



# WELLMAN-UNION I.S.D.

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## National Honor Society Wellman-Union I.S.D. Chapter Updated April 2016 – Presides Over Past Bylaws

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### I. About the National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) at Wellman-Union I.S.D. is an organization that promotes appropriate recognition for its students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of: **scholarship, character, leadership, and service.** Students are eligible to apply for membership in the National Honor Society during their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year, provided they have a grade point average of at least a 90 or above.

In addition to academic excellence, selection for membership is based on exhibited leadership, honorable, and admirable character, as well as service demonstrating that the prospective member is willing to use talents and skills for the improvement of society. Selection for membership is by a faculty council and is based upon their evaluation of the candidates: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

*New members are inducted during an annual ceremony.*

### II. The Bylaws of the Wellman-Union I.S.D. Chapter of the National Honor Society

#### *Article I: Name*

The name of this organization shall be the Wellman-Union I.S.D. Chapter of the National Honor Society.

#### *Article II: Purpose*

The purpose of this organization is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Wellman-Union I.S.D.

#### *Article III: Membership*

The Faculty Council will determine the selection process for membership. Selection criteria will be outlined at a mandatory meeting for all applicants. To be eligible for membership consideration, candidates must be members of the Sophomore, Junior, or Senior class for NHS. Candidates must also have been in attendance at Wellman-Union I.S.D. for at least one semester. Students must have a grade point average of a 90 or above. Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

*The Faculty Council will evaluate applications from all candidates for membership.*

A student who is a member in good standing of the National Honor Society in a previous school is automatically a member of the Wellman-Union I.S.D. chapter upon enrollment at Wellman-Union I.S.D. if the student has documentation to support their NHS status. Transfer NHS students should present official documentation stating that they left their former school as an NHS member in good standing (ex: letter from former principal, letter from former NHS chapter adviser; NHS Certificate or NHS card).

#### *Article IV: Officers*

The officers for NHS shall include at least a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. Officers for the following year shall be nominated at a meeting of current Sophomore and Junior members of the National Society. A simple majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect an officer of the chapter. Only current sophomores and juniors who are members of NHS shall vote in the election of officers who will serve during the following year. The election will be conducted by secret ballot, with each eligible member casting one vote. The President shall preside over meetings of the

chapter and delegate responsibilities of other officers as appropriate. The Vice President shall fill the role of the president in his/her absence. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, any records of business, and record service hour's documentation for all members in an efficient and accurate manner. The Secretary will also serve as the chapter focal point for all service hour opportunities. The Treasurer shall keep accurate financial records of all the assets and liabilities of the chapter to include an account of all receipts and disbursements of the chapter.

#### *Article V. Meetings*

Meetings shall be scheduled as necessary. Members are required to attend all meetings. If an emergency arises and a member cannot attend a meeting, they are required to inform the chapter adviser and provide a written excuse. Missing more than one meeting constitutes grounds for probation. Extenuating circumstances need to be addressed to the chapter adviser. Members are responsible for all information and policies presented at a meeting whether or not they attend.

#### *Article VI. Service*

Each member shall be required to perform community service hours. Members must complete at least 10 hours of approved community service per semester. Service hours shall not carry over from year to year.

#### *Article VII. Faculty Council*

A Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, shall consist of five voting faculty members. All faculty shall be eligible for the council except administrators. The chapter adviser presides as a sixth nonvoting member of the council. The adviser works with the council in selecting, disciplining, or dismissing members.

### **III. Membership**

#### Criteria

To be eligible for membership, a student must be a member of the Sophomore, Junior, or Senior class for NHS. In addition, students must have been in attendance at Wellman-Union I.S.D. for at least one semester.

The four basic criteria for membership are: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

A member may be placed on probation or dismissed if he/she fails to meet any of the criteria specified below (see Section V, Discipline Policy, for information on probation and dismissal). It is the duty of all members of the National Honor Society to uphold the highest standards of conduct and behavior both in and out of school.

#### 1. Scholarship

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors with a minimum grade point average of a 90 or above shall be eligible and may apply for membership in the National Honor Society.

#### 2. Character

A student of character demonstrates the following qualities:

- Honesty and integrity.
- Respect for self and others.
- Responsibility.
- Fairness, compassion, and caring.
- Good citizenship.
- Does the right thing, even when not being observed

#### 3. Leadership

The number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations or role as a captain of a sports team is an important aspect of leadership. However, leadership also exists outside elected/appointed positions, including effective participation in other co-curricular activities. The student who exercises leadership:

- Identifies issues and proposes solutions to problems.
- Promotes school activities.
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- Maintains a positive attitude.
- Seeks position of responsibility.
- Is reliable and dependable.

#### 4. Service

Service is considered to be those actions that are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation (see Section IV, Service Requirements, for information on specific service hour requirements). Service may include contributions to school, to classmates, or to the community. A student who demonstrates service:

- Participates in some outside community activity; such as: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged.
- Works well with others (team player) and is willing to take on difficult tasks without regard for recognition.
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service for the school.

#### Eligibility for Graduation Stole

To earn a NHS graduation stole, you must be a member in good standing at the end of your eighth semester. A Senior member in good standing has:

- Completed all required service hours.
- Maintained a 90 or above GPA.
- Maintained a high standard of character.

#### Selection Procedures

Students who think that they meet the criteria for membership are encouraged to submit a Student Activity Form.

The Faculty Council of Wellman-Union I.S.D. will use this form and information gathered from the staff and faculty to select new members of the Wellman-Union I.S.D. Chapter of the NHS. Student Activity Forms should be submitted to the NHS Chapter adviser each school year. The selection of members to the chapter shall be by an 80% (YES) vote or a 4/5 (YES) vote in order to be recommended for induction of NHS. If an inductee gets one (NO) vote they can still be recommended and considered for induction into NHS. However, if an inductee gets two (NO) votes, then the inductee is not eligible for recommendation or consideration for induction into NHS for that school year and must reapply if they meet the standards the following school year. After the voting has been calculated by the NHS adviser, the Faculty Council will meet, review the results, and give a final vote on the new inductees to be inducted into NHS.

#### IV. Service Requirements

Service is considered to be those actions that are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. All members must complete at least 10 hours of approved community service per semester. Service hours shall not carry over from year to year.

##### 1. Some types of acceptable service are:

- Any activity approved in writing by the NHS chapter adviser
- Any volunteer work for any community agency, such as the Red Cross, a homeless shelter, homes for the aging, hospitals, civil defense or fire department, child care center, church activity if it deals with a community function (such as caroling at a nursing home),
- Tutoring at school
- NHS Induction Ceremony
- Recycling drives

Keep in mind that the purpose of service is to expand your experience with the community and its activities and to help those in need on a voluntary basis. Try to be creative; service does not have to be one of the above if it is pre-approved.

##### 2. Some types of unacceptable service are:

- Any activity for which you are paid with money or favors, even if the job is in the acceptable category.
- Any activity in which you are directly helping a family member, relative, or friend, such as babysitting.
- Any club or any class, unless the club/class is on a field trip doing one of the acceptable activities.
- Attending church is not a service unless the particular function involves a community activity or charity.
- Volunteer hours that are part of the requirements of any course.

If you are unsure about the suitability of an activity for use in service hours, please see the NHS chapter adviser.

3. Your service hours must be recorded and signed by the appropriate adult on the Service Hours form. The form must be returned to the NHS chapter adviser. Only adult sponsors may sign this form. If you do service hours with a club, club officers' signatures are not acceptable; only the signature of the club's adult sponsor is valid.

#### V. Discipline Policy - Probation and Dismissal

Any member who falls below the standards that were the basis of selection shall be promptly warned in writing and placed on probation by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules (e.g., misrepresentation, cheating) or civil laws a member does not necessarily have to be warned and may immediately be brought up for dismissal from the society. A student is allowed only one probationary

period in his/her membership period, and it is up to a majority vote from the faculty council to reconsider a student for membership in the National Honor Society after being dismissed.

In general, there are usually three causes for being placed on probation: falling below a 90 Grade Point Average (GPA), not completing required service hours, or failing to uphold the standard of character/leadership/citizenship/responsibility.

#### Falling Below a 90 GPA

A member whose grade point average at the end of the semester drops below requirements for eligibility (falls below a 90 cumulative grade point average (GPA) shall be placed on probation in writing by the chapter adviser. Members whose GPA falls for the spring semester will be notified in writing by the chapter adviser that they are on probation for the first semester of the following school year. A member on probation whose cumulative grade point average is still below a 90 GPA at the end of the following semester after receiving notification shall be dismissed from membership, and notified in writing of their dismissal.

#### Not Completing Required Service Hours

First Semester - Members who have not fulfilled their service hour requirements for the fall semester will be notified in writing during the second semester by the chapter adviser that they are on probation for the spring semester and will be given one month from the date of probationary notice to complete the required service hours.

Second Semester - Members who have not fulfilled their service hour requirements for the spring semester will be notified in writing by the chapter adviser that they are on probation for the first semester of the following school year. Members will be given one month from the date of probationary notice to complete the required service hours.

Failure to complete the service hours may result in dismissal and will be notified in writing of their dismissal.

#### Failing to Uphold the Standard of Character/Leadership/Citizenship/Responsibility

Any major behavioral incidents arising involving honor society members will be taken to the faculty council to decide upon on.

#### Senior Members - Probation/Dismissal

Senior members may not list NHS as an activity on their college resume while they are on probation.

Senior members may be dismissed from membership at the end of their eighth semester if they have not maintained at least a 90 grade point average (GPA), have not completed 20 service hours during their senior year, or have not maintained a high standard of character. These seniors will not be given NHS graduation stoles.