

DEERFIELD HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is a National Organization that honors students that have not only shown academic achievement but have demonstrated strong character through leadership and service to others. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member of the National Honor Society and is something you should begin working towards early in your high school career.

Selection for National Honor Society is based on the following criteria:

1. You must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater to be eligible for selection.
2. All Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors who have a GPA of 3.5 or better will be invited to apply in the spring of each school year.
3. Once invited to apply, a student must neatly type and return a student information form. Forms must be returned to an advisor by the deadline to be considered for selection.
4. Students who wish to apply will be required to write an essay explaining how they have demonstrated service, leadership and character to their community. Students will have 30 minutes in which to write their essays, and the essay must be written in one of the scheduled time periods that will be published in advance.
5. Students who wish to apply will need to submit one letter of reference from someone ***outside of the school*** in which that person can cite examples of the student's ability to demonstrate service, leadership and character.
6. Each student who is eligible for selection will be rated by all staff members on a 4 point scale in the areas of service, leadership and character. Teachers will rate students based on their personal knowledge of these characteristics in the classroom, during school activities, passing times, etc.
7. Once all application materials have been received, the faculty council, principal, and the NHS advisors will meet and will determine if the student meets the purpose and goals of the National Honor Society.
8. This selection committee will then vote on each applicant after reviewing all of the materials submitted, as well as teacher ratings. A majority vote is required to elect a member to the National Honor Society.
9. Students who do not meet the high standards of NHS membership may be eligible to re-apply again the following year if they still meet the GPA requirement.
10. Those students who have been invited to join the National Honor Society will be inducted in a ceremony in May of each school year.
11. Once inducted into the National Honor Society, students must continue to uphold the standards of National Honor Society including, but not limited to, demonstrating service, character, leadership and a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA
12. If a student, at any time, is deemed by the selection committee to not be upholding the academic and moral standards of the National Honor Society, the committee may vote to revoke that student's membership.
13. Members in good standing at commencement time will be presented with a gold honor cord to be worn at graduation.

Membership in the National Honor Society is based on the following characteristics:

Leadership:

The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities.
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- Is able to delegate responsibilities.
- Exemplifies positive attitudes.
- Inspires positive behavior in others.
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities.
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

Service:

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.
- Participates in some outside activity; Girl/Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor or disadvantaged.
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- Represents the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition.
- Serves committee and staff work uncomplainingly.
- Courteously assists visitors, teachers and students.
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools.

Character:

The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- Constantly exemplifies desirable qualities of personality.
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations, concurring property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality and faithfulness both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
- Actively helps to rid the school of bad influences or environment.