

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
EDELWEISS CHAPTER BYLAWS

(Ratification Date: 5/10/04)

ARTICLE I --- NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of the chapter of the National Honor Society at Plano Senior High School is Edelweiss. The Edelweiss Chapter was established in December of 1961.

The purpose of the Edelweiss Chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote leadership, and develop character in the students of Plano Senior High School.

ARTICLE II --- MEMBERSHIP

Membership in National Honor Society is both an honor and a commitment. Selection for membership is by the Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected and inducted into National Honor Society, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Membership shall be known as active, graduate, and honorary. Active members shall become graduate members upon graduation. Graduate members shall have no vote in chapter affairs; nor are they within the jurisdiction of the chapter's Faculty Council.

Honorary membership is determined by the Faculty Council to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisors, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no vote in chapter affairs.

A National Honor Society member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter sponsor shall be automatically accepted as a member. Transfer members must meet the standards of the Edelweiss Chapter after one semester in order to retain membership in good standing.

Members who resign or are dismissed are not eligible for renewed membership or its benefits.

ARTICLE III --- SELECTION AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of 3.6 on a 4.0 scale. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. Candidates must complete an application for membership in order to be considered.

The Faculty Council determines the procedure for dismissal in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society. The Faculty Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in Plano ISD.

Members who fall below the National Honor Society standards, which were the basis for their selection, shall be promptly warned in writing and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. A member does not necessarily have to be

warned in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a member does not necessarily have to be warned.

ARTICLE IV --- FACULTY COUNCIL

The Faculty Council shall consist of at least five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The Sponsor shall be a non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council. The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, to consider membership issues, and to respond to possible bylaw amendments.

ARTICLE V --- CHAPTER OFFICERS

The Officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their selection shall be determined by the members of the chapter and approved by the Faculty Council.

ARTICLE VI --- MEETINGS

There shall be a minimum of one general membership meeting a year. An agenda is prepared prior to each meeting. Each meeting should have a distinct purpose, beyond merely fulfilling a meeting attendance requirement.

ARTICLE VII --- ACTIVITIES

The Induction of New Members will occur near the beginning of the fall semester. Annually, National Honor Society will host the Plano Showcase, which raises money to be donated to a charity. The Induction of New Officers will occur toward the end of the school year, although the election of the new Officers will be held towards the middle of the second semester.

The chapter will assure effective communication via the web site, the designated bulletin boards in the Lecture Hall area, the period 2 announcements, and the membership e-mail system.

ARTICLE VIII --- SERVICE PROJECTS

Each project shall fulfill a need within the school or community; be appropriate and educationally defensible; have the approval of the sponsor; and be well organized, and supported by a portion of the membership.

Each member, excepting the Officers, is required to fulfill a minimum amount of service each semester. The required service must include participation in four chapter projects and ten personal hours of community service. Time spent at a chapter-sponsored project could count as personal time or as a chapter project. The personal hours must be for general good in the community. The time contributed by the member must be given during the semester. The Sponsor may make exceptions to this rule. The member is responsible for including appropriate documentation of the projects and service hours on the chapter's point sheet.

>Time spent helping one's friends, relatives, or family is not considered community service unless the time is benefiting the community in general.

>Time spent as an expression of one's religious faith, such as teaching religious class or participating in a worship service, is not classified as community service. On the other hand, supporting a community service initiated by a religious institution, such as feeding the homeless, could count as community service.

>Time required by another school club (Student Congress, etc.) or community organization (Red Cross Youth Leadership Board, etc.) cannot also be counted for National Honor Society Edelweiss Chapter requirements.

>If a member signs up for a project and does not attend, then the member owes an additional project or personal hours for the semester. There are two ways to avoid the penalty. The member could notify the Officer promoting the project at least 3 days in advance to cancel the commitment. Or, the member could find another member to substitute and notify the Officer of the change.

>The four required projects should include at least two different sources of involvement. The ten required personal hours should include at least two different sources of involvement.

>Tutoring other students may be counted for personal hours or three hours of tutoring may be counted as a project. Tutoring should be done in a public place, such as a library, or have an adult present if in a home. The Vice-President Officer has additional guidelines available regarding tutoring.

At a designated time near the end of each semester, members will submit their point sheets. Point sheets may be given to the Recording Secretary before the deadline but may not be accepted after the deadline. Because honorable character is one of the qualities that each National Honor Society member is considered to possess, each member will be trusted to accurately report his or her service. Occasionally, an Officer or the Sponsor will contact a club or organization representative to clarify the service documentation. A member's parent may not sign as documentation for the service.

If a member does not meet the service requirement for a semester, then the following semester the member must complete five projects and 15 personal hours. Inadequate service involvement will result in probation and then dismissal from membership. While at Plano Senior High School, a member may only be on probation once during the four semesters. The member will be dismissed if he or she fails to maintain good standing after a semester of probation. If there are extenuating circumstances that have posed an obstacle to a member completing the required obligations, such as a death in the immediate family or a severe illness, the Faculty Council may use discretion in excusing the member from the requirement or extending the deadline for completion of the requirement.

ARTICLE IX --- FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The annual dues payable from each member are \$10.

Any petty cash expenditure, a purchase not to exceed \$75, must be submitted to and approved by the sponsor in writing in advance of the purchase.

ARTICLE X --- RATIFICATION AND AMENDING THE BYLAWS

The Bylaws of the Edelweiss Chapter must be approved by the Faculty Council. Any proposed amendments must be approved by a majority of the Faculty Council. The amendment change will rewrite that section of the Article of the Bylaw and the ratification date will be revised.