

# **Local Selection Process for the Boiling Springs Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS)**

## **Enrollment:**

According to the constitution, only those students who have attended Boiling Springs High School (BSHS) for the equivalent of at least one semester may be considered for membership. This period is necessary for students to establish themselves academically and involve themselves in various service and leadership activities and for the faculty to get to know them and the quality of their character.

## **Grade Level:**

Membership will be open to qualified sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

## **Selection Process:**

An email will be sent to the [bubblers.us](mailto:bubblers.us) email account of all scholastically eligible candidates near the beginning of each semester, informing them that they may complete an online Student Activity Information Form. It will be the responsibility of the student to accurately complete and to meet all deadlines concerning this form. This form, as well as the results of a faculty evaluation form, will be used by the BSHS Faculty Council to determine if qualifications for membership (as described below) have been met.

## **The Four Pillars of Membership:**

The four criteria under consideration for NHS membership are scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Although the scholarship criterion is important and is be considered first, membership is never considered on the basis of grades alone. According to the NHS Handbook, schools that select members solely on the basis of scholarship are violating the Constitution and placing their charters in jeopardy. At BSHS, the four pillars are all weighted equally when selecting members of NHS; a student must be outstanding in all four to be selected as a member.

## **Pillar #1 – Scholarship:**

The minimum scholarship requirement for NHS consideration at BSHS is a weighted cumulative high school average of 93.00%. Once it has been determined that a student has met the scholarship criterion, that issue can be put aside and the Faculty Council's attention is directed to the remaining three criteria.

## **Pillar #2 – Leadership:**

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. The Faculty Council interprets leadership in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations; however, it also recognizes that leadership also exists outside elected positions including leadership roles within the classroom and effective participation in positions of responsibility in other activities offered on campus such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and chorus, committee chairs in student groups, etc. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. Quantity of leadership will be identified by the candidate using his or her candidate form; the quality or effectiveness of those leadership experiences will be assessed using faculty evaluations submitted with professional comments by the staff of the school. To meet the leadership criterion for NHS, a student must identify on his/her Candidate Form any *leadership roles at school or in the community* achieved since the ninth grade and indicate the roles and the name of the adult who supervised each of these activities. Selection will be based on the number (at least two since ninth grade) of listed leadership roles in combination with faculty evaluations of leadership in the classroom. If leadership roles are not indicated on the Candidate Form and verifiable listings are not included, non-selection may occur.

The guidelines for leadership include the following:

- The student is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- The student demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities.
- The student exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit.
- The student contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- The student is able to delegate responsibilities.
- The student inspires positive behavior in others.
- The student demonstrates academic initiative.
- The student successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability.
- The student is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities.
- The student is dependable in any responsibility accepted.

### **Pillar #3 – Service:**

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. In considering service, the contributions each candidate has made to school and community can be reviewed. To be selected as a member of NHS, a candidate must demonstrate on his or her Candidate Form, the completion of a *minimum average of five (5) service hours per semester completed* since the start of ninth grade. For example, a 1<sup>st</sup> semester sophomore would need to show evidence of at least 10 cumulative service hours, whereas a 2<sup>nd</sup> semester junior would need to show evidence of at least 25 cumulative service hours. All service references by candidates should include verification by an adult supervisor of the activity under consideration. If the minimum number of hours and if the verifiable listings are not included, non-selection may occur.

The guidelines for service include the following:

- The student is dependable and is willing to make sacrifices to offer assistance.
- The student works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or unheralded responsibilities.
- The student enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- The student is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition.
- The student does committee and staff work without complaint.
- The student participates in an activity outside of school, for example, Scouts, religious groups, or volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.
- The student mentors in the community or students at other schools.
- The student shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

#### **Pillar #4 – Character:**

Character is by all accounts a difficult criterion to define. The Faculty Council considers the positive as well as the negative aspects of each candidate's character. NHS is a member of the Character Counts!™ Coalition and supports the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character. A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. To be selected, 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.

The Faculty Council reserves the right to use certain documents, for purposes of their decision making, in noting any substandard performance in the area of the character criterion. These documents include the following:

- Administrative records of the school
- Counseling records from the guidance office
- Conduct/behavior grades or ratings (including comments) on report cards or progress reports
- Professional records of individual faculty members (gradebooks, etc.)
- Comments, based on professional evaluation (i.e., judgment) and action, of individual faculty members as they appear on candidate evaluation forms

The guidelines for character include the following:

- The student consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability).
- The student cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct.
- The student takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- The student demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability.
- The student regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- The student complies with instructions and rules and displays personal responsibility.