



Chapter Bylaws
of the
Patriot Chapter
of the
George Washington High School
National Honor Society
Adopted: August 24, 2021

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Patriot Chapter of the George Washington High School National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of George Washington High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See www.nhs.us/constitutions. The powers vested in the organization shall be in accordance with the National Council and NASSP who are responsible for the operational control of the National Honor Society at the national level, but cannot review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection and/or dismissal of individual members to the chapter. In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2: This chapter will remain an active member of the state association, West Virginia Honors Society, by paying annual dues and participating in state functions when possible. (The West Virginia affiliation to NHS is currently inactive.)

Section 3. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 4: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 5: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.



ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at George Washington High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative, weighted grade point average of 4.0.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.
- e. Suspension from school and cheating are automatic grounds for refusal.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year. Note: Alternative or additional selection periods may be added.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate information forms for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official input form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, essays, faculty input, external recommendations, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.



Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The faculty council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20. Dues will be payable to the chapter annually and must be paid within 30 days of the first meeting of the year. Dues are nonrefundable.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 4. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the **privilege** of wearing the honor cords or stoles at graduation.

Section 5. All members should embody the GWHS core values of integrity, perseverance, and service. Integrity encompasses honesty, trustworthiness, respect, citizenship, self-discipline, and reliability. Perseverance represents one's courage in the face of adversity and grit to thrive when challenged. Service entails empathy, work ethic, participation, teamwork, commitment, initiative, cooperation, respect, and placing the service of others above one's self.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, and parliamentarian.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year; any positions not filled at that meeting may be filled after the induction of new members. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can apply to be a candidate for office. All active members are eligible to vote.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.



Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over meetings, set agendas for the meetings, coordinate work, function as an intermediary, take ultimate student responsibility for all chapter functioning, monitor members participation in meetings and activities and intervene as needed, serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions, and keep the advisor informed of any and all NHS related activities, concerns, and ideas.

Section 5. The vice-president shall fulfill the duties of president as circumstances require, oversee the number of community service hours rendered, while evaluating the need for developing new committees to help with the smooth functioning of the chapter. Vice President also assists in Public Relations for NHS and is expected to lead one of the group service projects.

Section 6. The secretary shall take minutes of all meetings, maintain accurate electronic records, maintain club rosters, keep a detailed schedule of all chapter meeting and events, and oversee publicity of chapter event and correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall develop and maintain all financial records, manage the NHS account and purchase orders, keep regular correspondence with the school accountant, and oversee all chapter fundraising activities.

Section 8. The historian shall maintain the club's website, take pictures or designate someone to take pictures at all NHS events, research and prepare items of significance of the chapter's history, prepare displays of chapter activities for community events, complete the annual report of all National Honor Society activities update the calendar and manage the submission of photos by members as part of their service requirement. At the induction ceremony, the historian will prepare a slideshow highlighting community service events over the past year.

Section 9. The parliamentarian shall work with the advisor to establish guidelines for proper meeting conduct and behavior, ensure that order is maintained and procedures are correctly followed at all meetings, record and coordinate membership, check mandatory attendance, and keep accurate electronic records of community service hours, as well as updating and maintaining member handbook.

Section 10. The student representative shall work to elicit feedback and suggestions from student and alumni members for improvements to the society, work to incorporate feedback into the normal operations of the society with the aid of other members and officers, assist the advisor in the planning of the induction ceremony, and help other officers as needed.

Section 11. Officers and the faculty adviser shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.



Section 12. In the event of a chapter officer being removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council, the above voting process will be followed at the next scheduled meeting to vote in a new officer from members in good standing. This new officer will remain in this position until the end of the school year.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings (**80% attendance required** to remain an active member).

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine a minimum of two service projects for each year: one community based and one school based.

Section 2. All members are required to participate in both projects as organized by the chapter.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in volunteer projects that reflects their particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute. **Members must complete 60 service hours per year (20 hours in NHS Group Projects and at least 40 hours on their own—20 hours during the first semester and 20 hours during the second semester).**

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the George Washington High School chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain their academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to their school and community.



Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when they were selected (4.0), they will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Members who do not meet the chapter standards for meeting attendance (80% attendance calculated per semester) will be placed on probation. Members on attendance probation will be required to complete an additional 3 hours of community service (beyond the standard membership requirements) for every meeting missed beyond the allowable number for the semester.

Section 4. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 5 below). These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, **vaping**, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community. The Faculty Council can review patterns of behavior as the basis for dismissal.

Section 5. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6. Cheating of any kind is expressly forbidden. Members must neither give nor receive academic information inappropriately. Students found guilty of cheating can be brought up for immediate consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 7. When National Honor Society members post photographs, pictures, comments, or statements on any web-based social network, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat and Tinder, they are held to the same standards and qualities of character and leadership under which they were selected.

Section 8. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 9. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive **written notification** from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member has the **right** to respond to the charge(s) against them at a **hearing** before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present their defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing.



Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to dismiss any member.

c. The results of the faculty council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.

d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.

e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 10. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1: These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided approval of the proposed amendment by the faculty council. Additionally, notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles IV, V, and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal.