

Instructions for Applying to the National Honor Society

1. **Submit application:** Your Google form application must be submitted by 2:45 PM on **Thursday 9/19**. Plan to set aside enough time to fill it out and don't wait until the last minute. If you are experiencing technical difficulties email stepeke@lakewoodps.org.
 - You will find the NHS Application Form link on the Lakewood High School website under “Students” – “National Honor Society”—“Forms” (on the left). It will also be posted on the high school Facebook page. Treat this application as you would any other. Since some of the members of the Faculty Council may not know you personally and you want to impress them in a positive manner, it should present you at your best. The Faculty Council, which is responsible for selecting NHS members, looks for evidence of care and pride in the presentation of your Activity Form. Therefore, accuracy, thoughtful complete responses and careful proofreading are all essential. Where a narrative response is called for, compose and edit it carefully before you enter it on the Activity Form.
 - Four important criteria are considered for membership in NHS: character, scholarship, leadership and service. The Faculty Council is *required* to base your selection on evidence of these qualities, which are exemplified through your school, community and work activities.
 - Bear in mind that all information on your Activity Form must be *specific and verifiable* in case we need to verify your information. In the Community Activities area, *you are asked to provide the contact information of your adviser/sponsor if possible*. If there is an extenuating circumstance that makes it impossible for you to do so, be sure to explain that on the form.
2. **Obtain recommendations from five high school staff members.** The characteristics of character, leadership, scholarship and service are also evaluated on the NHS Faculty Evaluation Form, which you will ask five of your teachers to fill out (staff is provided with that form). Fill out a recommendation request slip and give it to your chosen high school staff members. You will be provided with request slips during the application information Aspire meeting or you can see Mrs. Stepek in room 32. *Staff recommendations are due by September 18th*. **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE YOUR REQUESTS.** You may also want to follow up with your teachers to remind them. 😊
3. You *may* be asked to participate in an interview with the Faculty Council on **October 1st**. If so, you should be prompt as well as open and thorough in answering any questions they may have. Interviews are held as a way to gather more complete information about you as a potential member of NHS in order to better ascertain your candidacy. The goal of the Faculty Council is to be sure that all deserving individuals are invited to join the organization. Keep this date in mind and be prepared for a potential interview after school. If the Faculty Council requests an interview with you, you will be notified in advance so that you can make arrangements to be present. You must be present on the scheduled date in order to be considered for membership.
4. **Save the date!** The NHS induction ceremony for all members and their families will be **October 30th**

--See next page for more NHS details



Why should you consider joining the National Honor Society?

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

Also, Scholarships!

Since 1946, the National Honor Society has awarded more than \$20 million in NHS scholarships to outstanding NHS members. The program currently provides \$250,000 annually in scholarship awards.

Although colleges have come to expect high-achieving students to be members of organizations like the National Honor Society, as you consider joining NHS, please understand that membership is not just for looks. Traditionally, NHS has been a service organization as well as an honorary. We are frequently contacted by members of the school and the community with requests for help because they know that, as an organization, we are committed to the idea of service, and also that NHS members are exceptional young people who can be counted on to be responsible and trustworthy. As you can see, you have a reputation to live up to! NHS offers students the opportunity for experiences they wouldn't have otherwise had, and a chance to grow in character and contribute to your society.

In addition, please be aware of the following:

1. NHS meetings are held monthly, generally during Aspire hour and you are expected to attend. If you are unable to do so because of a conflict you should let Mrs. Stepek or an NHS officer know beforehand.
3. **SERVICE:** Since one of our primary functions is to serve the school and the community, you will be expected to participate in such activities as tutoring, Adopt-a-Highway pick up, School conferences, and other service opportunities which the NHS chooses to support whenever you can. Most requests for assistance that we receive represent opportunities which are enjoyable as well as worthwhile: for example, helping at math nights and school carnivals, wrapping Christmas baskets, serving at a senior citizen luncheon, or watching kids during elementary school parent events. In past years, all members have been expected to donate a minimum **of 15 hours a year** to school/community service. *Failure to attend meetings or to participate in service activities will put your membership in jeopardy.*
4. **SCHOLARSHIP:** Eligibility for membership in the National Honor Society begins with your Grade Point Average. *Maintaining a 3.5 GPA is required after your acceptance as well. If your GPA drops below a 3.5, you will be placed on academic probation for one semester.* If it continues to be low, you will lose the privilege of wearing the NHS sash at graduation and your membership could be terminated.
5. **CHARACTER:** **Students who have received a suspension or office-managed behavior (Mr. Williams or Mr. Quinn has given you a disciplinary penalty such as lunch or after school suspension) at any time during their HIGH SCHOOL years are not eligible for the National Honor Society.** If you receive such a discipline while a member, you will be either placed on behavioral probation or removed from membership, pending a hearing. NHS members are also subject to the Lakewood High School attendance policy and if absences exceed the allowed number, members will have their status suspended for the rest of the semester as applicable and will not be allowed to participate in events.