



National Honor Society
Martinsville High School
Application Guide



It is important to remember that the purpose of National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. As a member of National Honor Society, it will be your role to promote and support excellence in education, service, leadership, and personal characteristics. You do not have to be excellent in all of these areas as you enter National Honor Society, but your goal as a member of National Honor Society is to be a role model for these efforts as you work to master them. To show that you are working toward mastering these areas of focus, you should think about them as you complete the application.

General Guidance:

1. Be sure to fill out all fields completely. Signatures are required.
2. More information is always better than less. The selection committee cannot guess or use any outside knowledge of your activities in making their decision.
3. Neatness makes a difference. It must be legible.
4. You may add pages to the application if you have more information than space allows. Be sure to label all additions in such a way that the selection committee knows how to consider it.
5. Do not be modest. When you want chosen for anything in life (college, a job, etc.), you need to brag about yourself and what you have done. It is not inappropriate to really show how you stand out from everyone else.

Section I: Service Activities

This section is about showing a range of service activities including, but not limited to, service organizations (inside or outside of school), church or religious organizations, scouts, etc. If you are not sure if it qualifies, it does not hurt to still list it on the application. Remember: these must be activities for which you were not paid.

Section II: Other Student Activities

This section is to list all activities not listed in Section I. You should list any groups that you actively participate in. It is valuable both to have a wide range of activities and have spent more than one year in an activity--although neither of these is considered by itself. For example, 3 years in one activity may be just as valuable as 1 year in 3 different activities. It is also important to list any accomplishments (big projects completed, etc.) that you achieved as a participant in that activity.

Section III: Other Community Activities

This section is about participation in groups outside of school. Again, you should list any groups that you actively participate in. Nothing in this section should be in either of the above sections. It is also important to list any accomplishments (big projects completed, etc.) that you achieved as a participant in that activity.

Section IV: Work Experience, Recognition, and Awards

It is not required that you have had a job to get into National Honor Society. However, this section does help the selection committee to get a complete picture of your experiences while in high school. This section would include any part-time or full-time job you have had (including summers). It would also include any academic or professional awards or honors you have received (department awards, employee of the month, etc.)

Section V: Leadership Roles

This section is more about leading others through motivation or direction. It could include captain of a team, academic role model in a class, team leader in a club or organization, youth group leader who helps to plan and lead activities, section leader in a musical group, shift manager at work, or many other options. If you were in charge of others, you should list it in this section.

Section VI: Current Schedule

This seems easy, but be sure you are specific. If you are in Academic Algebra 2, be sure to list it as such. The selection committee is looking for academic excellence as well as academic motivation. They want to see that the student is eager to learn and willing to lead and support academic efforts of others in the school.

Section VII: Personal Statement

As you write your personal statement, you should address all four pillars that National Honor Society is built on: Service, Leadership, Scholarship, and Character. This is, in a way, both an informational and a persuasive essay. This is your opportunity to brag about yourself. You want the selection committee to choose you to represent the school in these four areas. This is not the time to downplay what you have accomplished. It is also a good idea to use specific details from the rest of your application to support your argument for selection. (Do this especially for those experiences you have listed that might not seem to fit perfectly in your application.)

Note: As with any formal writing you will do in your entire life, it is a good idea to have someone else read it to help with structure and editing before you submit it with your application.