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:

- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (for example: respectfulness, cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- 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
- **Follows the school's guidelines against Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)**
- **Absence/avoidance of Discipline write-ups, including cheating and plagiarism**
- 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/positions are considered and can be held in school or in the community. Leadership roles/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:

➔ Volunteering 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

<u>Local Community Organizations/Centers:</u>

- Volunteering outside of school hours for MOHS-sponsored events run in conjunction with an outside organization
- Volunteering 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)
- Volunteering 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 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
- Volunteering on other students' Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold awards

<u>Military/Veterans:</u>

- 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:

● Volunteering 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:

- Volunteering at the registration table
- Volunteering at the water table
- Setting-up/cleaning-up the event
- Volunteering for 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 are **NOT considered community service.**

- Membership in a school club
- Being a team statistician
- 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
- 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 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 Leadership Resume Template**