

National Junior Honor Society Bylaws

Thunderbolt Middle School

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be the Thunderbolt National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2 – The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to promote worthy leadership, to stimulate a desire to render service, and to encourage the development of character in the students of Thunderbolt Middle School.

Article II: Membership

Section 1 – Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and honorary. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Section 2 – Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be in seventh or eighth grade.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Thunderbolt Middle School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- d. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall not be in violation of the law or school regulations as outlined in the discipline policy of Thunderbolt Middle School. These violations include but are not limited to: stealing; destruction of property; cheating/ academic dishonesty; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or at school-related activities.
- e. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum number of 8 student service volunteer hours documented with and by a member of the Lake Havasu City community or Thunderbolt Middle School staff or faculty within their two years of attendance at Thunderbolt Middle School.
- f. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, SSV hours and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based upon their service, leadership, and character.

Article III: Selection of Members

Section 1 – The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser(s) shall be the sixth, nonvoting of the Faculty Council.

Section 2 – Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Membership Application for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the student Membership Application and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3 – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year at the end of the first semester of the school year, following the official Lake Havasu Unified School Districts’ distribution of semester grades. The induction ceremony will take place before the end of February.

Section 4 – Candidates become members when inducted at the induction ceremony. Attendance at the induction ceremony is mandatory. Absenteeism is immediate forfeiture of prospective membership for that current school year.

Section 5 – Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6 – An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member, one semester to attain the membership requirements and thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

Article IV: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1 – Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship or service may be considered for the dismissal from the Thunderbolt Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2 – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Adviser(s), Administration, and/or Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 – Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession.

Section 5 – Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent.) If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 – In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser(s) indicating the reason for possible dismissal. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council and Administration prior to the vote on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether or not to dismiss member. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent by the Faculty Council to the student, his or her parents, and the principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7 – In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate such as: a 4- week member probation, extra volunteer hours, removal of voting privileges, etc.

Article V: Officers

Section 1 – The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian, a seventh grade representative, and an eighth grade representative.

Section 2 – Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of the previous school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members in good standing of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3 – A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter:

- a. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over meetings, set agendas for the meetings, coordinate work, function as an intermediary, represent chapters at other meetings as required, take ultimate student responsibility for all chapter functioning, lead the club in all aspects according to the National Constitution and Thunderbolt Middle School NJHS bylaws and keep the advisor informed of any and all NJHS-related activities, concerns, and ideas.
- b. The vice-president shall fulfill the duties of president as circumstances require, plan and implement all service projects and activities (minimum of one per semester), solicit ideas for service projects from members, oversee the number of community service hours rendered by individual members, while evaluating the need for developing new committees to help with the smooth functioning of the chapter and report service plans, progress, and outcomes to the chapter advisor
- c. The secretary shall take minutes of all meetings, complete and implement all paperwork required for club activities, maintain accurate electronic records, maintain club rosters, and oversee publicity of chapter events and correspondence.
- d. The treasurer shall develop and maintain all financial records, communicate with the Student Council treasurer and Front Office to manage the NJHS account and purchase orders and oversee all chapter fundraising activities.
- e. The parliamentarian shall record and coordinate membership, check mandatory attendance, and keep accurate electronic records of community service hours; collect service documentation hours from the NJHS members each meeting; update hours accrued by NJHS members to the president and advisor by the 15th of each month; notify vice president and advisor by December 1 and May 1 of any members who lack 8 NJHS-related service hours. This job requires weekly filing of service hours and sending out notices of hours not served.
- f. The eighth grade representative(s) works closely with their class and student government to represent the NJHS eighth grade class opinions. The eighth grade representative also takes on committee responsibilities as delegated by the president and vice-president.
- g. The seventh grade representative(s) works closely with their class and student government to represent the NJHS seventh grade class opinions. The seventh grade representative also takes on committee responsibilities as delegated by the president and vice-president. They are elected at their second meeting, after induction.

Section 4 – At the April chapter meeting, nominations will be made for elected officers. Prospective officers must be nominated and present at meeting to accept nomination in order to be eligible for position. Members can only run for one office. Each nominee will be required to complete and submit a formal officer application to the adviser(s) by a specified date. Each nominee will give a short speech to chapter members prior to elections at the April chapter meeting. All members will vote at elections in ballot form. These ballots will be counted in private, and results will be posted thereafter. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section 1 – The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2 – The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Section 3 – Each member of the executive committee is required to be chairperson of one service project and sit on the committee of TWO service projects: the inductions ceremony and Evening of Excellence is mandatory for committees to attend.

Section 4 – Each member of the executive committee is required to accumulate 8 student service hours per year as executive committee member.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1 – Meetings of this chapter shall be held each month of the academic school year or as required as defined by the Lake Havasu Unified School District academic calendar.

Section 2 – This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3 – All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

a. A letter for every missed meeting must be turned in to the executive committee secretary or adviser within one week of the scheduled meeting, or the absence will not be considered excused.

b. Members are allowed to miss no more than 2 meetings (either excused or unexcused) throughout the year.

c. If a member misses 2 meetings, his or her file will be reviewed and he or she will be considered for dismissal from NJHS. Members will be made aware of missed meetings through written notices and a time period for improvement.

Article VIII: Activities

Section 1 – The chapter executive committee shall determine two or more service activities for each semester.

Section 2 – All members shall regularly participate in these activities.

Section 3 – These activities shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4 – Each member shall have the responsibility of choosing and participating in an individual service activity that reflects his or her particular talents and interests and is approved by the chapter adviser(s). This activity is in addition to the chapter activities to which all members contribute. This activity may not gain the NJHS member any form of compensation aside from student service volunteer hours (i.e. members may not count shift work at their place of employment as student service).

Section 5 – The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE IX: Student Service Hours

Section 1 – All members shall regularly participate in service activities that render each individual member student service volunteer hours.

Section 2 – Each individual member is required to track and maintain their own service hours using the NHS provided form. Members are required to turn in their service hour forms to the executive committee parliamentarian at every chapter meeting in order for the chapter records to be appropriately tracked and updated.

a. A letter for missed service activities must be turned in to the executive committee secretary or adviser within one week of the scheduled activity, or the absence will not be considered excused.

b. If a member misses 2 service activities totaling 4 or more hours, his or her file will be reviewed and he or she will be considered for dismissal from NJHS.

c. Members will be made aware of missing activity hours through written notices and a time period for improvement.

Section 3 – Student Service Volunteer hours will be distributed as follows: each member is required to complete 4 hours of predetermined NJHS service activities each semester and 4 hours of preapproved community service activities as stated in Section 4 of Article VIII every academic year. At the end of each academic year NJHS members will have tracked a total of 8 student service volunteer hours.

Section 4 – Attendance at the Inductions Ceremony is mandatory for all current and potential NJHS members. All members will receive 2.0 hour of service for attending the inductions ceremony.

a. There are no exceptions made for missing the annual inductions ceremony. Members who miss the inductions ceremony have violated Sections 1 and 2 of Article IV as stated in these Thunderbolt Middle School Chapter of the National Honor Society Bylaws. Members will be subject to discipline and dismal procedures as stated in Section 6 of Article IV.

Article X: Powers

Section 1 – The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2 – The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 – These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

Article XI: Amendments

Section 1 – These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 – Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.

If for any reason we have to close the account, funds would be transferred to the Tax Credit ALL account.