

Coleman ISD National Honor Society

Chapter Guidelines & Membership Requirements

Purpose of National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes high school students who demonstrate excellence in **Scholarship, Character, Leadership, and Service**. Membership in NHS is an honor and a responsibility. Academic achievement alone does not determine membership. Students are evaluated in all four areas, with each area carrying equal importance.

<u>NHS Pillar</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Scholarship	25%
Character	25%
Leadership	25%
Service	25%

The Coleman ISD chapter of NHS seeks students who demonstrate a consistent commitment to academic achievement, positive character, leadership, and meaningful service to their school and community.

I. Eligibility to Apply

The NHS selection process begins during the student's **junior year**. Eligible junior and senior students will be invited to apply during the fall semester.

To be **nominated and invited to complete the NHS application**, a student must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Scholarship

- Maintain an overall academic average of **3.9 or higher**.
- Academic performance will be reviewed using the student's cumulative record.

2. Service

- For junior applicants, a minimum of **20 documented community service hours completed** prior to the application process.
- For senior applicants, a minimum of **30 documented community service hours completed** prior to the application process.
- Service hours must represent meaningful service to the school, community, or approved organizations.
- Students should maintain documentation and sponsor contact information for their service hours.

3. Character

Students must:

- Be in good standing with their teachers and school administration.
- Demonstrate honesty, responsibility, respect, integrity, and appropriate behavior.
- Maintained an exemplary disciplinary record with zero behavioral infractions, behavioral referrals, formal suspensions or ISS/DAEP, policy violations, athletic suspensions, or dress code violations from freshman through junior years.

4. Leadership

Students should demonstrate evidence of leadership through participation and responsibility in school, community, extracurricular, employment, or other approved activities.

Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not automatically guarantee NHS membership. Eligible students must complete the NHS application and selection process.

II. NHS Selection Process

The selection process will occur during the **fall semester of the student's junior year** and will follow the general timeline below:

Fall Semester

1. Student scholarship eligibility is reviewed.
2. Eligible students are nominated/invited to apply.
3. Students complete the NHS application.
4. Applications are reviewed according to the four NHS pillars:
 - Scholarship
 - Character
 - Leadership
 - Service

End of First Semester

- NHS members will be finalized by the **end of the first semester**.

Early Spring

- Newly selected members will participate in the **National Honor Society Induction Ceremony**.

The induction ceremony is a formal recognition of the student's selection and commitment to uphold the standards of NHS membership.

III. The Four Pillars of NHS

Scholarship — 25%

Scholarship represents a student's' commitment to academic achievement and learning.

Evidence may include:

- Overall academic average
- Academic course rigor
- Consistent academic performance
- Commitment to completing academic responsibilities

Students are expected to maintain the academic standards required for NHS membership after induction.

Character — 25%

Character reflects how a student conducts themselves and treats others.

NHS members are expected to demonstrate:

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Reliability
- Positive conduct
- Respect for school rules and expectations

Students should serve as positive representatives of Coleman ISD and the National Honor Society.

A student's' conduct both inside and outside the classroom may be considered when determining whether the student continues to meet NHS expectations.

Leadership — 25%

Leadership is demonstrated through taking initiative, accepting responsibility, and positively influencing others.

Leadership may be demonstrated through:

- School organizations
- Athletic teams
- Clubs and activities
- Community organizations
- Employment
- Volunteer organizations
- Student leadership positions
- Organizing or assisting with service activities
- Other situations in which the student demonstrates initiative and responsibility

Leadership does not require holding a formal title. Students may demonstrate leadership through their actions and willingness to serve others.

Service — 25%

Service reflects a student's' willingness to contribute time and effort to benefit others.

Acceptable service may include approved volunteer work performed for:

- Coleman ISD
- Community organizations
- Churches or nonprofit organizations
- Community events
- Civic organizations
- Approved service projects
- Other organizations or activities approved by the NHS sponsor

Students are responsible for accurately documenting their service hours and submitting documentation according to chapter deadlines.

IV. Membership Responsibilities

Selection for NHS is not the end of the process. Membership carries an ongoing responsibility to uphold the standards of the organization.

After induction, NHS members are expected to:

- Maintain good academic standing.
 - Continue demonstrating strong character.
 - Participate in NHS activities and meetings.
 - Complete required community service hours.
 - Maintain appropriate conduct at school and school-sponsored activities.
 - Represent Coleman ISD and NHS in a positive and responsible manner.
 - Meet all chapter deadlines and requirements.
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V. Service Requirements After Induction

Beginning after induction, NHS members must complete **10 hours of approved service per semester**.

Summer service hours may be used to meet the service requirement.

Students are responsible for:

- Completing their required service hours.
- Obtaining appropriate documentation of service.
- Submitting service documentation by the chapter's' established deadlines.

Graduation Stole Requirements

To receive an NHS stole for graduation, students must meet the following cumulative service requirements:

Student Status

Required Service by Graduation

Junior Inductee

30+ total hours (3 semesters)

Senior Inductee

10+ total hours (Final spring semester)

Meeting the minimum number of hours is required for the NHS graduation stole. Students must also remain in good standing with the chapter.

VI. Maintaining Good Standing

NHS membership is an ongoing commitment. Students are expected to maintain the standards upon which their membership was based.

A member may be placed on probation or be subject to removal from NHS for failing to meet chapter expectations, including but not limited to:

- Failure to maintain required academic standards
- Failure to complete required service hours
- Failure to participate in required NHS activities
- Failure to meet chapter deadlines
- Significant violations of school rules
- Disciplinary consequences
- Conduct inconsistent with the standards of NHS
- Failure to demonstrate appropriate character or responsibility

Any decision regarding probation or removal will be handled according to the chapter's established procedures and applicable National Honor Society guidelines.

VII. Student Responsibility

Students interested in NHS are responsible for understanding and following all chapter requirements.

Students should keep personal records of:

- Service hours
- Leadership experiences
- Extracurricular activities
- Awards and accomplishments
- Other experiences that demonstrate the four NHS pillars

Students should not wait until the application period to begin documenting their accomplishments and service.

VIII. Important Dates

The NHS chapter will communicate specific dates each year. The general annual timeline is:

Fall — Junior Year

- Eligibility review
- Student nominations/invitations
- NHS application process

End of First Semester

- Membership finalized

Early Spring

- NHS Induction Ceremony

Each Semester After Induction

- Required service hours
- NHS meetings and activities
- Continued evaluation of membership expectations

Senior Year

- Completion of final service requirements
- Verification of good standing
- NHS graduation stole eligibility

Our Commitment

Membership in the Coleman ISD National Honor Society represents more than academic achievement. NHS members are expected to demonstrate a commitment to **Scholarship, Character, Leadership, and Service** throughout their high school experience.

The goal of the Coleman ISD chapter is to recognize students who have demonstrated these qualities and to encourage them to continue using their talents, time, and leadership to positively impact their school and community.