



## National Honor Society Lakota East High School Chapter Selection Criteria



In accordance with the NHS national constitution, students eligible for membership in Lakota East High School's chapter of NHS will have already met the four tenets: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

### **Scholarship Defined**

Candidates must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 (weighted) or higher by the spring of their junior year.

### **Leadership Defined**

The Lakota East chapter of NHS defines leadership as any activity in which the student has had an organizational role. Leadership may be demonstrated in the context of service (e.g. organizing a canned food drive), school or community activity (e.g. club officer), or paid position (e.g. crew trainer at McDonalds).

The national constitution of NHS suggests that local chapters consider implementing a fixed number of leadership roles as a cut-off for selection. As a consequence, the Lakota East NHS faculty council has determined that candidates who have held two different leadership roles (going back no earlier than grade eight) will be eligible for membership. It will remain the responsibility of the faculty council to determine the extent to which the information provided by the students meets the criteria for leadership outlined in the bylaws of Lakota East NHS.

### **Service Defined**

The Lakota East chapter of NHS defines service as an altruistic act done outside of the school day or during a lunch period or during XH. The service may neither benefit the student directly (i.e. for monetary gain) nor indirectly (e.g. for an institution or organization of which the student is a part, such as teaching Sunday school for the student's church). Service may be done through the auspices of an institution or organization, however (e.g. helping at a soup kitchen run by a church). The National Honor Society is both secular and apolitical. Consequently, the Faculty Council does not recognize as service work done to further a political agenda or to propagate religious belief.

The national constitution of NHS suggests that local chapters define a fixed number of hours as a cut-off for selection. As a consequence, the Lakota East NHS faculty council has determined that candidates who have completed thirty hours of community and/or school service in at least three different activities since grade eight will be eligible for membership. It will remain the responsibility of the faculty council to determine the extent to which the information provided by the students meets the criteria for service outlined in the bylaws of Lakota East NHS.

### **Character Defined**

All candidates are assumed to be of good character unless there is evidence to the contrary. A list of candidates is emailed to the Lakota East faculty at the time of selection, allowing staff to register concerns should they have any. Such concerns are brought to the faculty council for consideration, and it is the faculty council (NOT the advisors) that renders a final decision as to the severity of the concern and to its effect, if any, on the candidate's suitability for NHS.

The student of character

- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct
- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability
- Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Complies with instructions and rules and displays personal responsibility.

### **Voting Procedures for the Faculty Council**

Concern regarding the identity of members of the faculty council usually arises when parents of non-selected students wish to ask each of the council members why the student was not selected. Because the chapter adviser(s) and principal are chiefly responsible for responding to parental (or other) concerns, the national office does not encourage such inquisitions and supports local chapter efforts to maintain the confidentiality of the faculty council.

The number of faculty members serving as voting members of the faculty council is set at five. Nowhere in the constitution is there an exception made for the size of the faculty council. Maintaining an odd-numbered council ensures that voting will resolve questions with a majority or greater vote.

Once the council has discussed and deliberated over a candidate's information packet, the student's admission as an inductee is registered by simple majority vote.