

Constitution of the Somers High School National Honor Society (Revised 2016)

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Somers High School National Honor Society. (SHS NHS)

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Somers High School.

Section 3. The SHS NHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191 — 1.537.

ARTICLE II THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1. The control of this organization shall be vested in the National Council.

Section 2. The National Council shall consist of nine members appointed by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, one representative chosen from each of the NASSP administrative regions, and the ninth, NIFIS Representative, from a middle school level. The executive director of NASSP shall be an ex-officio member of the National Council and shall serve as treasurer of NHS. The director of the NASSP Department of Student Activities shall be an ex-officio member and shall serve as secretary of the National Council.

Section 3. The nine members shall be appointed for a three-year term.

Section 4. Five members shall constitute a quorum of the National Council.

ARTICLE III STATE/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Local chapters may choose to organize state associations. The state principals association may form regional associations as defined by NASSP.

Section 2. Any state or regional associations of NHS chapters shall conform to the National Constitution and shall work with the NASSP Department of Student Activities in furthering the purpose of this organization.

Section 3. All state and/or regional associations shall be affiliated with NHS.

Section 4. The state or regional affiliation shall NOT serve as an appeal board for local chapter non-selection or dismissal cases.

ARTICLE IV THE PRINCIPAL

Section 1. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint a member (or members) of the faculty as chapter advisor(s), who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection or candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

ARTICLE V THE CHAPTER ADVISOR

Section 1. The chapter advisor(s) shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2. The chapter advisor(s) shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions.

Section 3. The chapter advisor(s) shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4. The chapter advisor(s) shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 5. The chapter advisor(s) shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

ARTICLE VI THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed by the chapter advisor. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council.

Section 2. The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Somers High School National Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Membership shall be known as active, graduate, and honorary.

A. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation.

B. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

C. The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award one honorary membership per year to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisors, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

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

Section 5. Members must, each year, complete and document a total of 10 hours of tutoring in any school subject to anyone other than a sibling as well as complete 15 hours of service to the community, at least five of which must be to the school community.

Section 6. Each spring, members submit evidence in order to maintain membership. This process requires supplying information about leadership, service, scholarship, and character developments over the past year.

Section 7. A National Honor Society member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to the new school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. If differences in grade point average occur, the student has one semester to comply with the regulations of the Somers High School National Honor Society.

Section 8. Members who fail to reach requirements at the end of each semester will be placed on a probationary period of one marking period. If after one marking period they have not met requirements, they will receive a dismissal hearing.

Section 9. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

ARTICLE VIII SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the sophomore, junior, or senior classes.

Section 2. Candidates must have a cumulative, weighted, scholastic average of at least 88 percent. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

Section 3. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

Section 4. A description of the selection procedure shall be shared with all academically eligible students in the fall.

Section 5. The candidate must complete a total of 10 hours of tutoring in any school subject to anyone other than a sibling as well as complete 15 hours of service to the community, at least five of which must be to the school community. Hours must be documented and accounted for when asked for.

Section 6. Candidates must meet all deadlines or their application for membership will be dismissed.

Section 7. Candidates who fail to meet eligibility requirements one year may reapply for membership in the following year.

ARTICLE IX PROBATION

Section 1. Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor and given one marking period to correct the deficiency.

Section 2. After the one marking period probationary period, the member must be in good standing with the Somers High School National Honor Society or they will be asked to resign or have a dismissal hearing.

Section 3. If there is a flagrant violation of school rules or civil law, a probationary period does not have to be given, the member can be considered for dismissal.

ARTICLE X DISMISSAL

Section 1. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council.

Section 2. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

Section 3. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the principal.

ARTICLE XI CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. There shall be each of the following positions: *President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer* and two *Junior Officers*.

Section 2. Each position has its own role and set of duties. They are as follows:

President

- Preside over all meetings.
- Meet with administration to update them on chapter activities and goals.
- Assume leadership role in organizing fundraisers and service projects.
- Organize Induction Ceremony.
- Research possible service projects and activities for chapter.
- Read and become familiar with the NHS handbook and constitution and be able to inform members of its contents.

Vice President

- Preside over all meetings in absence of President.
- Assume leadership role in organizing fundraisers and service projects.
- Research possible service projects and activities for chapter.
- Read and become familiar with the NHS handbook and constitution and be able to inform members of its contents.

Secretary

- Take minutes at all meetings-copy and give to advisors.
- Read back minutes from previous meetings.
- Keep accurate attendance
- Distribute all information and materials for fundraisers and service projects.
- Assume leadership role in organizing fundraisers and service projects.
- Read and become familiar with the NHS handbook and constitution and be able to inform members of its contents.

Treasurer

- Maintain a current copy of NHS account balance and transactions.
- Keep ledger/updated record of all transactions.
- Complete all purchase orders.
- Collect all money made or raised by chapter, and fill out deposit slips when necessary.
- Take accurate inventory of all needed supplies and make order.
- Read and become familiar with the NHS handbook and constitution and be able to inform members of its contents.

Public Relations Officer

- Write announcements and have them approved by advisor.
- Write up releases to website, Yammer, and Remind about upcoming events.
- Assume leadership role in organizing fundraisers and service projects.
- Read and become familiar with the NHS handbook and constitution and be able to inform members of its contents.

Junior Representatives

- The junior representative must be a sophomore candidate to be inducted in the spring of election.
- The junior representative is to study and learn from the officers and observe how the chapter functions. They are expected to run for office again in the following year.

Section 3. Officers are expected to be in attendance at all meetings of the NHS, including executive, candidate, and general membership meetings. Additionally, officers are expected to maintain an active line of communication with advisors and the other officers.

Section 4. Elections are to be held in the spring for the following September. In order to be added to the ballot, prospective candidates for officer positions need to submit a petition with NHS member signatures.

Section 5. New officers officially take office in September.

Section 6. If an officer is not fulfilling their position's requirements, they will be warned once, in writing, by the chapter advisor. If after one warning the officer is not performing the required duties, they can be dismissed from their position with a majority vote of the other officers.

Section 7. The dismissal of an officer from their position is not a dismissal from the Society. After being dismissed from their position, they remain an active member of the Society.

Section 8. The dismissal of an officer can be appealed to the principal.

Section 9. Open officer positions will be filled by appointment, with a majority vote of the existing officers.

ARTICLE XII MEETINGS

Section 1. The SHS NHS shall have regular meeting during the school year on days designated by the officers and chapter advisor and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

Section 2. The chapter can meet no more than once per week but no less than once per month.

Section 3. Special meetings approved by the officers and chapter advisor may be called by the chapter president.

ARTICLE XIII ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The SHS NHS shall sponsor, or volunteer at, at least two activities per 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. The SHS NHS shall publicize its activity in a positive manner.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended with the approval of the majority of the chapter advisor, current Faculty Council, and principal of Somers High School.