

National Honor Society Membership Information Pooleville High School

What's the big deal about National Honor Society? Why would I want to be a member?

"The National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NHS and NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS). These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since their beginnings in 1921 and 1929.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in activities of the NHS and NJHS. NHS and NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. Territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service." *from the Official Site of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society*

At Pooleville High School, membership in the National Honor Society is both a recognition of excellence and an opportunity to participate in our service programs. Candidates are inducted through a special ceremony and graduating seniors are recognized at graduation.

Who is eligible to be a member of the National Honor Society (NHS)?

- juniors and seniors (*the induction ceremony is held annually in September*)
- minimum cumulative GPA of 3.6 or a weighted CGPA of 4.2
- completion of required student service learning hours (usually 75)

If I meet the eligibility requirements, am I automatically a member of NHS?

No. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, SSL hour and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based upon their service, leadership, and character. Students are selected to be members of the National Honor Society; membership is not a right, but a privilege.

How are members selected?

The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The current Faculty Council includes:

Ms. Erin Binns; Head of the Global Ecology House
Mr. Mark Curran; Head of the Math, Science, Computer Science House
Mrs. Laura Friedman; Special Education Resource Teacher
Ms. Leslie Gum; Head of the ISP House, science teacher
Mr. Dan McKenna; Head of the Humanities House

Prior to selection, students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified by

the beginning of May and asked to complete and submit the National Honor Society Application for further consideration for selection. The Poolesville High School faculty evaluates candidates using the official evaluation form outlined according to a predetermined rubric. The Faculty Council reviews the application and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership. Candidates become members when inducted at the induction ceremony in September.

What does it mean to be a member of NHS? What do I have to do?

Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership. Membership obligations include attendance at chapter meetings (monthly), participation in induction and end-of-year events, and earning 10 service hours each semester. Service hours are earned through NHS sponsored programs including tutoring, mentoring, recognizing students' accomplishments, fund-raisers, and short-term projects. In addition to attendance and participation requirements, all members inducted September 2008 and beyond will pay a \$10 annual dues fee. The fee is used to off-set ceremony and project costs.

What if I don't earn a 3.6 after I'm inducted?

The GPA requirement considers students' cumulative GPA. If your overall GPA is at or above the minimum standard, you remain in good standing. If your cumulative GPA drops below a 3.6 (or 4.2, weighted), you will have one semester to raise your grades to the minimum standard before losing membership status in the National Honor Society.

Please direct questions or comments about the Poolesville High School chapter of the National Honor Society to the chapter advisor, Ms. Allison Wilder at 301-972-7934 or Allison_C_Wilder@mcpsmd.org