

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

BY-LAWS

BACKGROUND:

The National Honor Society is a U.S. based organization, founded in the 1920's to recognize outstanding student leaders, and to provide them with opportunities for serving others, both in the school and in the community. The national motto is "**Noblesse Oblige**".

As a recognized local chapter of the national (international) organization, the Dakar Academy chapter, Teranga, is required to abide by the NHS Constitution and to have its own written By-Laws. Certain areas are addressed in the By-laws, which originate with the Faculty Council, and/or with the student NHS Executive Committee. (Unless otherwise noted, the Faculty Council decides on the items for consideration.)

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Students wishing to become a part of the Teranga Chapter of the NHS must meet the following requirements; the Faculty Council will evaluate each individual applicant based on this criteria. A vote will follow the evaluation discussion. Candidates receiving a majority vote will be accepted.

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE:

- I. **Age and Residency.** Candidates must be members of the Junior (11th grade) or Senior (12th grade) class and have attended Dakar Academy for a minimum of one semester. Exceptions may be made for returning students who have been absent due to their parents' furlough/Home Assignment. (See "Method of Selection" for NHS transfer students). (Note: The Faculty Council has the option of voting on candidates after the 3rd Quarter of their Sophomore year, and holding an Induction Ceremony prior to the end of the school year. These students would not become active members until the beginning of their Junior year.)
- II. **Minimum Grade Point Average.** Candidates must have a cumulative GPA of 3.6 on a 4.0 grade scale. This includes all coursework taken for high school credit, up to the latest grading period (quarter or semester).
- III. **Personal Character Qualities and Activities.**
Candidates must demonstrate at least 3 characteristics positively in each category and none negatively. An Activities Questionnaire, to be completed by the student, will be used to assist in the evaluation discussion by the Faculty Council.

Leadership. The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing solutions to problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities.
- Exercises 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.
- Demonstrates academic initiative.
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, and conducts business effectively and efficiently, without prodding; demonstrates reliability and dependability.
- Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities.
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

Service. The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal attitude toward school.
- Participates regularly in some outside activities such as Outreach, Youth Group, volunteer services for the poor, disadvantaged, or aged.
- Assists in parents' ministry or business, without payment.
- Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult, menial, or behind-the-scenes responsibilities. (Has a humble spirit).
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition.
- Does committee and staff work without complaint.
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

Character. The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, stability, manners).
- Upholds principles of biblical morality and ethics.
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, and rules.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
- Shows concern, respect, and courtesy for others.
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom.
- Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, not cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environments.

Method of Selection:

- I. NHS Adviser notifies students who are academically eligible for consideration, (Min. 3.6 GPA) inviting them to submit their names for consideration.
- II. Interested academically eligible students (Candidates) submit a letter of recommendation from an adult who knows them well (after having been notified that they are eligible). This adult cannot be a relative or a member of the NHS Faculty Council. The letter is to be addressed to the NHS Faculty Council.
- III. The Dakar Academy Staff is then polled on each candidate.
- IV. The principal-appointed Faculty Council of five members, plus the NHS Adviser reviews all Activities Questionnaires and the results of the poll, and then votes on selection of new members, using the Criteria for Acceptance. Acceptance is by a majority vote. (Note: the NHS Adviser is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Council.)
- IV. New members are notified of their selection.
- V. New NHS members are inducted in a special ceremony, with all high school students and faculty encouraged to attend.

- VI. New inductees are now full members of NHS with all the rights and responsibilities of membership.
- VII. Any NHS member who transfers to Dakar Academy and brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser to the Dakar Academy's adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member of the Teranga Chapter. Transfer members must meet the Teranga Chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership at DA.

Obligations of Membership

All members of the Teranga Chapter of NHS are expected to:

- Attend NHS meetings (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly)(to be decided by the students)
- Participate in NHS activities and projects, both fund-raising and service oriented.
- Help organize and work on at least one chapter-sponsored service project per school year.
- Decide on (with assistance from the NHS Adviser) then implement an Individual Service Project, for which the student must donate a specified number of hours during the school year. (NHS members and their Adviser make the final decision as to number of hours required.)
- Pro-actively maintain the high personal standards in all 4 areas of excellence (Academic, Character, Service, Leadership).
- Decide on whether to require the payment of dues, and the amount (not to exceed \$10.00 USD) to facilitate the functioning of the club and help fund service projects. Students for whom this would be a hardship may be discreetly excused from contributing.
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Rights of Membership

All members of NHS in good standing are:

- Eligible to be considered for the National Honor Society Scholarship program.
- Encouraged to participate in NHS leadership camps, when Stateside.
- Entitled to wear the gold NHS honor cord at graduation.
- Participate in and have voice and vote at all Teranga chapter meetings.

Discipline/Dismissal

- Students who fail to maintain the standards of excellence in all areas of NHS are subject to discipline.
- Discipline will consist of a written and verbal warning which outlines that specific area which needs to be improved.
- If improvement does not take place within one quarter, a second warning will be given.
- If after a full semester has passed without sufficient improvement and two warnings have been given, the Faculty Council will meet to discuss dismissal.
- Pending dismissal, the student in question has the right to appear before the Council and plead his/her case as an appeal.
- Should the Council by majority vote decide to dismiss an NHS member, or, should a student resign, that student may never again be eligible for membership or its benefits.

Anyone seeking clarification or more information please contact Julie Vaughan, NHS Adviser. The NHS National Constitution may be found at nhs.us, the official website.