

# Mt. Olive High School Chapter of the National Honor Society

**\*\* Guidelines for the NHS “Pillars” \*\***

**Character, Leadership, and Service  
Service vs. Extracurricular Activities**

## **Character Pillar: Guidelines for consideration**

According to the National Honor Society Constitution, a person of character demonstrates the following *six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship.*

### **In addition, it can also be said that the student of character:**

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (for example: respectfulness, cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and honors those behaviors both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, **avoiding cheating on/plagiarism** of written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others

- Actively helps rid the school of negative influences or environments
- **Follows the school's guidelines against Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)**
- **Absence/avoidance of Discipline write-ups**
- Follows proper AUP guidelines and demonstrates appropriate online behavior both inside and outside of school

## **Leadership Pillar: Guidelines for consideration**

Leadership actions mean more than leadership titles. Both official and unofficial leadership roles are considered and can be held in school or in the community. Leadership positions should be sustained over a period of time and not for one event only. ***Leaders initiate, organize, and manage school and community activities.***

### **Examples of leadership may include but are not limited to :**

- Holding an executive position in student government
- Holding an executive position in a club
- Serving as captain or co-captain of a team
- Being selected as an ambassador to represent your school at an off-site function
- Taking initiative to raise awareness and/or money for a specific cause that is of interest to you
- Starting and maintaining a club/organization that serves your community
- Holding a position on a board
- Forming an instructional program for younger children in your community that is sports-related or related to an area of personal interest
- Serving as a peer leader at school/community or religious organization
- Serving as a mentor in the community
- Starting a business or non-profit

### **Characteristics of Leadership:**

- Promotes school activities
- Demonstrates resourcefulness
- Shows a positive influence on peers
- Contributes ideas in class and in school that improve the civic life of the class or school
- Inspires others to be responsible
- Demonstrates initiative in the classroom or in an extracurricular activity
- Possesses a proven record of being dependable, reliable, and positive

## **Service Pillar: Guidelines for consideration**

**In considering service, the following guidelines apply:**

- **Volunteering does not always equal service**
- **Service is different from participation** (Ex: participating in a charity 5K run is different from working at the water stop at the same charity 5K run)
- **Any work performed for a private, for-profit organization is not considered community service**
- **Any work performed for an individual person (family member, neighbor, acquaintance) or their place of business does not count as community service**
- **Any service work performed *as a requirement* for another club or endeavor is not counted as service in the NHS selection process**
- **Any activity that is done *for payment, for the equivalent of payment, or in exchange for goods/lessons or a fee waiver/discount* is not counted as service in the NHS selection process**

**Examples of service may include but are not limited to:**

Places of Worship, Hospitals, Nursing Homes:

- Participating in specific youth group outreach events that benefit the religious community or greater community such as: breakfast runs, midnight runs, clothing or food drives, raking leaves or shoveling for elderly or ill, hosting a pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner for families or the elderly, “tag” sales
- Working as a counselor at a vacation bible school or the equivalent
- Teaching Sunday School or Saturday School
- Singing in a church choir or cantoring at a church service on a regular basis
- Reading at church services on a regular basis
- Serving as an usher or an altar server on a regular basis
- Attending a mission trip

- Volunteering at charitable groups or Hospitals/Nursing Homes, including:
  - Working on a weekly basis and assisting with patient transport
  - Assisting in patient activities, delivering meals, helping with crafts
  - Providing entertainment such as performing a concert to patients
  - Having a toy drive for a specific hospital, medical center, or charitable organization
  - Teaching skills to elderly in a nursing home, such as how to use email or a cell phone

Local Community Organizations/Centers:

- Volunteering outside of school hours for MOHS-sponsored events run in conjunction with an outside organization
- Working for a local Historical Society
- Volunteering to clean up roads, trails, parks, or joining an Earth Day activity
- Volunteering as a junior member of the fire department or ambulance squad (training *not included* as service hours)
- Working at a local Goodwill center or at Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteering at an animal shelter or pet adoption agency
- Volunteering at your public library to be a reader, run a book club, or teach computer skills
- Volunteering at an after-school club or the Boys and Girls Clubs or Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- High School-level active participation working on an Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award on a project that directly benefits the community
- Working on other students' Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold awards

Military/Veterans:

- Participating in Operation Gratitude or other similar organizations
- Joining a local organization that sends care packages or letters to soldiers
- Joining a local organization that has ongoing campaigns to help veterans

### Academic/Tutoring:

- Working with a local non-profit agency that offers tutoring to English learners, immigrants, low-income families, or students with special needs
- Serving as a peer tutor through a program at school (IF the tutoring is a membership requirement/expectation for the club/honor society, it cannot be counted as “service” for the NHS application.)

### Sports:

- Coaching (unpaid) a youth team through the local recreational department
- Volunteering (unpaid) to referee on a regular basis for a youth sports program (non-profit, recreational, local)
- Working as a camp counselor at a sports camp (no compensation received; not required by your coach)

### 5K events/races:

- Working at a water stop
- Working at the registration table
- Setting-up/cleaning-up the event
- Working on the publicity for the event -- awareness, prevention, and/or support

### Other:

- Joining a local organization to spread awareness or offer support for families affected by eating disorders, domestic violence, addiction, homelessness, hunger, loss, and suicide
- Volunteering at a battered women’s shelter
- Volunteering to help at a non-profit organization like Habitat for Humanity

## **Guidelines: Service vs. Extracurricular activities**

- ★ **While many activities are important and are part of a well-balanced High School experience, they are not all considered community service.**
- ★ They may be artistic, athletic, academic, or social endeavors that foster good character, self-confidence, and leadership skills and are acknowledged as such by NHS.

The following types of activities can be included on the extra-curricular sheet in the NHS application packet but **are NOT considered community service.**

Several examples are (including but not limited to):

- Membership in a school club
- Walking or running in a charity 5k race
- Membership in Key Club
- Being a member of the cast or crew or tech in a school play
- Rehearsing/practicing for local play/performance
- Tutoring family, friends, neighbors, friends of your family, or family members of your friends
- Belonging to Drama Club
- Holding membership in other honor societies
- Raising money for your sports team
- Working at MOHS-sponsored events during school hours
- Participation in HOSA and/or DECA
- Participating in talent shows, showcases, travel dance competitions
- Participating on a team
- Receiving or delivering On-the-job training
- Being a team statistician
- Volunteering at a professional office where you are assisting in daily operations (i.e. clerical tasks, data input, etc)



The following activities are not considered service and **should not be listed as service or as extra-curricular activities:**

- Volunteering at a Primary Care Physician's or Specialist's office in any capacity
- Volunteering at a Dental office in any capacity
- Volunteering for a Chiropractor
- Volunteering at a Pharmacy
- Volunteering at a restaurant
- Volunteering at a for-profit learning center, such as Huntington, Kumon, etc.
- Volunteering at a local shop
- Volunteering at an insurance office
- Volunteering at a real estate office
- Volunteering at an accounting firm
- Volunteering at a law firm
- Participating in a program to enhance your own portfolio or area of study
- **Paid positions (ie, part-time jobs): these may be listed in the appropriate box on the Service and Leadership Resume Template**