

Cypress Christian School
National Honor Society Chapter

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Cypress Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. The objective 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 Cypress Christian School National Honor Society chapter.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. The graduate members have no vote.

Section 2. 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 3. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a minimum period of one semester at Cypress Christian School.

Section 4. Candidates are eligible for election to this chapter every Spring and must be members of the **sophomore, junior, or senior class**. Current sophomores and juniors must have a minimum cumulative weighted grade average of 90, as calculated according to the Handbook, to be eligible. Beginning with the Class of 2029, students must have a minimum cumulative weighted grade average of 94, as calculated according to the Handbook, to be eligible for election to the chapter.

Section 5. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership. Candidates are required to have completed 30 hours of Community/Volunteer service in the previous calendar year to be considered eligible for candidacy for election to this chapter. Their eligibility shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE III

SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The final 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 chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

1. Each student's academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
2. Scholastically eligible students shall be notified and asked to complete the Student Activity, Leadership and Service profile, as well as provide a recommendation letter from a ministry/community leader attesting to **character and spiritual growth** of the applicant for further consideration for selection.
3. The faculty shall evaluate all scholastically eligible candidates based on the criteria of character, leadership, and service. A standardized evaluation form will be distributed to all teachers, who will rate students on a scale of 1 to 4 in each of the three areas. A minimum of four teacher evaluations is required for each candidate, and it is the responsibility of the Faculty Council to collect these evaluations.

If a candidate receives an overall average of **3.5 or higher**, the student is considered to be in good standing.

If a candidate's overall average is **below 3.5**, the student must receive a score of **4 in at least two of the three categories** (character, leadership, or service) to be considered for selection.

3. The Student Activity, Leadership and Service profiles shall be reviewed by the Faculty Council.

Section 3. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the 2nd semester of the school year. The review of eligible students will take place within 2 weeks after 1st semester grades are posted. Applications for membership and the Student Activity, Leadership and Service Profile will be distributed to the eligible students upon the completion of the academic review. The selection process will take place within the 3rd quarter. Alternative or additional selection periods may be added as designated by the Faculty Council. The Induction Ceremony will be held upon the designation of the Faculty Council and in compliance with the school calendar.

Section 4. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the principal.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. This transfer member will attain within one semester and then maintain the membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE IV

DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Cypress Christian School National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community. Attendance at **ALL** meetings is required. A member who has two unexcused absences will be given a written warning and is on probation for the rest of the year. While on probation, the member is not allowed to participate in the induction ceremony, run for an NHS officer position, and is ineligible for scholarships or recognition. Three unexcused absences will be grounds for dismissal from the chapter. Written notification of the absence infraction will be made to the student based on the chapter's attendance records. Once dismissed, the student may never be a member again.

Section 2. The academic records of all members will be reviewed at the end of each semester by the Chapter adviser. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected, he/ she will be given written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below the standard of induction at the end of the semester, the student may be dismissed from the chapter. A member shall be allowed only one warning period.

Section 3. Violation of criminal law or school regulations can result in immediate dismissal of a member.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code may receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent).

Section 5. In the case of pending dismissal:

1. The member will receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal from the advisor. The member and advisor will discuss the written notification in a conference.
2. The member will be offered a hearing with the Faculty Council prior to dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
3. A letter of dismissal will be sent to the principal, student, and parents if the student is dismissed. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor.
4. The member may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Principal.
5. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.
6. Notice of their dismissal will be indicated on the Annual Report submitted to the National Secretary at the end of the school year.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be at least: President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Historian.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the designated meeting each school year. All returning members who are in good standing are eligible to run for a position as officer, with the exception of President, which will be filled with a senior class member if possible. Students who are interested in running for office must register with the advisor for verification of eligibility during the designated time period, prior to the designated voting meeting of the year. The election of officers will take place at the last meeting of the year where seniors and new members are present. Candidates will be nominated from the roster of eligible, registered members. All active members are eligible to vote.

Section 3. 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.

In the event of a tie, the students shall serve as co-officers for the year.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to compose the agenda for each meeting and to preside at the meetings of this chapter. The president will review the progress of the various committees. The president will also act as the official spokesperson for the society.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The chapter secretary shall keep the attendance and minutes of meetings, a record of all business, and all records on file. He shall be responsible for all interchapter and official correspondence. He will prepare announcements of activities for the advisor's signature. The secretary shall also prepare a calendar of activities and meetings. He shall, with the approval of the principal or advisor, certify to the National Secretary of the National Council the names of all members for the current school year on the Annual Report submitted to National Headquarters.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses and work directly with the president of the chapter and the business office.

Section 8. The chaplain shall provide spiritual direction to the chapter by leading in prayer and sharing devotional information.

Section 9. The historian shall keep the chapter scrapbook and shall serve as reporter to the school yearbook staff.

Section 10. It is the duty of all officers with the exception of the Chaplain to chair a chapter committee.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the faculty advisor and the chapter officers. The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Section 2. The publicity committee shall inform the community and school population of all service projects, activities, and induction ceremonies, while also following procedures set by school administration. The members of the publicity committee will work to inform members of meetings and activities and to contribute to the chapter scrapbook. The historian will head this committee.

Section 3. The induction committee shall determine, organize, and carry out the procedure of inauguration of new active members.

Section 4. The group service committee shall determine two service projects each year for the entire membership. The project shall fulfill a need within the school or community; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 5. The individual service committee shall help to keep a record of individual service hours and will publicize service opportunities at each chapter meeting and to the school community.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be held in a designated location by the chapter and chapter adviser. There will be eight regular chapter meetings each year. A meeting may be called by the president or chapter adviser in accordance with the rules of the school governing meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine two group service projects per semester.

Section 2. 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 3. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Section 4. Each member is required to participate in at least two different chapter-sponsored service projects during the academic year. Failure to meet this requirement may result in dismissal from the chapter.

Juniors who have not completed the minimum of two service projects by April 30 of their junior year will be placed on probation during the fall semester of their senior year. While on probation, they will be ineligible to run for or hold an officer position and may not be formally recognized as active NHS members, including in letters of recommendation for college or scholarship applications.

Seniors who have not completed at least two different service projects by April 30 of their senior year will not be eligible to graduate with NHS distinction or receive the NHS cord.

Section 5. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in individual service hours which reflect(s) his or her particular talents, interests and calling. The student will complete a minimum of **50 individual service hours each year**, measured from May 1 to April 30. This equates to **25 hours per semester**. These hours **may include participation in chapter-sponsored service projects** conducted throughout the year. **Please note that the 10 service hours per semester required by all Cypress Christian students per the handbook CAN be counted towards the required NHS 50 hours.**

These projects should fulfill the requirements as described in Section 2. Service hours must not be for payment and they must not be for family. Juniors that have not completed the required 50 individual service hours by April 30, of their junior year will be placed on probation during the fall semester of their senior year. While on probation, they will be ineligible to run for or hold an officer position and may not be formally recognized as active NHS members, including in letters of recommendation for college or scholarship applications. In addition, the student must fully complete the missing service hours by the last day of the fall semester of their senior year. Failure to do so will result in dismissal. Seniors that have not completed the required 50 service hours by April 30 of their senior year, will not be allowed to graduate with NHS distinction or receive the NHS cord.

ARTICLE IX

EMBLEM

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3. Students earn the privilege to add a NHS patch to their letter jackets after one full year of membership in NHS.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.