

CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION HONOR SOCIETY

San Mateo High School, Chapter 53

What is the California Scholarship Federation? CSF was established in the 1920's as a statewide honor organization based on good scholarship. Achieving Lifetime Membership in CSF is equivalent to graduating from high school with "great honor" (cum laude).

What are the advantages of belonging to CSF? Not only will you receive academic recognition, but also colleges and universities tend to look favorably on CSF membership when reviewing applications. CSF members are eligible to receive some college scholarships. Please check with the college or university you are applying to for this scholarship information.

What are the eligibility requirements? Many students who achieve a 3.0 GPA or above may be eligible for CSF Membership. For example, eligibility for fall is determined by the student's grades from his or her spring semester report card.

How do I become a CSF Member? Membership is for each semester only and is based on the grades earned during the previous semester. Life Membership can be earned by qualifying for membership 4 out of the last 6 semesters (grades from sophomore, junior and senior years) with at least one semester of membership during the senior year. As a Life Member, students' names are designated on the graduation commencement program, a gold Chapter Seal will be embossed on their diploma and they will be further distinguished by the gold tassels worn on their graduation cap. Please note: grades from first and second semester of freshman year may be used to qualify for CSF Associate Membership, **but they do not apply toward Life Membership.**

When can I apply for CSF Membership? Students should check the school bulletin, website, and Canvas for announcements of when the application forms will be available, typically done in the early months of Fall and Spring semesters. You should make a copy of your semester report card or transcript, bring suggested \$5.00 cash donation or check payable to "SMHS".

Where can I get an application? Applications are available in the school counseling office or the school website **during the application period only.**

Where do I turn in my application? All completed applications must be turned in at the counseling office, in person. Please do not mail your form, email it, or hand it to someone else to turn it in for you. Students must take responsibility to turn their applications in on time. Applications will **not** be accepted via mail, email, or past the due date.

Since students are given approximately 2 weeks to turn in their applications and are reminded via school announcements, applications will not be accepted after the application window ends. If you do not turn in an application, you will not be granted membership for that semester. It is stated in the CSF Handbook that "excuses such as forgetting or not bothering to apply, inability to find one's report card in a timely fashion, failing to heed school announcements about the application period, absences on the last day of the application periods, and other excuses are not acceptable."

The application must be accurately filled out, turned in with the recommended \$5.00 cash donation, and proper number of qualifying points earned for a student to be awarded CSF membership. Therefore, you need to submit the following three items together in order to apply. If any of these items are not received by the CSF application deadline, your application will be voided.

- 1. Completed CSF Membership Application for correct semester**
- 2. Suggested \$5.00 cash donation. Exact change only, please.**
- 3. Copy of current unofficial transcript or report card from previous semester**

Once the membership drive is over for a particular semester, you may not retroactively apply. Please note that each application is verified for accuracy. Submitting an application does not guarantee membership. Students who applied and are verified for eligibility for membership will have their names posted on the bulletin board in the counseling office. It is the student's responsibility to check the bulletin board. Letters do not go out to the members.

Please note that CSF membership is for one semester only. You must reapply each semester in order to maintain your CSF status and to accumulate the four semesters necessary, including one semester from your senior year, for Life Membership. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gil, the CSF Advisor for 2019-2020. Thank you!