

Constitution of the Science National Honor Society

Amended November 11, 2011

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Science National Honor Society for Secondary Schools (SNHS).

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage participation in and recognition of scientific and intellectual thought, to advance the students' knowledge of classical and modern science, to communicate with the scientific community, to aid the civic community with its comprehension of science, and to encourage students to participate in community service and, in turn, encourage a dedication to the pursuit of scientific knowledge that benefits all mankind.

Section 3. The SNHS shall be considered a non-profit organization under 501(c)3 pending Internal Revenue Service approval.

Section 4. The SNHS shall be a scholarship-granting body.

ARTICLE II

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The control of this organization at the national level shall be vested in the National Board of Directors.

Section 2. The National Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than nine unpaid members.

Section 3. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum of the National Board of Directors.

Section 4. The members of the National Board of Directors shall serve a three-year term.

Section 5. The members of the National Board of Directors shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer by popular vote.

Section 6. Board members are eligible for an officer position only after at least one year of service on the board.

Section 7. Elections shall be held annually for one-third of the members on a rotational basis. If a vacancy occurs between elections, the board shall appoint a new member.

Section 8. The Chairman may form committees and appoint chairmen to them.

Section 9. Any board member may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the board.

Section 10. The National Board of Directors shall hold at least three meetings annually. The Chairman may call emergency meetings. A meeting may be held only if a quorum is present.

Section 11. Members may attend meetings though any real-time method including but not limited to participation through physical attendance, conference call, or video conference.

ARTICLE III STATE AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Local chapters may form regional chapters of SNHS that are affiliated with the National Board of Directors of SNHS.

Section 2. Regional chapters shall form a SNHS regional committee of local chapter advisers in order to govern the affairs of the region. Officers shall be elected for each region annually.

Section 3. Regional chapters may form state chapters of SNHS that are affiliated with the National Executive Board of SNHS.

Section 4. State chapters shall form a SNHS state committee of regional officers in order to govern the affairs of the state chapter. Officers shall be elected annually.

Section 5. All state and regional chapters shall provide contact information to the national office.

Section 6. Confirming state or regional chapter affairs with the national office of SNHS is *not* necessary, but the affairs shall conform to this Constitution.

Section 7. All state and regional chapters shall affiliate with the Science National Honor Society.

Section 8. The purposes of state and regional chapters are to sponsor conventions for local chapter members and to engender novel projects at a region and state level.

ARTICLE IV LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. Any secondary education school is eligible to apply for a charter for a local chapter. Each school shall have its own chapter.

Section 2. Each chapter shall pay a chartering fee determined by the National Board of Directors. This fee is posted on the SNHS web site.

Section 3. Each chapter shall pay an annual affiliation fee determined by the National Board of Directors. This fee is posted on the SNHS web site.

Section 4. The annual individual member dues paid to a chapter, regional or state affiliate, if any, shall not exceed 20 dollars inclusively. The adviser and officers of the chapter shall determine the exact amount.

Section 5. Duly chartered local chapters shall conform to this Constitution as set forth by this National Board of Directors. Failure to do so may result in loss of the charter.

Section 6. Individual chapters in American Schools at Armed Forces Bases or other American schools that are resident in other countries can apply for and form a SNHS chapter. The costs for such a chapter is the same for a domestic US school.

Section 7. A chapter can reapply for a charter under conditions determined by the board.

ARTICLE V THE PRINCIPAL

Section 1. The principal or headmaster of a school shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal or headmaster shall appoint annually a chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VI THE CHAPTER ADVISER

Section 1. The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, daily supervision of the chapter, and act as a liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community. There may be multiple chapter advisers.

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

Section 3. The chapter adviser shall frequently review each member for compliance with SNHS standards, obligations, and ideals.

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

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student.

Section 2. A member must be in the last two years of secondary school education. Special considerations can allow a sophomore to be admitted into a chapter.

Section 3. A member must have and maintain a 3.0/4.0 grade point average.

Section 4. A member must be enrolled in at least one honors science class during or prior to the eleventh grade year. A member must be enrolled in at least one second year honors science class during or prior to the twelfth grade year. If second year honors science courses are not offered by the school, then the student must be enrolled in a second first year honors science class during or prior to the twelfth grade year.

Section 5. A member must maintain a B+ average (or equivalent to 3.5/4.0) across all science courses.

Section 6. A member must maintain behavior that is acceptable to the guidelines of their educational institution.

Section 7. All members must attend at least one local chapter officer's lecture annually.

Section 8. Regular members may give a lecture to the membership with the chapter adviser's approval.

ARTICLE VIII SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Candidates may be selected in any manner deemed reasonable and fair by the principal or headmaster of the school and the adviser.

Section 2. Candidates may only be accepted upon adherence to the policies of membership outlined Article VII, Sections 1 through 8 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IX DISMISSAL

Section 1. A student may be dismissed if he/she violates the standards, obligations, or ideals of the Science National Honor Society. This includes violation of grade or behavioral requirements as outlined in Article VII, Sections 1 through 8.

Section 2. Dismissal is approved and carried out by the chapter adviser.

Section 3. Upon dismissal, the student is divested of all benefits of membership.

Section 4. A student may appeal dismissal by submitting a written request to the principal or headmaster of their school.

ARTICLE X
CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by the members of their chapter and be described in the chapter bylaws.

Section 2. All chapter officers are obligated to the duty of presenting two brief scientific lectures annually. The lecture shall be ten to fifteen minutes in length and may be given during a regular chapter meeting or in a special session.

Section 3. The local chapter officers shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter as overseen by the chapter adviser. All officers shall review *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* and hence, conduct the meetings in a coherent policy. The officers shall meet regularly, make recommendations to the chapter, and perform all duties named in the chapter bylaws.

Section 4. Chapter officers shall fulfill all duties named in this Constitution and the local chapter bylaws.

Section 5. The officers shall abide by this Constitution, the SNHS standards, obligations, and ideals.

Section 6. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect any chapter officer.

ARTICLE XI
MEETINGS

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

Section 2. The regularity of the meetings shall be designated in the chapter bylaws.

Section 3. The president may call emergency meetings, if approved by the officers and the adviser..

ARTICLE XII
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Section 1. Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects per year.

Section 2. All members shall participate in one or more of the chapter's projects per year.

Section 3. The purpose of the projects shall be to encourage scientific and intellectual thought, to further the knowledge of science in school and community, and to volunteer in the surrounding community.

Section 4. Each chapter may judge or host a local science fair contest and/or assist in the creation and/or maintenance of a science club at the school.

Section 5. Chapters may also attempt to bring speakers from the scientific community into the school to the extent to which their resources and location allow.

Section 6. Chapter may allow members to assist other students by tutoring them in math, science or other subjects.

ARTICLE XIII OFFICIAL INSIGNIA AND MOTTO

Section 1. This organization shall have an official emblem selected by the National Board of Directors. Graphics of this emblem is available on the SNHS web site.

Section 2. The distribution of the emblem and the rules for its use shall be under the exclusive control of the Science National Honor Society National Board of Directors.

Section 3. Each active, graduate, or honorary member shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

Section 4. Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the National Board of Directors, or by mail with an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors

ARTICLE XV BYLAWS

Section 1. Each chapter shall write bylaws to amplify sections of this Constitution, and to clarify operating procedures of the chapter. Bylaws shall be consistent with this Constitution.

Section 2. The chapter bylaws shall contain information concerning the election and duties of officers, the schedule of meetings, member obligations, dues, project descriptions, and the like. Chapters may add any other information pertinent to the chapter.

Section 3. Each state or regional affiliate shall write bylaws.

Section 4. State, regional, and local chapter bylaws shall be sent to the National Executive Board.

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