



**National Honor Society
Gulf Shores High School
Chapter By-Laws**

**Article I
Name and Purpose**

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Gulf Shores Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service to our school and community, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of Gulf Shores High School.

Section 3. The powers vested in the organization are to induct new members, dismiss members as needed, and conduct meetings and service projects as are deemed necessary and worthwhile.

**Article II
Chapter Advisers**

Section 1. The chapter adviser(s) will be appointed by the principal and may serve consecutive terms.

Section 2. The chapter adviser shall regularly review each member for compliance with NHS standards and chapter obligations.

Section 3. The chapter adviser(s) shall have the authority to assign penalties as deemed necessary in any and all circumstances.

Section 4. The chapter adviser(s) shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

**Article III
Officers**

Section 1. The officers of the chapter will be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, historian, and parliamentarian.

Section 2. Only members in good standing are eligible to run for an office. Elected officers must remain in good standing throughout their term.

Section 3. Officers will be elevated at the last meeting of each school year. Elections will be held by secret ballot. A majority of votes is necessary to elect any chapter officer.

Section 4. The officers' duties will be as follows:

- The President shall preside over meetings of this chapter, set agendas for meetings, represent the chapter at other meetings as required, take ultimate responsibility for all chapter functioning.
- The Vice-President assumes all responsibilities of the president in his/her absence or incapacity. The VP also assists in public relations for NHS.
- The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, maintain accurate electronic records, maintain club rosters and oversee publicity of chapter events and correspondence.
- The Treasurer shall assist in keeping account of dues and financial obligations. He/she shall notify members who have not yet paid.
- The Historian shall collect and manage submissions of pictures, articles, etc. and maintain an NHS website. He/she shall mentor program sign ups and update the NHS calendar.
- The Parliamentarian shall record and coordinate membership, check mandatory attendance, and keep accurate electronic records of community service hours. He/she will send notices of hours not served.

Article IV Selection of Members

Section 1. Membership will be open to students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve at Gulf Shores High School.

Section 2. The minimum grade point average for becoming a member or maintaining membership will be 3.50 weighted GPA.

Section 3. Membership will be open to all students and all diploma types.

Section 4. Membership is based on scholarship, character, leadership, and service demonstrated by the student.

Section 5. The selection of active members will be held once a year during the second semester of the school year. Students who have the required GPA will be invited to apply. Students who are interested must fill out a Student Activity Form.

The faculty will be requested to comment on candidates who are scholastically eligible. The Faculty Council will make the final decision on membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The transfer student must meet the membership requirements for this chapter within one term.

Section 7. A student who has never been a member of National Honor Society must have been enrolled at Gulf Shores High School for one full term before he/she is eligible to become a member.

Article V Membership

Section 1. It is the duty of each member to support the organization which includes the following:

- a. Upholding the standards of character, leadership, and service
- b. Maintaining the required grade point average (IV.2)
- c. Paying dues (V.3)
- d. Attending meetings (VII)
- e. Participating in service projects (VI.1)
- f. Participating in fund-raising activities (VI.1)
- g. Taking part in the annual induction ceremony
- h. Completing the required number of service hours (VI.3)

Section 2. Any member who fails to support the organization may be subject to disciplinary measures, which may include demerits, probation and /or dismissal (VIII).

A member will be put on probation immediately if any of the following infractions occurs:

- OCS/Saturday School once
- Questionable activities within the community
- Failure to maintain grade point average one term
- Misbehavior/cheating in class and/or disrespect toward authority figures

Section 3. Annual dues shall be \$25 and include the fee for the NHS t-shirt. Dues/fees are payable by October 15. If dues are not paid by October 30th, members will be placed on probation and a \$5.00 late fee will be assessed.

Article VI Activities

Section 1. All members must participate in all NHS activities, service projects, and fundraisers.

Section 2. The chapter will determine one or more service projects for each year. All members shall participate in these projects.

Section 3. Each member is required to perform 50 hours of service in the school or community. This includes the chapter projects. Members should complete at least 25 hours by one week before winter break. Second terms hours should be completed as follows: Seniors – 1 week before Senior exams; Juniors – 1 week before the end of school. The activity must be pre-approved by the adviser and submitted on the specified form.

Section 4. Seniors who do not complete their service hours by the specified deadlines will not be permitted to wear the NHS cords at graduation.

Section 5. Community service opportunities are listed on the NHS website or a list can be obtained from the NHS sponsor. 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.

Article VII Meetings

Section 1. Meeting will be held at least twice each term.

Section 2. Meetings may be called at the discretion of the advisers or the president of the organization.

Article VIII Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Gulf Shores Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain 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 the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.5), he/she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below 3.5 at the end of the warning period, the student may be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 3. A demerit system will be used for the following infractions: failing to pay dues, failing to participate in a required project, failing to complete and submit required service hours by the due date, failing to cooperate with advisers and other members, failing to exemplify the characteristics of an NHS member including classroom conduct, behavior outside of school, and missing a required meeting or an excessive number of meetings.

Section 4. Violation of criminal law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to: DUI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession of/selling/being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school related activities. In cases of flagrant violations of school rules or civil laws, a member does not necessarily have to be warned by an adviser.

Section 5. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failing to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written 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 dismissed.

Section 6. The faculty council shall determine when a member should be dismissed. The principal, however, is the final authority in deciding the dismissal of a member.

Section 7. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the faculty council.

Section 8. Members who are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Article IX Amendments

The bylaws may be amended by the faculty council, advisers, and a two-thirds majority vote of members. However, changes in disciplinary actions are not voted on by the members.