

# **Saint Elizabeth Seton Chapter of the National Honor Society**

## **Revised October 2009 General Overview Admission and Membership Requirements**

**Noblesse oblige: Benevolent honorable behavior considered to be the responsibility of persons of high birth or rank.**

### **Scholarship**

#### **A student who is a scholar~**

- Maintains a cumulative grade point average of 90% (a grade of 89.5 or higher will be considered 90%) Only courses completed at Seton Catholic will count in the computation.
- In order to be considered a candidate, a student must have completed at least two consecutive semesters at Seton Catholic.
- Only high school courses will be used to formulate the cumulative grade point average.
- Carries a **full** course load.
- Seeks out challenging AP or CAP courses.
- Actively participates in the classroom or academic environment.
- Demonstrates intellectual curiosity.
- Always tries to excel.

### **Leadership**

#### **A student who is a leader~**

- Promotes school activities.
- Upholds school ideals.
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- Can be relied upon to complete tasks, delegate as required and is dependable.
- Exemplifies positive attitudes.
- Inspires others to excel.
- Takes the lead in the classroom, at work and in school or community activities.

### **Service**

#### **The student who serves~**

- Volunteers, Participates, Works, and is gladly available
- Accepts difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.
- Is enthusiastic and uncomplaining.
- Meets established individual and society quotas for community service.
- Shows loyalty to, support for and allegiance to school and society ideals.

## Character

### The student with character~

- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
- Shows courtesy, concern and respect for others.
- Accepts constructive criticism and recommendations graciously.
- Obeys the rules-in school and out.
- Exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior: cheerfulness, poise, stability.
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics.
- Does not lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate those who do.

### Community Service:

***Each member of the society is required to complete ten (10) hours of community service, in addition to those required by the school, plus one of the three projects sponsored by the NHS, from the time of induction to June 1 of the following year. Probation from membership in good standing in the society may result if community service hours are not being completed. See Probation Policy for more detail.***

The officers will meet in September, considering the input of the members, will prepare a list of society sponsored projects for the year and members will be required to actively participate in them. If an officer or advisor of the society questions the appropriate level of participation, of a member, credit for the project may not be applied to the individual's quota.

### Community service must benefit the community.

The following is a list of activities **which qualify** for National Honor Society service hours. The list is not all inclusive and if you have an opportunity to serve but are unsure if your efforts qualify, please ask the president of the society or the faculty advisor for a determination.

- ✓ Tutoring
- ✓ Candy striping
- ✓ Food shelf or soup kitchen volunteer
- ✓ Bingo worker
- ✓ Escorting, hosting or serving at school functions
- ✓ Disaster relief efforts
- ✓ Nursing home volunteer
- ✓ Adopt a grandparent or similar programs
- ✓ Visiting the house bound.
- ✓ Neighborhood cleanup or watch programs.
- ✓ Community pickup, cleanup, recycle programs.
- ✓ Recruitment or similar efforts.
- ✓ Parish-wide program.

The following is a collection of examples of service, though admirable, which **do not qualify** for NHS service quota.

- ✓ Service to one's family.
- ✓ Service for another club or extracurricular activity exclusively for the benefit of that club or activity but not the community at large.
- ✓ Baby sitting for family, neighbor, friend or acquaintance in a home setting.
- ✓ Practicing or preparing for an event-For example: a school Mass or a musical recital.

### Dues

Dues from members are collected for the chapter's treasury. The amount has been set at \$10.00 per member and must be submitted by the middle of October.

### Fund Raisers

The chapter may hold fund raisers during the course of the year to offset the costs of induction materials and to contribute as a society to legitimate relief efforts.

### Probation Policy

Members must uphold the four pillars of the society- scholarship, leadership, service and character.

- **Scholarship:** All members of the society must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 90%. The faculty advisor reviews averages at the end of each quarter and advises members who are at risk or who may not meet the academic criteria. A persistent decline in scholarship (**two sequential quarters with no change in mitigating data**) will result in probation for the member and, if the decline persists, expulsion from the society. The member is restored to good standing when the original academic criteria have been met. If improvement is not met in the next quarter, the member will be removed from the NHS.
- **Leadership and Character:** Once a member, daily interactions both on campus and in the community are barometers of these pillars. A member should not be a chronic truant or a bad role model regardless of the circumstances. *Members must uphold the standards of the society both at school, in the community, and the greater community (internet use).* To quantify the value of these pillars, once a semester, the faculty is asked to complete a *National Honor Society Member Evaluation Form*. The form is confidential and distributed, collected and data tallied by the faculty advisor. A minimum of five faculty evaluations pertaining to the member are used to calculate a desired cumulative score of at least 37 points. **Probation will result if a member falls below the standard set or if leadership and character barometers become inexcusable.** Full membership is restored when the questionable behavior is corrected and validated with an ad hoc faculty evaluation. **Expulsion occurs if the member does not amend the behavior. Expulsion occurs if the leadership and character criteria are not met in the next semester when those on probation shall be re-evaluated.**
- **Service:** Missing the service criteria will result in the member being placed on probation and a requirement of five (5) additional hours will be imposed.

Reinstatement occurs upon completion of service hours plus the additional hours. Removal from the honor society results with non-compliance.

- **Other considerations:** members are expected to attend and participate in society meetings.
- **Faculty advisors and officers of the society:** care about the welfare of the members in good standing for all concerned.

### **Transfer Policy**

A member of the St. Elizabeth Seton Chapter of the National Honor Society who transfers to another school will be provided a document as proof of membership in the society to present to the new school. A member of the National Honor Society who transfers into Seton Catholic must provide proof of membership in the other society. These latter will be given one semester to meet and maintain the criteria of the Seton Catholic chapter.

### **General Policy**

Members must think twice before participating in, encouraging or condoning underage drinking, substance abuse or violation of any law or school regulation. It is expected that the leadership skills and character traits which qualified the students for membership in the society will help influence their peers positively by refusing to participate in activities known to be illegal or wrong.

### **Invitation Procedures**

1. GPA average of 90% (89.5) or above.
2. Two completed consecutive high school semesters at Seton Catholic.
3. Score of 80% or higher on the teacher survey.
4. Student has completed services as required by the school.

### **Selection Process**

1. Five Faculty members plus the advisor acting as chair form the Faculty Council.
2. Each member will review the submitted materials.
3. Each member will be given an opportunity to discuss the student's strengths and weaknesses as demonstrated by the submitted material.
4. There must be at least five votes cast for each student.
5. If a member is absent the chair may vote.
6. If a member abstains the chair may vote.
7. All deliberations of the committee are confidential.
8. The induction will be held during the fall semester.