

Ponca Chapter of the National Honor Society
Selection Procedures

All sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have been in Ponca Public the equivalent of one semester or more and have a cumulative GPA of 85% or above are eligible for consideration and selection into the Ponca Chapter of the National Honor Society. Eligible students are invited to a meeting to inform them of the purpose and criteria for membership into National Honor Society and the local selection process.

Interested students are asked to complete a Student Activity Information Form. Activity forms can be accessed from <http://www.poncaschool.org>. Forms are located in the National Honor Society link found in the Academics tab. Students have a minimum of seven days to complete this form. Both students and parents are requested to sign this form indicating that the content is both complete and accurate.

All high school teachers are asked to complete a questionnaire regarding each student's leadership, service, and character.

A Faculty Council consisting of five teachers review all Student Activity Information Forms and teacher questionnaires independently before meeting as a group.

The Faculty Council meets and deliberates each candidate's leadership, service, and character, as defined in the National Honor Society Handbook, in order to guarantee that their decisions are based on accurate and complete understanding of all information presented for review. After the discussion, Faculty Council members independently vote for students to be selected into National Honor Society. Candidates receiving three or more votes of the faculty council are invited to be inducted into the Ponca Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Prior to notification of candidates, the advisor reports the results of the Faculty Council's deliberation to the principal for approval.

Candidates are notified by mail regarding their selection or non-selection into National Honor Society.

Student Activity Information Forms are to be completed and turned in to Mrs. Irwin by 4:00 p.m. on the last Monday of February.

4.2.1 Scholarship

The scholarship requirement set by the National Council is based on a student's cumulative GPA. Cumulative GPA refers to the total academic performance as demonstrated by the grades received by the student while in attendance at the school where the chapter is found. For example, in a high school containing grades 9-12, even when students are selected during their junior year, grades from the ninth grade on should be used to compute the scholastic average. The minimum GPA allowable is 85%.

4.2.2 Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. A Faculty Council may wish to interpret leadership in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations; however, it is important to recognize that leadership also exists outside elected positions including effective participation in positions of responsibility in other activities offered on campus such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and chorus, committee chairs in student groups, etc. A Faculty Council may also define leadership in less objective terms. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified.

Chapters can consider the following descriptors as they develop their local definition and standard for leadership. This list is for consideration purposes only and should not be thought of as a checklist for this criterion. The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility
- Conducts business effectively and efficiently
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- Is dependable in any responsibility accepted.

4.2.3 Service

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. In considering service, the contributions a candidate has made to school, classmates, and community as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed. Chapters can consider the following descriptors as they develop their local definition and standard for service. This list is for consideration purposes only and should not be thought of as a checklist for this criterion. The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint

- Participates in some activity outside of school (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged)
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

All chapters are strongly encouraged to develop and use an objective standard for service based on either a specific number of projects or a specific quantity of hours that are determined, as noted by the Faculty Council after consultation with staff and students, to be a fair and reasonable quantity of service to require. All such service references by candidates should include verification by an adult supervisor of the activity under consideration. It is advantageous for both the Faculty Council and for students considering membership to have such an objective standard in place for the chapter.

4.2.4 Character

Character is probably the most difficult criterion to define. The Faculty Council should consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of character. All judgments in this and other selection criteria should be free of speculation and rumor. National Honor Society is a member of the [Character Counts!™ Coalition](#). Through this activity, the Honor Society supports and recommends the use of a multifaceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character. A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Schools are encouraged to take this model, modify it to meet their local needs, and use it frequently in the work of their chapter. Chapters can consider the following descriptors as they develop their local definition and standard for character. This list is for consideration purposes only and should not be thought of as a checklist for this criterion. The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (e.g., cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing an unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.