

CONSTITUTION  
of the  
THREE HARBOR CHAPTER  
of the  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY  
of  
Cold Spring Harbor High School  
Cold Spring Harbor, New York

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

*Section 1.* The name of this chapter shall be the Three Harbor Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society (NHS), under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit association.

*Section 2.* The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of Cold Spring Harbor High School.

ARTICLE II

The Principal

*Section 1.* The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

*Section 2.* The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms.

*Section 3.* The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of a minimum of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

*Section 4.* The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

## ARTICLE III

### The Chapter Adviser

*Section 1.* The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

*Section 2.* The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser shall send the annual report to the national office.

*Section 3.* The chapter adviser shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

*Section 4.* The chapter adviser shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

*Section 5.* The chapter adviser shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Council.

*Section 6.* The chapter adviser shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

## ARTICLE IV

### Faculty Council

*Section 1.* The Faculty Council shall consist of a minimum of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council.

*Section 2.* The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

*Section 3.* The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

*Section 4.* The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with this Constitution and NHS policies.

## ARTICLE V

### Membership

*Section 1.* Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

*Section 2.* Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

*Section 3.* The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisers, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

*Section 4.* Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

*Section 5.* Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship Program.

*Section 6.* An NHS member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

*Section 7.* Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## ARTICLE VI

### Selection of Members

*Section 1.* To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class and must have been in attendance at Cold Spring Harbor High School for the equivalent of at least one semester.

*Section 2.* Candidates eligible to election shall have a minimum cumulative scholastic *weighted* grade point average of 3.66 (on a 4.0 scale) after the first semester of their Junior year or September of their Senior year, or the equivalent; candidates who rise in scholarship to or above such standard level shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

*Section 3:* Students who transfer in from out-of-state will have their prior grades included in the minimum weighted GPA requirement as stated in section 2 above.

*Section 4.* The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

*Section 5.* A description of the selection procedure will be published on the official school website of Cold Spring Harbor High School. This will include eligibility requirements, a description of the selection process, notification and appeals procedures, and other information relevant to the selection of members. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NHS.

*Section 6.* The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to this chapter.

## ARTICLE VII

### Dismissal

*Section 1.* The Faculty Council, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society, shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

*Section 2.* Members (including chapter officers) who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

*Section 3.* The Faculty Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

*Section 4.* In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council.

*Section 5.* For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

*Section 6.* A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

*Section 7.* The National Council and the NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Chapter Officers

*Section 1.* The officers of this chapter shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

*Section 2.* A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

*Section 3.* It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all the meetings of this chapter.

*Section 4.* The vice-president shall fill the chair of the president in his absence.

*Section 5.* The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all business and all records on file. Immediately after an election of members, the chapter secretary also must certify to the national secretary of the National Honor Society the names of the new members.

*Section 6.* The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

## ARTICLE IX

### Executive Committee

*Section 1.* The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the chapter adviser.

*Section 2.* The executive committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in the chapter bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

*Section 3.* The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

## ARTICLE X

### Meetings

*Section 1.* Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

*Section 2.* The officers of the chapter shall be elected as soon as possible following the first meeting of the school year.

*Section 3.* The chapter president or other designated student leader may call special meetings approved by the executive committee.

*Section 4.* All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the principal or some member of the faculty selected by the principal.

*Section 5.* This chapter shall conduct meetings according to Robert's *Rules of Order, Newly Revised* in all points not expressly provided for in this Constitution or the chapter bylaws.

## ARTICLE XI

### Activities

*Section 1.* The Three Harbor Chapter of the National Honor Society is committed to a peer tutoring program as its major service project to the school.

*Section 2.* All members are expected to contribute to promoting this particular program and other special activities undertaken by the Three Harbor Chapter for the welfare of the school.

*Section 3.* In addition, each member of the Three Harbor Chapter of the National Honor Society is required to complete at least twenty hours of community service each year, which reflects his or her particular talents and interests. The verifiable community service hours are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Section 4.* This program and all other service projects of the chapter members shall be approved and supervised by the faculty adviser.

## ARTICLE XII

### Official Insignia

*Section 1.* This organization shall have an official emblem. The emblem shall be uniform and its distribution and rules for its use shall be determined by the NASSP Board of Directors.

*Section 2.* Each active, graduate, or honorary member in good standing with the chapter shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

*Section 3.* Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser.

*Section 4.* All insignia must be procured from the national office of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA, 20191. All insignia are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and may not be copied by anyone without written permission of the NHS national office.

*Section 5.* The motto of the National Honor Society shall be *Noblesse Oblige*.

*Section 6.* The official colors of the National Honor Society shall be blue and gold.

*Section 7.* A graduate member may purchase a replacement for a lost emblem by verifying membership to the national office.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the faculty council.

#### **Notes:**

Article VII, Section 1. To maintain compliance, all local procedures must conform to the full provisions of this article. Faculty Councils can consider disciplinary actions that are less severe than dismissal if circumstances warrant.