

Pierian Handbook 2025

Welcome to Pierian Chapter of the National Honor Society at Leon High School!

Student Leaders/Cabinet:

President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Volunteer Coordinator
Sergeant-at-Arms
Historian
New Member Coordinator

What is Pierian, National Honor Society?

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. Leon High School has maintained the Pierian Chapter of NHS since 1940.

National Honor Society Tenets

Membership in the National Honor Society is an ongoing process governed by four tenets: scholarship, leadership, character, and service. The faculty advisory council decides all issues related to these tenets. The following traits are among those considered by the council when determining membership eligibility.

Members must consistently demonstrate the following traits:

Integrity: Possess uprightness of character, sound moral principles, absolute truthfulness and honesty.

Dependability: Honor their commitments.

Initiative: Identify needs and take actions to fulfill them.

Tact: Interact others without creating offense.

Justice: Be impartial and consistent when exercising leadership.

Enthusiasm: Display sincere interest and exuberance in the performance of duties.

Decorum: Create a favorable impression in carriage, appearance and personal conduct at all times.

Judgment: Weigh facts and possible solutions to make sound decisions.

Selflessness: Avoid providing for their personal comfort and advancement at the expense of others.

Commitment: Work with others to improve the quality of our school and community.

Qualifications for Membership

Scholarship – requirements to apply

- An unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.70 or cumulative mean GPA (average of the weighted and unweighted) of 3.85
- A minimum of a 3.5 unweighted average the three immediate semesters prior to application.
- An unweighted GPA of at least a 3.50 for the most recent 9-weeks grading period

Scholarship - to maintain membership (different from application requirements above)

- Each 9 weeks: An unweighted 3.5 GPA or mean GPA (average of weighted and unweighted) of 3.65
- Cumulative: An unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.5 or cumulative mean GPA (average of weighted and unweighted) of 3.65.

Report Cards

- Each member must show the designated advisor their Quarter 2 report card at the January meeting and demonstrate adherence to Pierian standards of academic and citizenship excellence. Failure to do so will result in probation or removal from the society.

Service

- Members shall fulfill a minimum of 3 service hours per semester in a manner agreed upon by the sponsor and student leaders. (2 hours tutoring, 1 hour minimum of a Pierian-approved activity by the end of each semester)

Character - all members

- No 1's in citizenship
- No more than one 2 in citizenship for any academic year.
- No in-school or out-of-school suspensions while enrolled at Leon High School.
- Maintain acceptable attendance in school (no more than 40 instructional hours missed per semester)
- **No more than 1 unexcused or 2 excused absences from Pierian meetings and required events**
 - always EMAIL (only) the advisor/sponsor 24 hours in advance of an absence.
 - excused absences include high school sport or organization conflict, illness (must be verified either through attendance records or a doctor's note), death in the family, court appointments, religious holidays, and pre-arranged absences through the attendance office.

Probation

Students who fail to meet the requirements for maintaining membership or fail to uphold the tenets of NHS will be placed on probation for ONE nine-week period. During this time, students must demonstrate that they can meet the expectations of Pierian, National Honor Society to continue

membership. If a student fails to comply or, if they have committed a grievous infraction of school policy, they may be immediately removed from the Society

Service (NHS Constitution Article XIV: Activities)

Section 1. Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects 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; be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

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

Scholarship Opportunities

Seniors: NHS Scholarship Fund

The National Honor Society Scholarship Fund has been established to support and grow the prestigious National Honor Society (NHS) Scholarship program. Available in Spring

Additional Scholarship Opportunities

All NHS members also have access to NHS Scholar Dollars <https://www.nhs.us/students/college-admission-planning/scholarship-search/>, a scholarship search tool powered by College Board. This tool expedites the scholarship search process, offering filtered results based on the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Use the tool at www.nhs.us/scholardollars.

Responsibilities of the Cabinet

President - Presides over meetings, finalizes agendas for the meetings, coordinates the creation of events/committees, functions as an intermediary between the sponsors and the Cabinet, represents chapters at other school meetings as required, takes ultimate student responsibility for all chapter functioning.

Vice President - Operates as de facto president should the president be unable to fulfill his/her duties. Tracks club service hours and member service hours. Follows up with all committees to ensure projects are being completed. Assists the president in his/her duties as-needed.

Recording Secretary - Prepares the structure of agendas for each meeting based on previous meetings, takes accurate minutes of all meetings or ensures that someone will assume this role in his/her absence, and coordinates attendance records for general meetings. In the absence of a Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary shall fulfill those duties as well.

Corresponding Secretary - Communicates with all members through email or Remind, sends reminders about meetings and events, and assists the sponsor with paperwork for the chapter. In the absence of a Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary shall fulfill those duties as well.

Volunteer Coordinator - Finds projects, service opportunities, etc. for the chapter and creates connections with community organizations. Responsible for setting a functional tutoring schedule and communicating this schedule with chapter members. In the absence of a Vice President, the Volunteer Coordinator will ensure service hours are met by members.

Treasurer - Keeps track of all dues, account balances, and records all financial transactions. Assists sponsor with receipts and contacting students who are delinquent in their payments.

Sergeant-at-arms - Opens and closes all meetings with inspirational quotes relevant to chapter members. Ensures that order is maintained and procedures are correctly followed at all meetings. Speaks at induction ceremony and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Historian – Communicates with Yearbook about club photos, oversees publicity of chapter events, maintains the Pierian Instagram account and documents events for Yearbook and social media.

New Member Coordinator – coordinates committee to ensure induction ceremony is properly set up and functional. This includes but is not limited to: transportation of balloons and food, arrangement of reception space, distribution of candles for ceremony, ceremony program, auditorium seating, coordinating Junior volunteers for reception, breaking down and resetting of reception and seating space. The New Member Coordinator will work with the Recording Secretary to ensure accurate attendance is taken at the ceremony.

Any changes to the charter must be reviewed and approved by the Faculty Council at Leon High School.

Faculty Council (NHS Constitution Article VII: Faculty Council)

Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of five (5) voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be an ex officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council. (See commentary in Chapter 3 regarding the functions of the Faculty Council.)

Section 2. The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider nonselection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Section 4. The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with this Constitution and NHS policies.

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