

Homer Junior & Senior High Chapter of National Honor Society Member Handbook



The NHS emblem illustrates the values promoted by the National Honor Society. The letters C, S, L, and S stand for the four cardinal principles of character, scholarship, leadership, and service. These fundamental values strengthen and stabilize our education, just as a keystone holds the perfect arch in perpetual stability. Finally, the torch represents ambition, inspiration, and truth. To bear forward the searching light of truth, to lead that others may follow in light, to keep burning in our school a high ambition for the enduring values of life, and to serve—these purposes are symbolized in the torch.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Homer Junior & Senior High Chapter of the National Honor Society

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Homer Junior and Senior High School.

ARTICLE II: THE PRINCIPAL

Section 1. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter advisor who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3. The principal shall annually recommend for appointment a faculty council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates and the discipline or dismissal of members.

ARTICLE III THE CHAPTER ADVISOR

Section 1. The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison between faculty, administration, students and the community.

Section 2. The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions.

Section 3. The chapter advisor shall regularly review the standing of each member for compliance with the rules.

Section 4. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the faculty council.

Section 5. The chapter advisor shall be a member of the faculty appointed annually by the Board of Education or the principal and may serve consecutive terms.

ARTICLE IV: FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1. The faculty council shall consist of five voting members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the faculty council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the faculty council.

Section 2. The term for the members of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed too consecutive terms.

Section 3. The faculty council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members and to consider nonselection, as well as, dismissal, other disciplinary actions and warning cases.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership into National Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon a student based on outstanding: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

Section 2. To be eligible for membership, the following must occur:

- a. The candidate must be a member of either the eighth, freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior class and must have been in attendance at Homer Junior & High School for the equivalent of one semester.
- b. The candidate shall have a cumulative GPA average of at least 90 percent, or 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale)

Section 3. Students who meet the above qualifications shall become candidates:

- a. Each candidate shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Homer NHS Application Form
- b. Each candidate is then evaluated by the Faculty Council on leadership, service, character and 200 word essay. The Faculty Council makes the final decision concerning the membership by majority vote.
- c. Applicants will be notified by a letter in the mail whether they were selected or not.

Section 4. Candidates become fully active members once accepted into NHS

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 2. Members will maintain a cumulative GPA 3.5 or 90 %.

- a. Cumulative GPAs are checked at the end of first semester and second semester

Section 3. Members shall attend all chapter meetings.

- a. This chapter shall meet once a month or as otherwise designated, before, during, or after school.
- b. Attendance is mandatory. In the case of an absence, the member must report to the Chapter Advisor on the same day or the next day he or she is in attendance at school.

Section 4. Members shall complete 30 volunteer service hours:

- a. The hours may be community or school based
- b. Hours must be completed and submitted by May 6th, 2020

Community or school service includes self-initiated, voluntary service that goes beyond the obligations of membership to a particular club or organization other than National Honor Society. This service must be completed for a non-profit, non-political entity during active membership outside the individual's class schedule; may not be performed for reward or payment; and must be verified in writing to the adviser.

Section 5. Service Learning Project

- a. All Homer NHS members are required to perform and participate in a service learning project(s) each school year.
- b. The project(s) are selected by the NHS at the beginning of the school year.

Section 6: Character - Conduct and behavior

- a. The student must demonstrate an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, regulations, guidelines, and policies or has been able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies. Students who have previously been arrested and/or found guilty of civil offenses will not automatically be excluded from consideration into membership though such actions are taken seriously as part of the selection process.
- b. Documentation including administrative records, counseling records, conduct and behavior reviews and consultation with the School Resource Officer is considered credible background character references in the selection process. Discipline records describing violations of the Homer Community School drug, alcohol, and activity policies, pre-sentence investigations by the court system or diversion programs may be used in the final selection determination.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected during the first meeting held that school year.

- a. Officers will be elected by voting
- b. Officers will hold their position for one term (one school year.)

ARTICLE VI: WARNINGS AND DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who fails to maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service deemed by the Homer National Honor Society Handbook shall be promptly warned in writing or verbally by the chapter advisor. If a warning is given, the student will be given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except in the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or the law. Examples of a warning are:

- a. A member who fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- b. A member who fails to attend the month meetings or service project(s) without making prior arrangements with the chapter adviser or providing adequate documentation for the absence.
- c. A member who fails to earn the 30 service hours within the time given.
- d. A member who fails to maintain high character or behavior standards set by the Homer Community School Handbook 2019-2020.

Section 2. Each member is allotted the cumulation of two warnings during his or her tenor of Homer National Honor Society. After two warnings have been accumulated, the member must approach the Faculty Council to determine if he or she is to be dismissed from the Homer National Honor Society.

Section 3. The Faculty Council, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society, shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 4. In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

Section 5. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Section 6. Members who resign or are dismissed must sign a written form for documentation and filing purposes.

Section 7. Members who resign or are dismissed can re-apply the following school year for Homer National Honor Society. If the student decides to re-apply, the Faculty Council has the right to take the students history and offenses into consideration.