

Council Rock North High School - National Honor Society Selection Criteria

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a high school student. The NHS has more than 16,000 chapters, which endeavor to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in secondary school students.

Selection Process:

Membership in the National Honor Society is predicated on outstanding *scholarship*, strong *leadership*, active school and/or community *service*, and exemplary *character* (recognized by the CR North staff as an honest, trustworthy, dependable person). A committee will examine the student's petitions to determine her or his eligibility. Prior violations of the District Academic Integrity policy will be taken into consideration and evaluated on an individual basis.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Scholarship: Spring candidates for NHS must have a minimum cumulative 3.95 GPA at the end of their sophomore year (fall candidates - 3.95 at end of junior year). Additionally, they must have been enrolled in at least one Honor or AP level class over the course of their academic career. Eligible members of the Class of 2026 will be invited to petition for membership during the spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year. All eligible students will be given the opportunity to petition for membership; however, eligibility does not guarantee acceptance. This honor is bestowed upon candidates who show outstanding character, service to the Council Rock community, and leadership as determined by the NHS Faculty Council.

Leadership: Definition: Leadership is the ability to exert a positive guiding influence in or out of the classroom. **Leaders are directly responsible for organizing, directing, and motivating others in an effort to reach a goal.** Leadership is not limited to titled positions in an activity or sport. The student who exercises leadership will demonstrate leadership in the following ways:

- Shows ability to problem solve with humility
- Takes initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- Delegates responsibility
- Exemplifies positive attitudes and inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative and intellectual curiosity
- Holds school offices or positions of responsibility successfully and dependably
- Exercises leadership with integrity and honesty

Guidelines for Leadership: During grades 9th through 11th, the candidate is required to have demonstrated ongoing characteristics of leadership. Ongoing leadership is defined as a regular period or interval of time, such as daily, weekly, or yearly. On the leadership summary form, please list, and describe when you have displayed such characteristics, and name the specific activity. In addition, identify the grade level(s) of participation, as well as how much time has been involved for each example. Only one example is necessary if it meets all of the requirements; however, more examples will help to justify your stance as a leader. Those reviewing your application need to understand how you demonstrated leadership in each position and/or activity. You must describe each example to the fullest. **Please list the sponsor's name, phone number, and email address on the form** so that your statement may be verified. Additionally, you need to secure the recommendation of three of the sponsors involved with the activities you listed. Applicants should send those sponsors a Leadership recommendation Google Form via email, which they need to complete before the deadline.

Some good examples of leadership include:

- Active student council member
- Organize and oversee an activity or event
- Camp counselor for a week each year
- Tutor for an extended length of time
- Coach at a yearly athletic clinic
- Primary player in orchestra

The following activities do not constitute leadership:

- Participating and excelling at a sport
- Participating in classroom discussion, which is expected of all students
- Enrollment in AP courses
- Having paid employment
- Tutoring a sibling

Service: Definition: Community service is identified as any extracurricular service in school and/or in the community in which the student gives or has given his/her time and talents to a group or organization that is useful, helpful, and beneficial to others. Service is required to be ongoing. The committee looks for **continuity** and **quality** as well as overall hours. **Paid positions are jobs and do not qualify.** The following characteristics are part of services:

- Participates in an activity which features service: scouting, religious groups, volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged
- Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school

- Does committee and staff work without complaint

****Class of 2026-Spring Inductees** must have a minimum of 45 hours - completed by March 1 registered in the LINCS/Main Reception Desk by March 15 of junior year.

Fall Inductees must have 45 hours-completed by Sept 1 and registered with the LINCS/Main Reception Desk by Sept 15 of senior year

Character: Definition: Character is identified as those traits or qualities of moral strength, academic honesty, self-discipline, and respectful attitude and behavior towards staff and peers that produce a pattern of personal integrity and good reputation. Character must continue to be unquestionable. The student of good character is recognized by the CR North staff as a citizen who demonstrates the following characteristics:

- **Honest** - does not cheat or plagiarize; demonstrates integrity in all areas of their life
- **Trustworthy** - does not lie in order to protect self or friends
- **Dependable** - is normally present on exam days as well as days when projects are due
- **Responsible** - takes responsibility to meet school and personal obligations, such as make-up work
- **Respectful to teachers and other students**
- **Creates a cheerful atmosphere at school**

The candidate is required to be in good standing with the faculty and staff at CRN. Faculty members will be asked to evaluate candidates on the basis of character. Candidates whose teachers believe their character to be in question will not be selected for NHS. All candidates' names will be submitted to the grade level principal for review. Major infractions (those resulting in suspension or arrest) are reasons to be denied admission to the NHS if they occurred within one calendar year of application. If a student has committed a major infraction, (ex. violating the Academic Integrity Policy) the candidate will be permitted to submit a letter of reflection for consideration. These situations will be reviewed on a case to case basis by the faculty council. Additionally, students who have missed more than 20 school days (excused or unexcused) must attach a letter of explanation about the extensive absences.

Any student who has documented violation of NHS principles or school policies by the teaching staff or administration may be in jeopardy of being denied admittance.