National Honor Society Selection Guidelines

The Wheaton North National Honor Society strives to recognize students who excel in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Although the National Honor Society does not induct students until their junior year, the selection process begins when students enter high school. In order to be considered for NHS membership, students must comply with several required selection guidelines during their high school years. The guidelines outlined below are also available at the WN website. Under “Activities”, select “Honors & Awards” to find the National Honor Society page. These qualities are measured by the Wheaton North High School Faculty Council in the following ways.

Scholarship: Any junior or senior NHS candidate must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 4.7 or above at the end of first semester. Additionally, students must have completed one semester at Wheaton North High School and be full time students to be eligible. Juniors and seniors who have met this GPA requirement will be invited to pick up and complete a Student Activity Information Form at the beginning of second semester in order to be considered for membership.

Leadership: Candidates are asked to explain 4 instances when he or she has taken on a leadership role. Evidence of leadership may be demonstrated through an elected or appointed position held in school, community, or work activities. Only those positions in which you were responsible for directing or motivating others should be included. Examples of such leadership positions include but are not limited to: elected officer for the student body, class, or club; committee chairperson, team captain; newspaper or yearbook editor; section leaders in band or chorus; work area manager; or other community leader. If you choose a classroom experience as evidence of leadership, make sure to list evidence indicating how you went above and beyond what is expected of students in the class.

According to www.nhs.us, the official site of the National Honor Society, “Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.”

The following list of leadership qualities will be used as criteria for showing adequate evidence of leadership. In order for a leadership role to be considered sufficient it should include multiple items from the list.

The student who exercises leadership:
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility
- Conducts business effectively and efficiently
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is able to motivate others
- Is able to effectively communicate what needs to be done and give clear directions on how to do it
- Listens to the concerns and questions of those that are being led
- Sets short and long terms goals
- Can accurately assess progress made and make necessary adjustments
- Models desired behavior

Service: Students being considered for NHS are expected to have participated in service activities throughout each of their high school years. Generally speaking, service activities are those done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation (monetary or other) has been given. Junior candidates need a minimum of 30 documented hours to be considered for membership. Senior candidates need a minimum of 50 documented hours to be considered for membership. These hours can accumulate throughout high school. However, any service hours reported on a candidate’s Student Activity Information Form should not be ones that are required for another extracurricular activity (i.e. homecoming dance setup which is a requirement for student council membership).
Character: Character is demonstrated in the classroom and in students’ participation in extra-curricular activities. Character is reported by the classroom teachers, extra-curricular sponsors and coaches, and by the students themselves through the selection process.

The Faculty Council reserves the right to consider extenuating circumstances which may have prevented any candidate from meeting the minimum requirements in any category.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Finally, in addition to the classroom, Wheaton North believes that much of students’ character and leadership is demonstrated through their involvement in extra-curricular activities. Therefore, it is the committee’s recommendation that:

- **junior students** being reviewed for selection will provide evidence that they were a major contributor to at least 4 school sponsored extracurricular activities over the span of their high school years. (for example: football 9, 10, student council 10, yearbook 10 OR soccer 9, 10, 11, newspaper 10)

- **senior students** being reviewed for selection will provide evidence that they were a major contributor to at least 5 school sponsored extracurricular activities over the span of their high school years.

Being a major contributor means that the student attends regular meetings and/or practices as well as fulfills the activity requirements defined by the coach or sponsor.

Below is the list of school sponsored extracurricular activities. Classes at Wheaton North (i.e. choir, orchestra, etc.) and other honor organizations (i.e. Mu Alpha Theta, Foreign Language Honor Societies, etc.) are not considered extracurricular activities.

**CLUBS:** A.C.T. (Activists Choosing Tolerance), Amnesty International, Anglers Club, Art Club, Athletic Leadership Council, Chess Team and Club, Club Environmental Rescue, Falcon Ambassadors (note: Ambassadors can also be used for the service category only if service listed is above the yearly requirement for this club), FSN Falcon Sports Network, Falcon Weekly, GSA/Mosaic, Habitat for Humanity, High Schools Against Cancer (HSAC), Hockey, Key Club (note: Key club can be used for the service category or as an extra-curricular but not both), LaCrosse (Boys), LaCrosse (Girls), League of Voters, Literary Magazine - Déjà vu, Math Team, Military History Club, Newspaper (Falcon Flyer), P.A.W.S., Pep Club, Pretty People, Scholastic Bowl, Science Club, Student Council (note: Student Council point totals will be evaluated as evidence of adequate involvement), The Flock (note: Flock can be used for the service category or as an extra-curricular but not both), True North Stars (SODA), Yearbook

**MUSIC:** Colorguard, Jazz Bands 1 & 2, Marching Band, Pep Band, Pit Orchestra, Show Choir including band

**PERFORMING ARTS:** Fall play, Spring Musical, Speech Team, Technology Club (Stage Crew), One Act Plays

**DANCE:** Falconettes Dance Team, Steppers Club

**GIRLS ATHLETICS:** Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Volleyball

**BOYS ATHLETICS:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Volleyball, Wrestling

**Other Community Activities, Work Experience, Recognition, and Awards:** Participation in other non-school sponsored activities, job experiences, recognition and awards that students receive, should also be reported by students on their student activity information form, and will be used to gain additional information about the candidates.

All candidates that complete a Student Activity Information Form will be considered for membership. Clear and detailed information provided by the students for each of these selection criteria will help provide the selection committee with a total picture of the student being considered.

Once students are selected for NHS they are expected to continue their commitment to service by completing 20 hours of service during their senior year (10 first semester and 10 second semester). Students are also expected to uphold the standards of scholarship, leadership, and character for which they were selected. This includes following all school policies and regulations and remaining a law abiding citizen. Failure to do so could result in the student’s dismissal from National Honor Society. By following these procedures, Wheaton North hopes to recognize and continue the proud tradition of excellence demonstrated by our National Honor Society members.