

FREEPORT AREA HIGH SCHOOL

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

(as of 9/7/2023)

*Mr. John Beneigh*

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Requirement questions should be directed via email or in-person to Mr. Beneigh.

Completed portfolios are due to Mrs. O'Shell in the School Counseling/Athletic Office no later than Thursday, January 11, 2024 by 2:41pm.

*TO BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF YOU!*

# EXPECTATIONS FOR NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

## *PURPOSE STATEMENT*

*The purpose of the Freeport Chapter of the 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 Freeport Area Senior High School. These four principles shape the organization's activities and are reflected in the members' responsibilities.*

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

*The mission of the Freeport Chapter of the National Honor Society is to bring together a group of highly intelligent and mature students that have the ability to:*

1. Promote a high level of scholarship within the Freeport Area School District.
2. Provide community service that has a direct impact on the greater Freeport community.
3. Become role models for younger students and peers in the Freeport Area School District through various leadership roles.
4. Display high standards of character through their interactions with students, faculty and community members.

***YOUR GOAL: TO BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF YOU!***

# WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO THE FREEPORT AREA HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY?

All upperclassmen are eligible to apply for this chapter, meeting the following requirements:

1) Scholarship

*Per chapter guidelines, students must have a minimum standard of excellence.*

Academic Check (completed by faculty)

- i. 3.8 QPA for high school tenure (all grade levels prior to 01/14/24)
- ii. Honors level courses enhances the applicants eligibility as per the rubric

2) Service

*This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.*

Activity Check (completed by student applicant)

- i. At least 3 after school activities during high school tenure (could include the same activity over three years, both in-school or out-of-school; for example, Marching Band, Track, Boy Scouts, Youth Group, Football, etc.).  
Employment does not count.
- ii. At least 1 non-school related service work during this past summer & during the first semester of this current school year (an activity that did not receive compensation that lasted at least 10 hours by the application deadline)
- iii. Activities must be after school. Clubs do not count (Ski Club, Key Club, Newspaper, etc.).
- iv. *All activities must be verified by someone that is not related to the student. Family members cannot verify service activities.*

3) Leadership

*Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.*

Leadership Essays (completed by student applicant)

- i. Answer all prompts to display a better understanding of your philosophy and leadership experiences

4) Character

*The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally, maintains a clean disciplinary record.*

Integrity Check (completed by faculty)

- i. Cleared by faculty for behavior, plagiarism, or cheating infractions
  1. Infractions must be documented and communicated throughout the school year with administration and/or parents
- ii. Cleared by office for extensive unexcused absences or late arrivals
  1. 9 pts maximum during academic year
    - a. Unexcused tardy is 1 point
    - b. Unexcused absence is 3 points

*A Faculty Review Committee will review your portfolio with Student IDs only, in order to keep it confidential and blind, avoiding partiality and bias. A total of 13 or more points, following the rubric scale, must be achieved in order to gain acceptance into the chapter (see Rubric example within this packet).*

## IF SELECTED AS A JUNIOR MEMBER:

### This is how to maintain membership for Graduation Conferral (sr year)

- 1) Scholarship Academic Check: checked during each marking period until graduation
  - a. Maintain 3.8 GPA or higher during this academic year through graduation.
  - b. Continue honors-level coursework during senior year.
- 2) Service After School Activity & Community-Based Service Checks (non-compensated)
  - a. Actively participate in an after school activity during this academic year
  - b. Complete at least 10-hours of community-based, non-compensated service work
- 3) Leadership Check: submitted by early Spring 2025 before graduation (senior year only)
  - a. Provide the Post-Graduation Action Plan to show how continued leadership goals are planned for the future.
- 4) Character Check: checked during each semester until graduation
  - a. Cleared by faculty for behavior, plagiarism, or cheating infractions
    - i. Infractions must be documented and communicated throughout the school year with administration and/or parents
  - b. Cleared by the office for extensive unexcused absences or late arrivals
    - i. 9 pts maximum over academic year
      1. Unexcused tardy is 1 point, each time
      2. Unexcused absence is 3 points, each time

Missing items or not fulfilling requirements per marking period will result in probation or removal from this NHS chapter prior to the graduation ceremony.

\*Seniors may apply for acceptance into the NHS following the requirements listed for timely portfolio submission on the previous page.

### Rubric and Appeals Policy:

All students will receive rubric scores (for acceptance and not acceptance).

- Based on the three categories (Scholarship/Service/Character), these are objective scores (aka, it is what it is based on one's work and documentation).
- The leadership interview responses will be judged by five faculty committee members (blind readings without student names). The average score will provide the score for the Leadership category (average scores above 3.5 will receive 4 points; average scores below 3.49 will receive 3 points; and so on).
- The rubric is the final and most important reference for making candidate decisions.
- Appeals should be addressed to the faculty advisor. Any appeals must be emailed to [beneigh@freeport.k12.pa.us](mailto:beneigh@freeport.k12.pa.us) within two calendar days after receiving the letter with a detailed explanation to the faculty committee regarding the reason for the appeal and what additional information should be considered (as it relates to the rubric scoring).
- Final appeal decisions will be made by the building principal.

# Dates to Remember

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Prospective Membership Meeting (WIN Time)

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Prospective Member Portfolio Due to Mrs. O'Shell

Thursday, February 16, 2024

Final date to receive all final decisions about acceptance

Week of February 19th, TBD

Meeting (WIN Time - officers) to prepare Ceremony items

Friday, March 1, 2024

New Membership Dues Owed to Mrs. O'Shell

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Meeting (WIN Time) for Mandatory Ceremony practice

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

7pm Ceremony (HS Auditorium)

April/May

*Post-ceremony email sent to discuss requirements  
to continue membership through 2025*

*Membership Dues (One-Time Only Fee, Non-Refundable)*

*If accepted, all members pay a \$20, one-time fee for chapter dues, no later  
than March 1st.*

*Checks made payable to "Freeport HS Student Activities"*

# FREEPORT NHS - PROSPECTIVE MEMBER PORTFOLIO ITEMS

All portfolio items must be submitted at one time, on time by Thursday, January 11, 2024. All portfolio items must be in a manila folder, in order, not stapled nor hole-punched. On the outside of the manila folder, please include Student Name & Student ID Number.

- Page 1: Cover Page
  - Full Name (no nicknames)
  - Student I.D. Number
  - Current Grade Level
  - FHS National Honors Society PROSPECTIVE Member - 2024
  - Student Signature and Date
- Page 2: Rubric
  - a. Include the rubric (inside this packet)
- Page 3: Extracurricular Activity Check
  - This should be a new page, after the Cover Page.
  - *Please review the minimum requirements on previous pages in this packet.*
  - State your name, include the date and your signature
  - Create a table, including the following information:
    - i. Activities Involved during your high school tenure
    - ii. School Years (or Semesters) Involved
    - iii. What your involvement consisted within this activity (be thorough and very specific)
    - iv. Contact Information for Sponsor/Coach (Phone Number *and* Email)
    - v. State if it is School Related or Non-School Related

*\*\*\*As a reminder, clubs do not count as afterschool activities. Also, family members cannot be the contact person for confirmation.*
- Page 4: Community-Based Service Check
  - After the activity check, provide written documentation *from the sponsor* and contact information, with the sponsor's signature, of your participation in at least 10 hours of community-based, non-compensated service during this academic year. This confirmation sheet(s) must be signed by the sponsor of the community-based service work and dated during *April 2023 -January 2024*.
  - There is no need to attach verification of more than 10 community service hrs.
  - As a reminder, clubs do not count as afterschool activities (exception: certain Key Club activity hours can count if confirmed by Mrs. Haugh no later than January 11th).
  - Family members cannot be the contact person for confirmation.
- Page 5+: Leadership Essays
  - Please start this portion on a separate page, after the Activity Check.
  - *Review minimum requirements on previous pages within this packet*
  - Include your Student ID only, NOT your name
  - Answer each interview question, following these guidelines:
    - Restate the question (do not rewrite the question itself)
    - Number each response (as shown below)
    - Do not include specific names within these responses*
    - Times New Roman, 12-font, double-spaced, 1" margins
    - 150-200 words per response required
    1. List your top 3 leadership experiences and provide some detail about how you showed leadership qualities in these capacities.
    2. Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your goals.
    3. What is the most important quality of a leader? Why?
    4. How do you think service can improve a school or community?
    5. If you had to evaluate someone's character, what criteria would you use? Why?

**\*\*SEE THE RUBRIC PAGE TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO EARN ACCEPTANCE (13+ PTS)**

# FREEMPORT NHS - PROSPECTIVE MEMBER RUBRIC USED FOR SELECTION

STUDENT I.D. \_\_\_\_\_ (*not your name*)

## ACADEMIC CHECK

- 4 points – 3.8 QPA or higher (from all HS marking periods thus far); 3 or more honors-level courses throughout high school tenure
- 3 points – 3.8 QPA or higher (from all HS marking periods thus far); 2 honors-level courses throughout high school tenure
- 2 points – 3.8 QPA or higher (from all HS marking periods thus far); 1 honors-level course throughout high school tenure
- 1 point – 3.8 QPA (from all HS marking periods thus far); 0 honors-level course throughout high school tenure
- 0 points – did not meet QPA standard OR did not participate in honors-level courses

## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE CHECK

ALL ACTIVITIES MUST BE NON-COMPENSATED

- 4 points – at least 3 after school activities (during high school tenure) AND 10+ hours of community service without compensation confirmed (during this past summer thru 1st sem.)
- 3 points – at least 2 after school activities (during high school tenure) AND/OR missing 10+ hours of community service confirmed (during this past summer thru 1st sem.)
- 2 points – at least 1 after school activity (during high school tenure) AND/OR missing 10+ hours of community service confirmed (during this past summer thru 1st sem.)
- 1 point – at least 1 after school activity (during high school tenure) AND missing 10+ hours of community service confirmed (during this past summer thru 1st sem.)
- 0 points – did not meet standard

## LEADERSHIP ESSAYS

- 4 points – provides substance all responses; includes 3+ leadership experiences
- 3 points – provides substance all responses; includes 2+ leadership experiences
- 2 points – provides some substance all responses; includes 1+ leadership experiences
- 1 point – missing or lacking thoughtful substance; does not include leadership experience
- 0 points – did not meet standard

## INTEGRITY CHECK

- 4 points – 9 or less points on attendance scale AND no disciplinary actions (cheating/plagiarism)
- 2 points – 10+ points on attendance scale OR 1 disciplinary actions (cheating/plagiarism)
- 0 points – 11+ points or more on attendance scale OR 2+ disciplinary actions

TOTAL POINTS EARNED \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*MUST MEET 13 POINTS OR MORE FOR ACCEPTANCE.  
EXPLANATIONS TO THOSE APPLICANTS NOT ACCEPTED WILL BE BASED OFF OF THIS RUBRIC SCALE**