



Mesquite High National Honor Society – Information Packet F Y I

Please note:

- ✓ All the information you need about being a member (the by-laws), volunteer hour requirements, and volunteer opportunities are attached to this packet. **Please look at these carefully. What you don't know could be to you disadvantage.**
- ✓ Only completed information packets will be looked at by the faculty council. If you fail to fill in all blanks, including the information sheet, **both FRONT AND BACK**, as well as all the other parts of this packet, you are taking a chance of NOT being chosen as a NHS member for the 2017 induction.
- ✓ Complete packets and service hours are due no later than September 15th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Induction will *tentatively* be October 12, 2017.



Please put the following information in the following order to turn in:

1st – a typed letter stating why YOU would be an asset to Mesquite High School. This must be a maximum of one page single-spaced. Be sure to write your name at the top of the letter and sign the bottom!!!

2nd – Information sheet with ALL parts completely filled. A sample is available in A13 for you to look at if you wish.

3rd – NHS community service record or a typed letter from organization, complete with appropriate signatures, listing required 25 hours of service



If you have any questions, please contact, Ms. Hix, NHS sponsor in A 13 or Mrs. Butaineh in A15.



Mesquite High School

March 21, 2017

Dear Skeeter,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the National Honor Society. NHS is a selective organization that honors outstanding scholastic achievement and promotes character, leadership, and service. The next induction for NHS members will tentatively be held on October 12, 2017 and participation in induction is mandatory for membership. Listed below are some helpful hints as what is necessary to be considered as a member of the MHS chapter of NHS as stated in the by-laws:

Election of Members:

- **Candidates must have spent at least one semester in Mesquite High School and shall be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior classes.**
- **Candidates eligible for consideration as members must be enrolled in at least four academic classes and must have a cumulative academic average of 90 or above. The scholastic candidacy does not guarantee membership in the chapter.**
- **Further eligibility shall be considered on service, leadership, and character. Candidates must not have more than one citizenship grade of B or any citizenship grade below a B in any class during the previous semester.**
- **In addition, candidates must provide proof of 25 hours of school community service, dated within a year of the date of induction. Any service hours over a year old will not be considered.**

Please note that you must meet all requirements for admission into NHS. All completed information packets will be due September 15th. Members will be selected by a faculty council in early October, 2017 on the basis of grades, citizenship, leadership, and service.

If you have any questions, please see or call Ms. Hix (mhix@mesquitesd.org or 972-882-7800, ext 6033) or Ms. Butaineh (rbutaineh@mesquiteisd.org) sponsors of Mesquite High School's chapter of the National Honor Society.

Again, thank you for your interest,

Michelle Hix & Rhonda Butaineh
Mesquite High School
National Honor Society

**Bylaws of the Mesquite High School Chapter of the National Honor Society
Mesquite, Texas**

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section I: The name of this chapter shall be the Mesquite High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the members of the National Honor Council.

Section II: The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote worthy leadership; to develop loyal student citizenship; to serve faithfully one's school, community, and country; and to instill exemplary qualities of character in the students of Mesquite High School.

Article II: Election of Members

Section I: Candidates must have spent at least one semester in Mesquite High School and shall be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior classes. Candidates eligible for consideration as members must be enrolled in at least four academic classes and must have a cumulative academic average of 90 or above. This scholastic candidacy does not guarantee membership in the chapter. Further eligibility shall be considered on service, leadership, and character. Candidates must not have more than one citizenship grade of B or any citizenship grade below a B in any class during the previous semester. In addition, candidates must provide proof of 25 hours of outside of school community service.

Section II: The election of members to this chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by a chapter council consisting of five members of the faculty council. Faculty council decisions will be final.

Section III: To aid the faculty council in the selection of members for this chapter, each candidate will submit an information sheet in which s/he delineates activities demonstrating and providing evidence of his/her history of community service and leadership. Assistant principals shall be consulted regarding unbecoming behavior, and any candidate who has demonstrated unbecoming behavior during the school year shall not be considered for membership. Unbecoming behavior is exemplified by, but not limited to, placement in an Alternative Education Program such as ISS, MIC, The Academy, or home suspension.

Section IV: Students and their parents who question the fact that they were not selected do not have a legal right to a hearing, but they and their parents shall be given an opportunity to present their complaints to the chapter sponsor(s) and principal.

Article III: Induction of Members

Section I: Members shall be inducted into the society before their peers, parents, and other National Honor Society members with an appropriate ceremony in the fall semester of each school year.

Section II: the sponsor(s), the principal, and the officers of the club will conduct the induction ceremony.

Section III: Participation in the induction ceremony is a requirement for membership. Candidates who are not present at the ceremony are not members in the society. They will be eligible for consideration for membership the following year.

Article IV: Membership

Section I: Membership in this chapter shall be based upon scholarship, good school citizenship, service, leadership and character.

Section II: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, probationary, and graduate. All members are active from the time that they are admitted into National Honor Society. Probationary members shall have no voice, no vote, and may not hold office for the duration of their probation period for whatever reason that their probation has occurred. Members become graduate members upon graduation and no longer have influence or ties to the chapter.

Section III: Members must have and maintain a cumulative average of 90 in their academic classes while enrolled at this school. Their further eligibility shall then be considered on their school citizenship, service, leadership, and character while in the organization.

Section IV: Any member who falls below the academic standards which were the basis of his or her selection shall be promptly warned in writing and placed on probation for one semester. If the member fails to meet the standards after probation, s/he will be dismissed from the organization. The member shall receive notification of dismissal in writing.

Section V: Any member who receives 2 or more B's or 1 or more of any grade lower than a B in citizenship during a six week grading period shall be promptly warned in writing and placed on probation for one six week grading period. If the member fails to meet the standards during any following six-week period of the school year after probation, s/he will be dismissed from the organization. The member shall receive notification of dismissal in writing.

Section VI: Any member who demonstrates unbecoming behavior during the school year will be dismissed from the organization immediately. Unbecoming behavior is evident by, but not limited to, placement in an Alternative Education Program such as ISS, MIC, The Academy, or home suspension. The member shall receive notification of dismissal in writing.

Section VII: All members shall provide 25 hours of outside of school community service each calendar year. Members will provide proof of hours at the beginning of each spring semester. Any student who fails to meet the standards of service will be dismissed from the organization in writing. The member shall receive notification of dismissal in writing.

Section VIII: Members who face dismissal shall be given the opportunity to address the faculty council regarding their infraction before they are dismissed. The dismissed member may not be eligible for membership in this or any other chapter of the National Honor Society, and must return all NHS insignia, including certificate and membership card.

Section IX: Appeals of dismissal by the faculty council are addressed to the principal.

Section X: Any member may resign anytime from the chapter without repercussions by stating in formal writing the reason(s) for his or her resignation accompanied by the signature of his or her parent.

Article V: Officers

Section I: The offices of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Only senior members are eligible to hold office.

Section II: Officer elections shall be held in the spring semester.

Section III: It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of this chapter and to serve as ex-officio member of all committees of this chapter.

Section IV: The vice-president shall fill the chair of the president in his absence and handle all business of the chapter.

Section V: The secretary shall maintain records and shall be in charge of club promotion throughout the building.

Section VI: The treasurer shall be in charge of all financial matters, any fundraising activities, and shall assist in club promotion throughout the building.

Section VII: All chapter officers shall maintain the highest standards expected and fulfill all their duties or obligations for which they are responsible. Any officer who does not perform up to these standards will be dismissed and replaced accordingly by a decision of the sponsor(s).

Article VI: Faculty Council

Section I: The faculty council shall consist of 5 voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal.

Section II: The term of the faculty council members shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section III: The chapter sponsor(s) shall be ex-officio member(s) of the faculty council and shall have no vote on issues.

Article VII: Meetings

Section I: There shall be regular meetings of this chapter throughout the school year at a time set by the officers and sponsor(s).

Section II: Members are required to attend at least half of the National Honor Society. If a member fails to attend meetings, s/he faces dismissal from the club.

Article VIII: Activities

Section I: This chapter shall determine two service projects for each year. One project will focus on community service, and one project will focus on school service.

Section II: All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Article IX: Dues

Section I: Dues for National Honor Society shall be collected one time, prior to induction. All inductees shall pay the same amount. Dues are non-refundable if the member resigns, moves, or is dismissed from the organization.

The True Meaning of Community Service. This talks about how to get involved in community service and what it really means to help others.



Community service is when you do something for someone else without the intentions of getting a reward or money. This service should benefit someone other than yourself and it should be done because you would like to help and not because you are required to. ***Also, this service should involve you with members of your community in some way.***

In order to participate and get involved in community service, you can get information from a school or any other place of education. You can also offer your services to teachers. A few places that may require some type of service in your local areas are parks, libraries, and nursing homes. Since parks are visited constantly, they need constant maintenance. This is where you come in. You can sign up to clean parks and receive acknowledgement for your actions. At a library, you can help by putting books in place or simple things such as showing people how to locate books around the library. Also, tutoring children can be seen as an act of community service. The need for assistance is growing in nursing homes. If you have a passion for helping people in need and enjoy hearing stories about the past, the nursing home might be a perfect place to volunteer at. Volunteering is an aspect of community service. When you volunteer, you sign up willingly knowing that you will not receive any type of gift. However, you will feel good knowing that you helped others and made a change in people's lives.

Some of the benefits of participating in community service activities include getting the satisfaction of knowing that you were able to have some sort of effect in someone's life. Although this shouldn't be your main focus when doing community service, colleges love to see that you are an active member of your community. It doesn't hurt to volunteer to have a better resume but you should also do it because you want to help others. You also get to experience new things and find out a lot about your surroundings. Who knows, maybe you will even make many friends. Depending on where you choose to do your community service at, you may gain a great deal of knowledge that will somehow improve your school grades. Your parents will also be proud of you if they find out that you are giving back to your community. Most importantly, the people you help will remember you as a person that lent a helping hand when they were in need. The benefits of participation in community service activities are endless. Whether you are helping someone directly or cleaning a park, someone somewhere is glad you were there to help.

Community service can impact you as a citizen in your own community by helping to boost your appearance in your neighborhood. You will go home every day knowing that you made the neighborhood a better place. If you choose to volunteer for something that you enjoy, who knows, maybe you will choose to pursue a career in whatever you do. It is important that you pick a volunteer service that is right for you. For instance, if you are impatient, you most likely shouldn't work with children or the elderly. Direct community work such as painting or cleaning would be better for you. There are endless chances to do community services. It's only a matter of where you look and how dedicated you are to your duties as a citizen of your community.

Mesquite High School National Honor Society

Community Service Guidelines

Community Service is intended to better the community. It is volunteer work that people engage in for the sole purpose of bettering the area in which they live. Community service is NOT work for pay, nor is it work done for some sort of reward. The following guidelines detail acceptable and unacceptable activities and what documentation will be required as proof of volunteer work for Mesquite High School's National Honor Society.

CHURCH WORK: In order to fulfill this requirement of community service, church related volunteer work must have as its goal a benefit for the **WHOLE** community. Acceptable activities may include volunteering at a soup kitchen or nursing home, teaching vacation bible school, or participating in mission activities. Congregational activities do not meet the spirit of community service.

ORGANIZATIONS: Community Service work is to be done for non-profit organizations such as the City of Mesquite, The Salvation Army, The Red Cross, a nursing home, a hospital, city recreational services, a food bank, etc. You may NOT claim hours working for a company that is not organized for the purpose of community service, even if you receive no pay.

INDIVIDUAL WORK: Individual work is discouraged unless it's verifiable. Work that you approach as an individual must be verifiable by someone other than a relative, and remember work done for your extended family or neighbors IS NOT considered community service.

DOCUMENTATION: Documentation of Community Service hours for the Mesquite High School chapter of the National Honor Society will be recorded as follows: There must be a detailed description, which is factual and accurate, of the duties executed during the community service. There must be details of the organization for which the community service is being conducted. A phone number, as well as the name of the title's project supervisor must be submitted along with the community service hours. A letter on official letterhead will be considered proof. If no official letter accompanies the Community Service Record (on back of this sheet), a supervisor's signature is required. Incomplete Community Service Records WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

STUDENT-INITIATED COMMUNITY SERVICE: A student will be able to receive **DOUBLE** the amount of hours actually served organizing his or her own community service project. There are certain stipulations that students **MUST** understand before organizing a project. The project must have an adult sponsor, such as a city official, an adult in charge of local youth services, or a teacher who will supervise the activity. A list of the students participating in the project must be submitted with the other forms documenting community service.

Please detach the rest of this packet to fill out and turn in to Ms. Hix by September 15, 2017

The information you put on the rest of the packet is for the 2017-2018 school year!!!

Information Sheet for MHS National Honor Society 2017-2018

(Please Print)

Name (as you would like it on your certificate): _____

Year of graduation _____

Address: Please print and include zip code. **Notification will be sent to this address:**

Telephone: _____

Parent or guardian's name(s):

I have read the National Honor Society by-laws (rules) attached and wish to become a member.

Signature

Date

Current Schedule (include teachers and room numbers)

Period	Class	Teacher	Room
1A			

2A			
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3A			
----	--	--	--

4A			
----	--	--	--

1B			
----	--	--	--

2B			
----	--	--	--

3B			
----	--	--	--

4B			
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PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING BLANKS TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. LEAVING ANY ONE OR ALL BLANKS MAY PREVENT YOU FROM BEING ADMITTED INTO NHS DUE TO LACK OF LEADERSHIP. Also, if you need more space, please attach extra pages.

Extracurricular activities at MHS (i.e. choir, football, drill, cheer, theater, Senior Leaders, etc) (if more space needed please attach pages)

Organization:

Years Involved:

Position(s) held:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Work History (This can be for pay or volunteer oriented. If more space needed please attach pages.)

Place of Employment: Job Held/Duties: # of Hours Worked Dates You Held Job

1. _____
2. _____

Other activities you participate in. (i.e. church, trash pickup, Girls and Boys Club, Boy or Girl Scouts, etc. If more space needed please attach pages)

Organization:

Years Involved:

Type of Involvement:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Honors and awards (i.e. honor roll, perfect attendance, merit badges, etc. If more space needed please attach pages)

Community service.

Attach Community service records. This is very important.

Attach a typed letter at top of this packet stating why you would be an asset to NHS.

NHS Community Service Record

NHS Candidate's name: _____

Name of organization _____

Full Address: _____

Description of organization: _____

Contact Name _____ *Phone Number* _____

Total Hours Worked: _____ *Dates with Year* _____

Description of volunteer duties: _____

*Signature of Supervisor** _____ *Printed Name:* _____

*Supervisors – by signing this form you are attesting to the accuracy of this information as you know it given by above named candidate. You may be contacted by the NHS sponsor to verify this information before an NHS candidate is inducted. Thank you for your cooperation.

NHS Community Service Record

NHS Candidate's name: _____

Name of organization _____

Full Address: _____

Description of organization: _____

Contact Name _____ *Phone Number* _____

Total Hours Worked: _____ *Dates with Year* _____

Description of volunteer duties: _____

*Signature of Supervisor** _____ *Printed Name:* _____

*Supervisors – by signing this form you are attesting to the accuracy of this information as you know it given by above named candidate. You may be contacted by the NHS sponsor to verify this information before an NHS candidate is inducted. Thank you for your cooperation.