

February 25, 2011

Dear Student,

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a nationwide organization dedicated to strong academics, character, leadership, and service. The mission of the Westminster Christian School chapter of NHS is to recognize and encourage academic excellence, and develop student leaders who are catalysts for a cause. While the NHS is a great way of recognizing academic achievement, it is our mission to pair this activity with a commitment and desire for students to serve others. When we say that we desire to develop students who are a catalyst for a cause, we are saying that we want to develop student leaders who care so deeply about their service to others that it becomes contagious in their school, their community, and even in the organization they are serving in. We desire that when students move on from their time serving, that the organizations they have served are stronger, better, and more connected to the WCS community than they were when they started.

We understand that the vision of this level of commitment may seem great, but we believe with our whole hearts that God has given students gifts and abilities that they may use to serve him. In this, we hold that our students are as capable as any other member of society to be a catalyst for a cause, and we seek to foster an environment in which students are able to both reach and exceed this potential.

Members of NHS at Westminster Christian School are required to maintain a cumulative GPA at or above a 3.5 unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale, possess good character, and participate in community service on a regular basis.

What it takes to join NHS:

1. Maintain a 3.5 cumulative unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale
2. Engage in at least 10 hours of local community service prior to admission
3. Fill out an application complete with teacher reference forms, community service log sheet, and a personal essay
4. \$20 Annual Dues (checks only made payable to: WCS)

Once inducted into the WCS chapter of the NHS, students must meet certain requirements to maintain membership:

What it takes to maintain membership in NHS:

1. Maintain a 3.5 cumulative unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale
2. Engage in at least 10 hours of local community service each semester (15 if the hours are school related. See Article II Section 5 of the NHS Constitution)
3. Remain in good standing with school policy on conduct and character
4. \$20 Annual Dues (checks only made payable to: WCS)

If you would like to apply for membership, please complete the application, community service hours log sheet, your personal essay, attach your \$20 annual dues, and ensure that your academic and character teacher evaluations are all in to Mr. Sevey no later than **Thursday, August 4, 2011**.

Please note that a student's 10 hours of community service is required to be completed with one consistent service organization. Students applying for membership to the NHS are encouraged to begin setting up a plan for ongoing community service commitment at a place where the student can record their ten hours of community service for each semester that they are a member of NHS. If you need or desire direction as to places you can serve, please feel free to contact me. Students may obtain their service hours by serving within the school community but are required in that case to complete 15 hours of community service per semester.

Community Service Ideas:

1. Volunteering at a food pantry or crisis pregnancy center
2. Helping to coordinate a fundraising event (ex: Breast Cancer Walk-a-thon)
3. Volunteering at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter

There are many opportunities in the community for service. However, some activities will not count toward community service hours.

Not Community Service:

1. Babysitting for free
2. Volunteering at your local church
3. Teaching Sunday School

The reason that hours served at your local church do not count towards community service hours for NHS is because the church is your spiritual family. Service that is through your church but directed towards the greater local community is acceptable.

If you have any question or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at the below contact information. I sincerely hope that you will consider joining the WCS chapter of the National Honor Society.

In Him,

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