the development of character in all students of Kaiserslautern High School.

Section 3: The NHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091.

Section 4: The Kaiserslautern Chapter of the National Honor Society entirely accepts the constitutions of the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II – Membership

Section 1: Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a faculty vote and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2: To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period equivalent to one grading period in this school.

Section 3: An NHS member who transfers to Kaiserslautern from another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to Kaiserslautern's NHS school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member. Similarly, an active NHS member who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of her/his membership and signed by the principal or advisor.

Section 4: Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class and have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.8. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed. The candidate's eligibility shall then be considered on service, leadership, and character.

Section 5: Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 6: Membership may be made inactive or probationary by the Chapter Adviser if the member in question is under investigation for wrong-doing, or their behavior compromises the integrity of the chapter. The Adviser will inform the member of this decision in writing. The member will remain inactive or probationary until such time as the Adviser deems necessary. Inactive or probationary members are not eligible for the benefits of the chapter. The Faculty Council serves as the oversight for this decision and may reverse the Adviser's decision by majority vote.

ARTICLE III – Officers

Section 1: The Officers of this chapter, their duties and the method of their election shall be posted prior to elections.

Section 2: The Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Service Officer. In addition to the specific duties and responsibilities listed

below, the officers shall assume other duties and responsibilities as required of their respective offices. One Officer shall be present at all NHS functions.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of this chapter, represent the chapter at public occasions, appoint necessary committees, serve as ex-officio member on all committees, and delegate responsibilities to members.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to fill the chair of the President in her/his absence. In addition, the Vice-President shall coordinate the activities of committees, all leadership projects and assist the Service Officer with group service projects.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep accurate minutes of each meeting. The Secretary shall also keep an accurate account of member attendance and required membership service hours.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all financial records of NHS expenditures. The Treasurer is also responsible for the collection of annual membership dues.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Historian to keep a record (written, photographs, video, etc.) of all NHS activities and events. It is also the Historian's duty to update members on chapter activities and inform the public of the chapter's events.

Section 8: It shall be the duty of the Service Officer to organize and coordinate chapter-wide service projects. The Service Officer will work closely with the Vice-President and chapter Adviser.

ARTICLE IV – The Faculty Council

Section 1: The Faculty Council shall consist of faculty advisors that are representative of the various curricular areas of Kaiserslautern High School.

Section 2: When necessary the Faculty Council shall meet to select members and to consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning cases.

Section 3: The Faculty Council shall be an advisory board to the membership.

ARTICLE VI – Activities

Section 1: Each chapter shall determine one or more long-term service projects for each year.

Section 2: All members shall regularly participate in these service projects and activities.

Section 3: The activities and 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; 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 her/his particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5: Each member must complete 30 hours of community service each semester of active membership. 12 hours of the 30 required hours must be completed as part of a chapter sponsored activity or event as determined by the Adviser.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Section 1: This chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the Executive Committee and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

Section 2: The President and/or Adviser may call special meetings of the membership.

Section 3: All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the chapter Adviser.

ARTICLE VIII – Attendance

Section 1: All activate members are required to attend scheduled meetings.

Section 2: If a member does not participate regularly in NHS sponsored activities and/or has poor attendance, she/he will be warned by written letter from the Executive Committee. If this problem should persist, the member shall then be declared inactive and have her/his membership withdrawn.

Section 3: All members are REQUIRED to attend the annual NHS Induction Ceremonies held each spring and fall. Failure to attend may result in being made an inactive member in the chapter. School related absences are exempt from this requirement; this exemption is at the discretion of Advisor.

ARTICLE IX – Dismissal

Section 1: The Faculty Council in compliance with the rules and regulation of the NHS shall determine the procedure for dismissal.

Section 2: Any member who falls below the standards of character and leadership which were the basis of induction, shall be promptly warned and given a proper amount of time to correct the deficiency, except in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws in which case a member will not be warned and then will be dismissed. A member will be allowed one warning. Any suspensions or official disciplinary action from the school can result in immediate dismissal.

Section 3: Any member, who falls below the standard of scholarship, will be warned and given one quarter to raise the standard of scholarship. After one quarter, if the standard of scholarship has not been raised, the member will be promptly dismissed. A member will be allowed only one warning.

Section 4 : Any member who falls below the standard of service will be dismissed.

Section 5: In all cases of dismissal, a member shall have a right to appeal and a hearing before the Faculty Council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Section 6: Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return any emblem or award the chapter which she/he was a member. Furthermore, each member agrees that acceptance of the emblem shall be considered affirmation of the stipulation in regard to the title of the emblem.

Section 6, Addition: The procedure for dismissal is as follows: All members shall be warned by written notification. A list of all warned members and the recommendations for action shall be given to the head of the Faculty Council for their notification. Any member who has not corrected their deficiency (see section two) shall go before the Faculty Council for a pre-dismissal hearing. The Faculty Council will then determine whether or not the member shall be dismissed.