

### Beebe High School

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BY-LAWS

#### ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

**Section 1.** The name of this chapter shall be the Beebe High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Beebe High School.

**Section 2.** 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 Beebe High School.

#### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs.

**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.** Eligibility:

1. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Freshman candidates may also eligible for local membership.
2. Candidates who are new students at BHS must submit a letter of transfer from the previous chapter sponsor to be considered for membership. If the new student is also new to NHS membership and their previous semester GPA is a 3.25, the new student may then apply for membership.
3. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 (out of 4.0; unweighted grade point average; ‘85’ or ‘B’ are the alternative minimum standards for school using either 100-point scales or letter grades only). 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.
4. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

#### ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

**Section 1.** The 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. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council’s deliberations.

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

a. Students’ academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. Members of the student body that have a 3.25 will be invited to apply for membership.

b. Candidates will complete and submit the Candidate Application by the designated due date.

c. The faculty council will evaluate candidate applications, including the personal statement and recommendation, using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.

d. Chapter candidates will be notified by letter of membership status.

**Section 3.** The selection of new, active members (sophomores, juniors, and seniors) shall be held once a year early in the first semester of the school year.

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

**Section 5.** An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from Beebe High School will be given a letter to transfer indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the adviser.

**Section 6.** An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to Beebe High School will be accepted for membership in this chapter with a letter of transfer from their previous adviser.

# **ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL**

**Section 1.**  Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Beebe High School chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

**Section 2.** If a member’s cumulative grade point average falls below 3.25, he/she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below 3.25 at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that may include dismissal from the chapter.

**Section 3.** Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. Violations of school regulations that result in disciplinary action from the school can also result in dismissal. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

**Section 4**. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) may 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, another warning will be written and the member may be recommended for dismissal.

**Section 5.** In all cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).

b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in **Article X** of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in writing. [Note: This is the member’s choice. Chapters may not deny the right to appear in person.] 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 reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. 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 through the school district discipline policy.

e. 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.

**Section 6.** In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate. (This may include resignation from office, required absences from chapter events, reapplication, etc.)

#### ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Local offices will also include community service committee chairman, and Badger pantry committee chairman.

**Section 2.** Student officers shall be elected early in fall semester. All active members, new and returning, in good standing are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote. Nominations will be taken from chapter members, short speeches will be given if time allows, and voting will be done through google forms (unless there are technical issues).

**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. *[Note: Chapters can use plurality in determining the outcome of elections as an alternative to this requirement for a majority vote.]*

[Note: The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.]

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the **president** to preside at the meetings for this chapter-and therefore working with chapter members and officers to prepare the meeting agenda. The president should work closely to determine a chapter agenda and have it typed by the secretary. The president is also responsible for welcoming and providing bylaws to new transfer members.

**Section 5.** The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president, or alongside the president if needed. The president/vice-president shall organize assignments of additional duties for chapter events.

**Section 6.** The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, be responsible for all official chapter correspondence, prepare agendas for upcoming meetings determined by the president, and be responsible for attendance records.

**Section 7.** The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter. The treasurer will also participate in any events that raise funds.

**Section 8.**  The reporter will coordinate with the president, vice-president, and secretary to keep the NHS website up to date with events, agendas, minutes, and other important information about upcoming events. The reporter should also write articles, or delegate the responsibility or article writing, for community and school news outlets.

**Section 9*.***The Badger Pantry Committee Chair will coordinate community service with the Pantry coordinator and Mrs. Woods. This committee chair will be responsible for scheduling and recording time spent by chapter members in the pantry. This will be once a month and as needed.

**Section 10.** The Individual Service Committee Chair will provide opportunities for individual service projects for fulfillment of the community service requirement. He/she will also record and report hours spent in service by chapter members in individual service events.

#### ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall 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.

#### ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be twice monthly: once during regular activity times, and once during lunch/FLT or before school (scheduled by the chapter). Chapter members are expected to attend regularly scheduled chapter meetings, at least one time every three times the chapter meets. Once a chapter member misses three consecutive chapter meetings, a verbal warning will be issued. If the chapter member still does not attend meetings, the chapter may be dismissed and may be required to reapply for membership the following fall to maintain membership. If the chapter member is a senior, he/she may not be allowed to wear the NHS stole at graduation if attendance issues are not rectified.

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

#### ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall work with the Badger Pantry as its ***chapter service project***. Chapter members will assist during pantry distribution days, the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 1st-6th periods. Due to scheduling, chapter members are not required to work in the pantry during distribution, but it is highly encouraged. If scheduling during distribution days is not an option for a chapter member, working with additional food drives and food collections through other organizations is also highly encouraged. Hours worked in the Badger Pantry will be counted as chapter service hours because they fulfill the following characteristics for chapter service: 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 2. Other chapter activities that also fulfill the characteristics of chapter service may include but are not limited to: assist in hosting school events like regional quiz bowl tournaments, assisting in family nights at the elementary schools, organizing food drives at school events, etc. Activities will be based on chapter interest.

Section 3. Each member shall have the responsibility of serving ***individual community service*** hours to reflect his or her particular talents and interests in support of their community. ***Each chapter member will be required to serve 15 community service hours per year—these can also be served during the summer prior. Community service earned through other organizations, like sports teams, youth groups, or other school/community organizations can count for up to 5 of the required individual service hours.*** This is all in an effort to foster a love and desire to contribute and serve in one’s community—even after high school. The chapter community service chair will provide opportunities, as they become known for students to contribute to the community outside of chapter events. Hours will be documented on the NHS Community Service form, located on the NHS website, and signed by a supervising adult.

Section 4. Individual community service hours for seniors graduating, will be due to the chapter community service chairman, prior to spring break. If the hours are not turned in, graduating seniors will not earn the distinction of wearing the NHS stole during graduation ceremonies. 10th and 11th graders will turn in community service documentation to the chapter community service chairman on date to be determined in May. Failure to turn in community service documentation for 10th and 11th graders can result in revocation of membership.

Section 5. The chapter reporter shall publicize chapter projects in a positive manner through social networking, as well as school and community news outlets.

#### ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society. The NHS membership pin should be worn with dress attire during induction and on dress up days designated by the chapter.

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

Section 3. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the NHS stole at graduation.

1. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, sophomores will earn the distinction of wearing the NHS graduation stole when they graduate if they have been a NHS member for 3 consecutive years (10th, 11th and 12th grade years).
2. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, juniors will earn the distinction of wearing the NHS graduation stole when they graduate if they have been a NHS member for 2 consecutive years (11th and 12th grade years).
3. Starting in the 2018-2019 school year and following, students must be members of the BHS chapter of NHS for all 3 years of chapter eligibility to earn the distinction of the NHS stole at graduation. If transfer students were NHS members at their previous school, and were members for all 3 years, they too may earn the distinction of wearing the stole at graduation.

**ARTICLE X: DUES (optional)**

Section 1. Annual dues for new members shall be $15.00. Dues for returning active members in good standing shall be $10.00.

Section 2. Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer before induction into the chapter.

Section 3. Graduating seniors will pay a $10.00 to offset the cost of NHS stoles worn at graduation. This fee will be due before spring break when community service hours are also due.

#### ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3: These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the National Constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

#### ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles II, III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

**Date**: 9/19/16

**Signatures**: Chapter President, Secretary, Adviser, Principal

Statement of non-discrimination: The 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, sexual orientation, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.