

**KARANKAWA CHAPTER**  
**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**  
CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL  
PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

**CHAPTER BYLAWS**  
EFFECTIVE 2018-2019



*Character ♦ Scholarship ♦ Leadership ♦ Service*

**Karankawa Chapter of the National Honor Society Bylaws**  
**Effective 2018-2019**

**I. Name and Purpose**

1. The name of this chapter shall be the Karankawa Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council for the National Honor Society, duly signed by the members of the National Council.
2. The objective of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of Calhoun High School.

**II. Membership**

1. Admission shall be based upon scholarship, service, leadership, and character.
2. Candidates shall be juniors and seniors, have at least a 95.0 grade point average, and shall have a minimum of two advanced core courses—mathematics, science, English, social studies, and foreign language—per academic year.
3. New members shall be inducted at the beginning of their junior or senior year.
4. Membership of this chapter shall be known as “active” and “graduate.” Graduate members have no vote. Active members become graduate members at graduation.
5. All members are expected to pay dues of fifteen dollars each year to maintain membership.
6. All members are expected to purchase an official National Honor Society shirt.
7. Students who transfer from a high school where they withdrew as a member of that school and were a member of that high school’s National Honor Society chapter in good standing are admitted into the membership of this chapter, subject to verification by the faculty adviser.

**III. Discipline and Dismissal**

1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Karankawa Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in his or her school and community. Members are held to high standards and must maintain these standards to remain in good standing with the Karankawa Chapter of the National Honor Society.
2. Each member shall maintain a weighted nine-week average of 93.0 or above. If a member’s grade report falls below 93.0, then the member will be notified by the chapter adviser through letter that they are on probation. If, after any other grade report, the member’s average is again below 93.0, then the member shall lose membership.
3. Each member shall maintain enrollment in at least two advanced core academic classes—mathematics, science, English, social studies, and foreign language. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.
4. Each member shall pay fifteen-dollar dues. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.
5. Members are expected to maintain regular attendance in meetings of this chapter. Each member is permitted one unexcused absence per semester. Absences should be communicated to the faculty adviser prior to the meeting, or as soon as feasibly possible. The faculty adviser shall determine excused absences. If the member receives more than one unexcused absence during any given semester, they will be required to attend a discipline meeting.
6. Minor conduct violations such as, but not limited to, the following are grounds for probation. If a member violates this code of conduct, the member will be notified by the chapter adviser through letter that they have been placed on probation with a defined sanction. These violations include: profanity, teacher reported misbehavior, excessive unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, and any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the faculty council.
7. Major conduct violations such as, but not limited to, the following are grounds for dismissal from this chapter based on faculty council consideration and vote: academic dishonesty, suspension, expulsion, disciplinary alternative education program placement, in-school suspension, skipping, inappropriate social media conduct, theft, destruction of property, bullying, harassment, or hazing, being under the influence, possessing, or selling a controlled substance, illegal substance, or alcohol, arrests, or receiving any of the following: DWI, DUI, or MIP.
8. Members are expected to remain exemplars of excellence in the community and violations categorized in section 7 need not occur on school grounds or at school-related events for the discipline committee to take action. Additionally, inappropriate social media posts are grounds for the discipline committee to take action.
9. The discipline committee may take action against any violation not explicitly outlined in these bylaws if they violate the guiding principles of the National Honor Society.
10. The faculty council may assign other disciplinary sanctions (e.g., extra service hours) as appropriate.
11. In all cases of pending dismissal, due process as outlined in the current edition of the *NHS Handbook* will be followed.
12. On receipt of a discipline hearing letter, the member is placed on probation effective the date of the letter.

13. Officers may be removed from their office as a result of a disciplinary decision.
14. Any member who resigns or is dismissed will never again be eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.
15. Appeals may be made to the campus principal within five days of the disciplinary committee's decision.

#### IV. Service Hours

1. Each member shall complete no less than 30 hours of community service every year of membership
2. Credit for service hours begins on the first day of the school year as approved by the National Honor Society faculty adviser
3. At the beginning of each school year, the executive committee shall establish at least two service hour checkpoints. If a member does not meet the designated service hours at the checkpoint, the member shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year. Members on probation will be notified by the chapter adviser through letter. If a member fails to meet any other checkpoint requirement that year, the member shall be dismissed.

#### V. Definition of Service Hours

1. Serving or tutoring immediate family members **does not** count toward service hours.
2. Members **may not** tutor other members of the National Honor Society for service hours unless pre-approved by the faculty adviser.
3. Service hours must be completed outside of regular school hours unless pre-approved by the faculty adviser. Tutoring during designated tutorial periods is permitted.
4. Service hours **must not** be mandatory or obligatory for another organization.
5. Hours spent practicing **may not** count toward service hours.
6. Members **may not** be paid for service hours.
7. School related activities or school sponsored extracurricular activities **do not** count toward service hours.
8. Hours served for any other school, community, or religious service organization or club **does not** count toward service hours. If any community organization of this type contact the faculty adviser to request student volunteers and the adviser grants permission, the service hours **will be** deemed valid.
9. All appeals and questions regarding service hours shall be directed to the faculty adviser, who shall have the power to grant exemptions given reasonable circumstances and deem service hours valid or invalid. The faculty advisers decision is final and cannot be appealed.

#### VI. Officers

1. Non-graduating members shall elect officers as listed below by a majority vote at the end of the year prior to the induction of new members.
2. Officers shall include:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice-President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Parliamentarian
  - f. Hours Chairpersons

#### VII. Officer Qualifications

1. No candidate for an officer position shall have been on hours or discipline probation.
2. Each officer candidate must give a short speech of their qualifications for the sought-after position.

#### VIII. Executive Committee

1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser, the faculty council (when applicable), and the officers of the chapter.
2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter, but any action on the part of the executive committee may be subject to review of the chapter.

#### IX. Supervision

1. The principal of Calhoun High School shall approve the activities of this chapter and oversees the faculty adviser.
2. The faculty adviser reports directly to the Principal and shall supervise all activities of this chapter.
3. The faculty council works collaboratively with the principal and faculty adviser in making decisions about this chapter.

**X. Meetings**

1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held on alternate Thursdays during the regular school year.
2. The faculty adviser may call special meetings as required.
3. The president may call special meetings as approved by the executive committee.
4. All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the faculty adviser or a member of the faculty selected by the adviser.
5. This chapter shall conduct all meetings in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, in all points not expressly provided in the National Honor Society constitution or these bylaws.

**XI. Emblem**

1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.
2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the National Honor Society shall surrender the emblem to the faculty adviser.
3. Each member agrees that, whether the emblem comes to them as a gift, personal purchase, award, or other source, the title to the emblem rests with the chapter of which he or she is a member; therefore, by motion and order of the faculty council or faculty adviser, operating through the permission of the faculty council, the emblem may be confiscated. Furthermore, each member agrees that his acceptance of the emblem shall be considered affirmative of the stipulation in regard to the title and semblance of the emblem.
4. All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091.

**XII. Membership Dues**

1. Annual dues for each member shall be fifteen dollars. The amount is subject to the approval of the executive committee of this chapter, but may not exceed twenty dollars.
2. If dues are not paid, a member is subject to dismissal.

**XIII. Bylaw Amendments**

1. This constitution may be amended by the faculty adviser or faculty council as necessary.
2. Amendments shall be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting.