



National Honor Society Sussex County Technical School Selection Criteria 2024-2025

Students are invited to apply for the National Honor Society in their Junior and Senior years if they have met the following criteria:

- ❖ Achieved a weighted cumulative GPA of 3.50 or better
- ❖ Students who are invited to apply must complete an application packet. Selection for membership is by a majority faculty council vote in the areas of character, leadership, and service.

Character - Guidelines for consideration

According to the National Honors 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 (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 in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment
- Follows the school's guidelines against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)
- Follows proper Sussex Tech code of conduct and demonstrates appropriate online behavior both inside and outside of school

Leadership - 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 or community activities.** Leadership will be determined based on the faculty council's decision.*

Examples of leadership:

- Holding an executive position in student government
- Holding an executive position in a club
- Serving as captain or co-captain of a team
- 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 your academy
- Serving as a peer leader at school
- Serving as a mentor in the community
- Starting a business or non-profit

Characteristics of Good Leadership:

- Promotes school activities
- Is resourceful
- Shows a positive influence on peers
- Inspires others to be responsible
- Demonstrates in an extracurricular activity, promotes good ideas
- Has a proven record of being dependable, reliable, and positive

Service - Guidelines for consideration

- Volunteering does not always equal service
- Service is different from participation (Ex: participating in a charity 5K is different from working at the water stop at the same charity 5K)
- Any work performed for a private, for-profit organization is not considered community service
- Any service work performed *as a requirement* for another club or endeavor is not counted
- Any service that is done for payment or the equivalent of payment is not considered (ie: Skills hours, shop trip at the end of the year, etc)

Examples of service:

Places of Worship

- 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 elderly, tag , etc.
- Working as a counselor at a vacation bible school or the equivalent
- Teaching Sunday School or Saturday School
- 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

Hospitals/Patient Care Facilities

- Volunteering at Catholic Charities or the Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- 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 or medical center
- Teaching skills to elderly in a nursing home such as how to use email or a smartphone

Local Community Organizations/Centers

- Volunteering outside of school hours for SCTS sponsored events run in conjunction with an outside organization
- Volunteer to work on a campaign for a local politician
- Get involved in a civic cause or work on a political action committee
- Work for a local Historical Society
- Volunteer to clean up roads, trails, parks, join an Earth Day activity
- Volunteer as a junior member of the fire department or ambulance squad (training not included as service hours)
- Work at local goodwill or habitat for humanity
- Volunteer at an animal shelter or pet adoption agency
- Volunteer at your public library to be a reader, run a book club, teach computer skills
- Volunteer at an after school club or the boys' and girls' clubs, 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 Soldiers/Veterans
- Operation Gratitude
- Joining a local organization that sends care packages or letters to soldiers
- Join a local organization that has ongoing campaigns to help veterans Academic/Tutoring
- Work with a local non-profit agency that offers tutoring to English learners, immigrants,

low-income families, or students with special needs

- Serve as a peer tutor through program at school sports
- Coach a youth team through local recreational department
- Volunteer to ref on a regular basis for a youth sports program (non-profit, recreational, local)
- Work as a camp counselor at a sports camp (no compensation received, not required by coach)
- Work at the registration table for 5ks
- Work at a water stop for 5ks
- Setup/clean up the event for 5ks
- Work on the publicity for the event awareness, prevention, and/or support
- Join a local organization to spread awareness or offer support for families affected by eating disorders, domestic violence, addiction, homelessness, hunger, and suicide
- Volunteer at a battered women's shelter
- Volunteer to help NJ Sharing Network

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 the NHS. These types of activities can be included on the NHS application as "other" activities, but are NOT considered community service. Several examples are:

- Membership in a school club
- Walking or running in a charity 5k race
- Being a member of the cast or crew or tech in a school play
- Rehearsals/practices for local play/performance
- Raising money for your sports team, activity, club, etc.
- Participation in HOSA, SKILLS
- Talent shows, showcases, travel dance competitions
- Managing a school sports team
- Participating on a team
- On-the-job training (receiving or delivering)
- Team statistician
- Volunteering at a professional office assisting in daily operations (i.e. clerical tasks, data input, etc)
- Organizing teacher classrooms (ie. filing cabinets, closets, organizing shop supplies, etc.)
- Baby-sitting/pet-sitting either for family or community members

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the minimum required GPA to be in the NHS?

Students must have a minimum weighted cumulative GPA of 3.50 or better.

2. What is the requirement for leadership positions?

Students are encouraged to hold at least three leadership positions that match the description above and were sustained over a period of time. Students are strongly encouraged to document what they did, where they did it, and the amount of time invested in the initiative.

3. What is the recommended number of service hours to be eligible for the NHS?

NHS students usually complete 15 hours of service PER HIGH SCHOOL YEAR. Eligible juniors should have 30 documented hours. Seniors should have 45 documented hours.

4. Can a student be accepted as a senior if they were not accepted as a junior?

Seniors who were not accepted as juniors are invited to apply as long as they meet the minimum GPA requirement.

5. When do service hours start counting for membership?

Service hours that are completed during high school are considered for membership. Hours from projects that are part of middle school or earlier are not counted. As a general rule, we will count hours starting from September of freshman year.

6. How should service hours be documented?

Service hours should be summarized with dates and descriptions of activities, as well as total number of hours, verified using the Google Form link provided from a legitimate organization or supervising staff member. Certificates from organizations that include dates, times, and brief descriptions of service are also accepted and can be uploaded to Google form if the original certifier is not available to verify. Parents, family members, or peers cannot sign for your service hours.

7. How do I appeal the faculty council decision?

Students can appeal the faculty council decision in writing. Students can appeal, in a written letter, with new information not provided in the original application and/or 1 additional letter of recommendation (not from an immediate family member) to help attest to character, leadership and service, depending on the reason for denial. This letter must be written and presented to the NHS advisors by the student themselves, not a guardian or family member. Only 1 student written letter and 1 additional letter of recommendation will be considered. An appeal does not guarantee acceptance.

8. Will an incident that I had in high school prevent me from being accepted into the NHS?

It depends. All incidents that are documented on your behavior record NEED TO BE ADDRESSED on your application. If you are unsure about your record in the slightest, ask Ms. Varkey or your school counselor/case manager. Incident reports that are not addressed will be viewed negatively against your application. Depending on the severity of the infraction, incidents that are well-addressed on the application won't necessarily keep you out of the NHS. The Faculty Council that reviews applications looks for honesty, maturity, and sincerity in your reflections regarding the events of the incident, why there are consequences for this type of behavior, and what you learned/how you grew from the incident. To be clear, even a well-addressed incident, if severe enough, can still prevent you from being accepted.

9. Will my application be denied if it is incomplete?

Yes. Lack of signatures, verification for listed activities, and/or missing letters of recommendation result in automatic non acceptance. Students who are denied entrance for an incomplete application will be given the chance to appeal ONLY for missing verifications and missing letters.

PLEASE SCAN THE CODE BELOW TO FIND COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Looking for community service opportunities??