The National Honor Society (NHS) was founded in 1921 to promote and recognize scholarship and to develop the ideals of character, service, and leadership. Membership is both an honor and a commitment. The regulations and procedures outlined in this contract are meant to guide students in the development of desirable personal qualities and to ensure that members fulfill their obligations so that the society will maintain its reputation for excellence.

**Scholarship**

*Scholarship is a commitment to learning and members of the Society are expected to continue their quest for knowledge.*

1. A minimal cumulative **grade point average of 3.75** is required for membership and must be maintained.
2. Should a members’ GPA drop below 3.75 a letter of **warning** will be issued indicating that the student has a semester in which to restore the cumulative 3.75 GPA. Should the member fail to improve, a letter of impending dismissal will be sent. At this time the student has the right to request a hearing and apply for probation (see Probation). If a hearing is not requested, dismissal will be automatic (see Dismissal).

**Leadership**

*A leader exerts a wholesome influence in the school and takes initiative in activities. Leadership is often achieved by example and all members of NHS are expected to exert a positive influence at all times.*

1. There will be meetings held monthly, one in the afternoon and one the following morning. Members are expected to attend **ALL meetings promptly** and are responsible for obtaining all information if a meeting is missed. Consecutive afternoon and morning meetings will contain the same information, attending one but not the other will not count against a member. **After one absence the student will be spoken to by an advisor and given a warning and placed on probation. If the student has two absences they will be dismissed from the National Honor Society.** Failure to attend all meetings on time, failure to follow the absence policy, or an unexcused absence will result in probation (see Probation).
2. **Participation in the induction ceremony** is mandatory for all members unless prior approval has been received from the sponsor. Acceptable excuses include conflicting school or community activities (competition or performances only), family emergencies, or illness.
3. Members are expected to **demonstrate a leadership role** by the end of the third (3rd) quarter of his/her senior year. This role can take the form of a variety of committee chair positions, NHS officer position, or other leadership positions **either within or outside of the National Honor Society club**. This role must be documented on the appropriate form and returned to the member’s folder by April 29th for seniors or May 13th for juniors.
4. **Membership dues ($30.00) are due September 18th**, cash or check payable to Highlands Ranch High School. **Turn in money and contract to Mrs. Franks** (room 1220). She will only take the contract and the money **together**. Failure to meet this obligation will result in probation (see Probation).

**Service**

*Service is the willingness to work for others and an important component in NHS membership. Members are expected to participate in a minimum of twenty (20) service hours per year, comprised of fifteen (15) hours* ***WITHIN*** *the National Honor Society organization in addition to five (5) outside hours.*

1. All members must participate in **at least** one major project. For example: Trick or Treat for Cans, Gathering Place, or Bonfils Blood Drive.
2. Service hours will be recorded by the NHS Secretary. For each event participated, a member must turn in a **physical copy** of the community service form to his/her folder. Once recorded, these forms will be periodically submitted to the counseling office by an NHS officer/advisor.
3. Failure to keep accurate records or achieve the total required hours will result in a senior not being awarded their cords or a junior being placed on probation starting senior year with the condition that they must make up the deficient hours before accumulating hours for their senior year (see Probation).

**Character**

*Character is the force that guides a student through life. The Society values the character traits of reliability, sincerity, self-control, honesty, and integrity and expects members to demonstrate these qualities at all times.*

1. **Cheating** is in flagrant violation of NHS standards and will result in **immediate dismissal** from the Society. Plagiarism, falsifying information, and giving or taking information on tests and assignments are all considered forms of cheating.
2. Violation of school rules or community laws are also unacceptable character traits for all NHS members and may result in dismissal.
3. Failure to comply with these character traits will result in probation and/or dismissal.

**Probation and Dismissal**

1. Probation
   1. The student will be spoken to by an advisor.
   2. The student has the right to a hearing.
   3. Upon approval, the member may design a plan of action to remedy the contract violation.
   4. A time limit of one (1) semester will be given to achieve compliance.
   5. If compliance is not achieved in one (1) semester, dismissal is automatic.
   6. Seniors on probation at the end of the second (2nd) semester will not participate in the NHS portion of Honors Convocation and will not receive the NHS cord for graduation.
2. Dismissal
   1. The student will be spoken to by an advisor.
   2. The student will be required to return his/her membership card and certificate.
   3. The student will be removed from local and national roles.
   4. Once dismissed, a student can never belong to National Honor Society in any school again.

We have read and understand the obligations and requirements for maintaining membership in the Highlands Ranch High School National Honor Society.

