



## *Criteria and Policies for Membership*

### *National Honor Society of South High School*

*Updated Spring 2022*

South High Pantzer Chapter Membership of the National Honor Society is a **privilege** given to students by invitation from the South faculty. South High School's NHS Selection Committee (a group of volunteer faculty members) makes decisions regarding membership. Students will be evaluated in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service. Below are the ways in which these traits are evaluated. It should be noted that **membership is not a right**. Selection is made by evidence of excellence in the following areas:

**Scholarship** will be determined by grade point average. The student must have a weighted, cumulative grade point average of 4.25 or above after the second semester of his/her sophomore/junior year and every semester following. Freshmen are ineligible for membership. GPA's will be checked at the end of the second semester. Any sophomore or junior who has the required GPA will be sent a letter of academic eligibility inviting them to submit school and community service forms documenting service in the previous school year. (Forms are available in the SHS offices, the advisor's room, and on the SHS website under "activities".) Students who are interested in continued or new membership should complete forms as services are completed.

**Leadership** and character will be evaluated by the faculty each fall. Teachers will evaluate leadership in the previous school year. The selection committee will evaluate leadership ratings and comments by teachers and service forms and comments. Criteria for leadership include: demonstrating positive leadership in the school, classroom, and after-school activities; promoting school activities; representing South High School in a positive manner within the community; being resourceful in proposing new solutions to school issues; following rules in the school and community; exercising influence on peers in upholding school rules and respect for all people; successfully holding school offices or positions of responsibility; being reliable and dependable without prodding; having high attendance of no more than **48 mods of unexcused absences** per semester (neither detention nor community service may correct this).

**Character** will be defined by the *National Honor Society Handbook*, 15<sup>th</sup> edition and the policies of the "National Honor Society Unacceptable Conduct and Penalties" handout/contract signed by both student and parent. Teachers must have personal knowledge of a student's character and may not base their evaluation on hearsay or rumor. Students will be rated satisfactory or unsatisfactory in character. Any two teachers with knowledge of unsatisfactory behavior will be enough to deny a student membership. Like scholarship, character will be monitored on an on-going basis. Faculty members who have concerns about character and/or leadership may speak with the National Honor Society advisor or a member of the selection committee. If there is cause for concern, the advisor will speak to the student and document the information. For larger problems, the selection committee will be called together to decide whether there is a need for consequences.

1. Students must show proof of **35 hours** of combined **voluntary school and community service** completed in the calendar year.
2. Students must have at **least 10 cumulative hours of South-sponsored school activities and 5 hours of community service. Community service hours for use in attendance corrections can't be used towards NHS Membership.**
3. Students must participate in **3 different, unrelated activities for school and community service.**
4. Any combination of hours is acceptable as long as you have signed evidence of 10 total school service hours and 5 community service hours. The remaining 20 hours can be of either form.

**Please note: Services and activities cannot be used if credit or pay is earned. Fundraising and performances are also not considered a service or activity. Service obtained in organizations that require**

**community service can be used for a school activity (if school sponsored) OR the specific service hours of an activity can be counted toward community service **but will not be accepted in fulfillment of both.****

**All activities and hours must be completed by September 1st of the application year.** Services may be done as individual projects or with a group, but they must be done for or on the behalf of others (**not including immediate family members.**) You may NOT count National Honor Society as a school activity; however, you may count the **community** service activities (in which you participate) offered by NHS. Students will turn in official service forms (a separate one for each service) documenting their hours, seasons, or semesters of activity. These forms must be signed by an adult (**other than a parent**) who has witnessed or supervised the activity. **The forms must be completed fully (in black or blue ink) by the student first and then supervisor.** The student will retain these forms until September of each year. (Listen for announcements and watch the mail.) Late forms may result in non-selection. **If you have questions, please ask the National Honor Society advisor. The lists below are only examples.**

### Examples of School Sponsored Activities

**Note: All co-curricular activities must be sponsored by South High School**

Art Scream  
Athletics  
Cheerleading  
Class Officer  
SHS Dance Team  
Costumes for drama  
Debate  
Drama  
FBLA  
Feats n' Follies  
FCCLA  
Forensics  
Gay/Straight Alliance  
Hmong Leadership  
HOSA  
Interact Rotary Club  
International Club  
International Dancers  
Jazz Band II in which credit is not earned  
Pass Runner  
Pep Band (10 hours needed after band requirement)  
School Sports—Entire Season  
School Store—no credit or pay  
Spirit Shirt Team  
Stage Crew  
Student Council  
Tutoring at SHS during study hall, or outside of school  
World Language Clubs  
Mentoring ELL, high school students

### Examples of Volunteer Community Service

Appalachian Service Project  
Bethesda Thrift Shop  
Boys and Girls Club  
Boy Scouts \*  
Camps not affiliated with SHS  
Church volunteer  
Coaching younger students  
Coat Drives  
Elementary or middle school volunteering  
Eyeglass Drives  
4-H\*  
Food Drives  
Food Pantries  
Girl Scouts\*  
Goodwill  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hospital or Hospice  
Humane Society  
Leadership Institute  
Love Bowls  
Maywood  
Mead Library  
Mentoring ELL, middle or elementary students  
Museum Volunteer  
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living/Retirement Centers  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Safe Harbor  
Safety Town  
Salvation Army  
Shelter Care  
Silent Voices/Signing Hands  
Soup Kitchens  
Sunday School teacher  
Toy Drives  
Walk for Warmth  
YMCA

\*Activities can count either for school service or community service but not both. \*Membership to these groups does not automatically count as community service. You must designate the activities/hours of community service in which you participated.