

Smith Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society
National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Bylaws

NJHS motto: “Light is the Symbol of Truth” and Official colors: blue and white

**These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components; furthermore, the chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities.*

- Purpose: Character, Citizenship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service
- Membership: Active and honorary based on the faculty
 - The Faculty Council has the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS advisor(s) or others to recognize their outstanding service.
 - Membership in the NJHS does not guarantee entry into the National Honor Society at Solanco High School. A separate application and approval process will be required.

Eligibility Requirements to Apply for NJHS Membership:

1. Grade Level: Must be in 7th or 8th grade
2. Attendance: Must have been in attendance for one semester at Smith Middle School
3. Scholarship: Must currently hold and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.6

Application Process:

- Students will be introduced to NJHS and the application process during an informational meeting
- Personal Essay: Students will be invited to submit an essay describing their character, citizenship, leadership, and service both in school and in the local community.

Selection Criteria:

1. Essay Evaluation:
 - Receive a minimum score of 5 out of 9 on the personal essay.
 - The essay will be anonymously evaluated by a committee of teachers based on the categories of character, citizenship, and leadership.
2. Committee Voting:
 - Obtain a majority of votes from a faculty committee of a minimum of 5 teachers, both grade level and related arts teachers, to certify the student’s character, citizenship, and leadership.
3. The NJHS advisor(s) and school administrators are not part of the essay evaluation or faculty voting committees

Students who meet these criteria will be inducted into the Smith NJHS chapter.

- Membership Obligations
 - Character, including...
 - Respect for others, Dependability, Honesty, Emotional stability and self-control, Industry (completes required tasks and seeks additional work), Cooperation, Upholds morality and ethics, Neatness
 - Leadership, including...
 - Promoting school activities, In the community, In the classroom, Holding school offices/positions of responsibility, Qualities and attributes that are a positive influence on others
 - Service, including...
 - Willingly gives time, energy and abilities to Smith Middle School and the community.
 - Must provide documentation of 10 combined hours of community service and service projects (Service Hours Log)
 - Citizenship, including...
 - Provide peer tutoring at Smith Middle School
 - Maintain accurate records of tutoring activities and alert NJHS advisor(s) and teachers to any needed tutoring changes
- Discipline and Dismissal
 - 1: Any member who falls below the standards of character, citizenship, leadership, scholarship, and/or service may be considered for dismissal
 - 2: If a member's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.6 average, he/she will be given a written warning and a probationary period in order to improve their GPA. If the GPA remains the same or decreases further, the student will face disciplinary action (possibly dismissal from the chapter).
 - 3: If a member fails to perform any of the obligations of membership, they will receive a written warning and be subject to a probationary period to demonstrate improvement. If obligations remain unmet, the member will face disciplinary action (possibly dismissal from the chapter).
 - 4: Violation of the law or school regulations can result in immediate dismissal.
 - 5: Offenders of the school conduct code, including those who receive an office discipline referral, will receive written warning, a conference may be requested (by either party) and if another violation occurs, the member may be considered for dismissal.
 - In ALL cases of pending dismissal...
 - The member will receive written notification indicating the reason and it will be discussed in a conference with the advisor.
 - Violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning, but a hearing must still be held.

- The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge at a hearing prior to a vote by the Faculty Council.
 - The results of the vote will be reviewed and then sent in a letter to the student, guardians and principal.
 - The decision may be appealed to the building principal in writing within 10 days of the hearing.
 - If dismissed or resigns, the member is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in NJHS and he/she must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor(s).
 - Executive Committee: consisting of the NJHS advisor(s) and the chapter's officers.
 - Have general charge of the meetings and business, but any action by the Executive Committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.
 - Meetings: no less than once a month, all members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings and special meetings approved by the Executive Committee may be called by the President.
 - If a student misses a club meeting due to extracurricular activities or another obligation, it is their responsibility to communicate with a faculty advisor(s)
 - Activities: minimum of **two** service projects a year; voted on by all members where a majority vote is required; all members should regularly participate and each project should
 - Fulfill a need within the school, local community or the world
 - Have the support of the administration and faculty
 - Be well planned, organized and executed
 - Emblem
 - Each member of the chapter who is in good standing shall have the privilege of wearing the NJHS emblem.
 - Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter.
 - Powers:
 - The chapter advisor(s) is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities.
 - The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions.
 - Amendments:
 - Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members at least one month prior to the vote.
 - The only exceptions are Selection and Discipline which are developed by the NJHS advisor(s) and approval by the principal.
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I, _____ understand the National Junior Honor Society Bylaws and agree to follow them in order to maintain my membership in the society. If I do not abide by the laws, I know that I am subject to a hearing and possible dismissal.

Print Member Name

Member Signature

Date

I have reviewed the above by-laws. *If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Irvin kayla_irvin@solancosd.org or Ms. Sellers vicki_sellers@solancosd.org*

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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