

SGA Chapter National Honor Society Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 – The name of this chapter shall be the SCA Chapter of the National Honor Society at Shalom Christian Academy.

Section 2 – The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm of scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character for the glory of God in the students of Shalom Christian Academy.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2 – 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 3 – Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the sophomore or junior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Shalom Christian Academy.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 (out of 4.0). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admissions to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standards may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- d. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall be engaged in a college preparatory curriculum. This shall be defined to mean that students must at minimum be on course to take Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry; they must take Spanish I and Spanish II; they must take at least one advanced science course such as Chemistry, Physics, and/or Advanced Biology; and they must take college preparatory English and Social Studies courses during the junior and senior year.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 – The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting 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 – Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3 – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 4 – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5 – Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6 – An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 7 – An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in the 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 or her membership.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

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

Section 2 – If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 – Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. 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. In general, conduct resulting in an out-of-school suspension will be considered grounds for dismissal from the SCA chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 5 – Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 – In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. 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 reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered 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 V: OFFICERS

Section 1 – The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2 – Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote. In the case of the inaugural year for NHS, elections will be held within two weeks of the second semester induction ceremony.

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. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter:

Section 4 – It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

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 of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7 – The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8 – Officers should bear in mind that they will be held to a higher standard as NHS leaders and as a result may be subject to a more rigorous adherence to NHS eligibility criteria, especially in the areas of service and conduct. There may be instances where an officer could be removed from their office but be allowed to remain a part of the SCA chapter of the National Honor Society. This will be at the discretion of the Faculty Council.

Section 9 – Officer vacancies will be filled within two weeks by special election.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 – The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2 – The executive committee shall have 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 VII: MEETINGS

Section 1 – Meeting of this chapter shall be quarterly.

Section 2 – This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3 – All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

Section 4 – Except in cases of an emergency, a chapter member must clear any absences in advance with the faculty advisor. Unexcused absences will be grounds for disciplinary procedures.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1 – The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for 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 that reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. At a minimum, students are expected to complete 8 hours of community service per quarter for a total of 32 hours per year. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

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

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1 – Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2 – Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3 – Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords or other insignia at the local level at graduation.

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1 – Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.

Section 2 – Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer within 30 days of induction.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1 – The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2 – The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 – These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – 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 III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 – Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.

Date: December 7, 2011

Signatures:

Chapter President

Secretary

Adviser

Principal