

National Honor Society - Eligibility and Selection

Somerville High School is home to the Anthony V. Fedele Chapter of the National Honor Society. This organization is part of a larger national organization that has been the true mark of student achievement for over 100 years.

The core pillars of the National Honor Society (NHS) are *scholarship, service, leadership*, and *character*. Students interested in membership should be students who uphold and demonstrate these values in their community.

Listed below are the requirements to be eligible for National Honor Society.

1. The **scholarship** requirement for individuals hoping to join NHS is **a minimum of a 3.7 GPA**. Once accepted, students are expected to maintain academic excellence.
2. The **service** requirement for prospective applicants is **60 hours of community service**. This can be service that is completed anytime from 9th grade on. The two primary rules for service are as follows:
 - a. *Students **cannot** count hours that are required as a grade bearing course (this includes pass/fail classes).*
 - i. *Example: student in ensemble groups **cannot** count concert attendance that is required or part of their class.*
 - ii. *Example: students in choir cannot count mandatory events like graduation performances.*
 - b. *Students **cannot** count time for which they have been financially compensated.*
 - i. *Example: candidate receives hourly rate or stipend pay as a camp counselor.*
 - c. The following are examples of service that members have completed in the past:
 - i. *Team manager/assistant for athletic teams*
 - ii. *Church or religious organizations support/help*
 - iii. *Unpaid tutoring*
 - iv. *Local or political campaign work*
 - v. *Event (like road races, family/community events) set-up*
 - d. For questions about what can count as service hours, please email the NHS advisor(s).
 - e. Students interested in documenting their service may use [this document](#) which can then be copied into the application when the time comes.

3. **Leadership and character** are assessed through the candidate's involvement in extracurricular activities, awards and recognition, leadership roles, and interactions with SHS community members. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate this in their applications and from recommendations from adults who can attest to their strengths.
 - a. The selection committee will solicit feedback from SHS community members (counselors, teachers, coaches, etc.) to gauge student merit. **Candidates should be mindful of their interactions with staff and faculty to ensure they are exemplifying these pillars** and upholding SHS community norms (see Highland Habits and Responsibility Rubrics for examples of expectations)
 - b. Please note that the selection committee will also take attendance (absences and tardies) as well as any conduct referrals into account when making decisions about membership.
 - i. Students with more than **5 unexcused absences and 10 unexcused** tardies will not be eligible for the honor of membership.

The application process:

1. Candidates are sent invitations to apply in the second semester of their **junior** year. A second round of applications also happens after the first quarter of **senior** year.
2. Invitations are sent based on their cumulative GPA standing at the end of the first semester (any junior with a 3.7 GPA or higher is sent an invitation). Students are expected to diligently check their school-provided emails and Google Classroom to keep an eye out for the invitations.
3. Once invitations are sent, students must read and complete the applicant agreement prior to beginning an application. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to review this document.
4. Candidates must then complete an application that includes a listing of their service hours, awards/recognitions, extracurricular activities, and any work experience. The application also includes a section where students can explain or document any extenuating factors that may have affected any of the elements listed. Finally, students must compose a brief response that details how the candidate upholds and exemplifies the values of the organization.
5. Please note that given the extensive process involved in collecting and reviewing the information in the application process no late applications will be accepted.
6. Once applications are submitted, a selection committee composed of selected SHS teachers will review the applications and staff feedback to determine membership.
7. Candidates will be notified of their membership and will need to complete the membership obligations form. If an individual is not accepted, they will also be notified of nonacceptance and are **encouraged to arrange a meeting with the advisor** if they wish to reapply in the next application cycle.