

Gonzales High School National Honor Society By-Laws

Article I – Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the National Honor Society of Gonzales High School.

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 Gonzales High School.

Section 3. The rules and regulations of this chapter/organization shall be vested in the national level of the National Honor Society.

Section 4. The operational control of the National Honor Society at the national level is sponsored by the National Council and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Article II – The Chapter Advisor

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

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

Section 3. The chapter advisor(s) shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4. The chapter advisor(s) shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 5. The chapter advisor(s) shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council, serving as a facilitator of discussions, keeping the council focused on objective data used to review each case.

Section 6. The chapter advisor(s) shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

Article III – 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 appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4. The principal cannot serve as chapter advisor and is not a member of the voting Faculty Council.

Section 5. The principal cannot attend the Faculty Council meetings but entrusts the advisor and members of the Faculty Council with the authority over selection and dismissal.

Section 6.

The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

Article IV – Faculty Council

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

Section 2. The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to 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 non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions and warning cases.

Section 4. The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, disciplining, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with the national guidelines (See Article VI, VII, & VIII).

Article V – Membership

Section 1. Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony held annually in the spring.

Section 3. A National Honor Society member who transfers to or from Gonzales High School and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to the new

school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 4. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Article VI – Selection of Membership

Section 1. The Faculty Council of the chapter selects students who demonstrate outstanding performance in all four criteria of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Scholarship:

The scholarship requirement is 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) based on a student's cumulative grade point average after their 5th or 7th semester, and must have earned three full credits (six semesters) of honors level courses.

Leadership:

Is demonstrated by participating in positions of responsibility in organizations on campus, in the community, or at work. In addition to elected positions, any position in which a student is responsible for directing or motivating students. Leadership experiences need to be from at least two different school or community organizations.

The student who exercises leadership:

- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability

- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community actions
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted

Service:

Actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service.

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well organized assistance
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-scholastic competition
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students

Character:

A candidate will be able to demonstrate an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies or be able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies. A person of character will be respectful of others, trustworthy, demonstrate good citizenship in the classroom/halls/school, and be responsible.

In addition, it can also be said that the student of character:

- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning programs and policies.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability

- Regularly show courtesy
- Follow instructions and rules
- Be punctual
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others

Section 2. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one full semester.

Section 3. Candidates must have a cumulative scholarship average of at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and have earned three full credits (six semester hours) of honors level courses. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

Section 4. Students will fill out a student activity information form which will be reviewed by the Faculty Council, along with any other verifiable information about each candidate and his or her activities which define the candidate's leadership, service, and character.

Section 5. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

Section 6. No quotas or percentages of members per class can be established.

Section 7. Members are required to attend all NHS meetings unless prior approval arranged.

Section 8. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 9. The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Section 10. Those students selected are to be notified promptly and personally by the chapter advisor or printed letters.

Section 11. Printed copy of the chapter by-laws, including the selection process shall

be available to the public.

Article VII – Non Selection of Members

Section 1. In cases of non-selection, special efforts should be made to explain the selection process to those students who are unhappy about the results of the selection process.

Section 2. Chapters are not legally or constitutionally obligated to share with parents and students information concerning specific students not selected for membership in the Society.

Section 3. Students or parents still not satisfied, should take their appeal to the principal.

Section 4. The principal may hear appeals and overturn decisions only in cases of technical or procedural mistake. The professional and objective manner of the Faculty Council decision is otherwise final.

Section 5. The NASSP have no authority to review or overturn the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Article VIII - Dismissal

Section 1. Members should understand fully that they are subject to dismissal if they do not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character that were used as a basis for their selection.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws a member does not necessarily have to be warned.

Section 3. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a

hearing before the Faculty Council.

Section 4. 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 under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

5

Article IX – Chapter Officers

Section 1. Chapter officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Committee Chairperson.

Section 2. President – runs monthly meetings, takes care of chapter business.

Section 3. Vice President – support President, act as charge in the absence of the President.

Section 4. Hisotrian – manages and keeps records for club activities.

Section 5. Secretary – notifies members of meetings and keeps minutes of meetings.

Section 6. Committee Chairperson – publicizes and coordinates chapter wide service opportunities and tabulates service requirement hour log records.

Section 7. Election of officers- officers shall be nominated by the membership and elected by a majority vote of member present for the vote.

Section 8. New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony.

Section 9. Chapter Executive Board—shall consist of the President,

Vice-President, Secretary, Historian Committee Chairperson, and the Chapter Advisor.

Article X – Meetings

Section 1. Meetings will be held once a month during the school year.

Section 2. Special meetings approved by the executive committee may be called by the Chapter president or Chapter advisor.

Article XI – Activities

Section 1. The Committee Chairperson will publicize service activities at regular monthly meetings.

Section 2. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in a personal service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests.

Section 3. Each member shall be responsible for completing 10 hours of chapter community service per year (five hours per semester).

Section 4. Members may count up to five service hours from summer projects for the upcoming year for personal service.

Section 5. The responsibility of chapter records will be kept current and complete by the chapter secretary.

Article XII – Provisions for amending the bylaws.

Section 1. The entire chapter, Faculty Council, Advisor and administration will approve any changes before they become the law of the organization.

Adopted __18 March 2021__