

The National Honor Society will induct new members each Fall. Students who have completed the sophomore year, maintain an unweighted 3.5 GPA, exemplify positive characteristics of leadership, character, service, and citizenship are eligible for membership. Students with a 3.5 unweighted GPA will receive a letter mid-summer inviting them to apply. Below are listed important factors for a successful application into Spanish Fort High School National Honor Society.

1. **Leadership:** A student must show leadership characteristics. On his/her application should be listed as many leadership positions as possible. This would include such things as: Officer of a club, chairman of a committee, coach of a little league team, co-captain or captain of a team, leadership awards, teacher/assistant of Sunday School, leader of a church group, Boy Scout leader, Eagle Scout, etc. All of these positions must be documented with the name of the adult in charge. Candidates may list any leadership role from the beginning of 9th grade through application date.
2. **Citizenship:** Citizenship involves membership in civic activities such as school clubs, band, concert choir, scouting, community organizations, church organizations, etc. Students who have jobs may list those jobs, and students may list athletic teams of which they are members. Students begin with their 9th grade year and list activities up to application date.
3. **Service:** One of the most important aspects of the application process is the logging of community service hours. Students should have no less than 20 documented service hours. To ensure that all hours count, students should perform as many hours as possible. A maximum of 8 hours per activity will be accepted. Community service is defined as any voluntary contribution made by a student to school, community, charity or any service organization, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit. Participation in beauty pageants, dance organizations, sports teams (member, coach, camp worker), sport's related fundraisers, etc. are not considered service organizations. Service hours do not include free work for profit organizations, businesses, or individuals. Free babysitting is also not service. Church practices such as keeping the nursery, recording the church service, singing in the choir, teaching a class, etc. are a part of one's religious practices and are not services to the community at large (but they may be included under leadership/activities). Appropriate service hours include volunteering for such organizations as nursing homes, Prodissee Food Pantry, hospitals, school-sponsored events, SFEEF, Veteran's homes, The Lighthouse, Waterfront Rescue Mission, America Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Outreach projects performed through a church, such as Vacation Bible School, Family Promise, 15th Place, etc., are acceptable community service projects. Any service for which a student receives a grade (FACS, Chorus, Band, Early Release, Leadership, etc.) cannot be used as service. Service hours must be documented by the adult in charge of the service organization. This adult may **not** be a family member or a peer. **For application purposes, community service activities to be listed on the application must be completed by June 30 of the application year.** Candidates may list any service performed from the beginning of 9th Grade through June 30 of the application year.
4. **Teacher recommendations** play a major role in selection. Students are rated by the teachers on such characteristics as working to potential, motivation, punctuality, attendance, honesty, preparation for class, leadership, adherence to school rules (punctuality, uniform compliance, cell phone compliance, makeup work, etc.), and attitude. All four core teachers rate the student. It is the student's responsibility to print the teacher evaluation forms and take the teacher recommendation sheets to his/her previous year's English, history, math, and science teachers. Forms may be found on the National Honor Society Moodle site. There is an *early deadline* for teacher recommendations (they must be completed one week before the application is due). Discipline records will be checked.
5. Filling out the application clearly and correctly is an important part of acceptance into National Honor Society. Candidates must **follow all directions** on the application and have all required signatures.
6. **Deadlines are a must!** No applications or teacher recommendations are accepted after the deadlines. No applications are returned to the student.
7. Once applications are received, the Faculty Council will meet to determine those students who are to be admitted.

If you find that you qualify for National Honor Society with a 3.5 GPA, **you should begin the process now.** You should start collecting service hours, volunteering for leadership opportunities, and participating in community activities.