



O'Gorman High School

3201 S. Kiwanis Ave. • Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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[www.sfcss.org](http://www.sfcss.org)

January 5, 2017

Dear O'Gorman High School Student,

O'Gorman High School is proud to be a local Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools. Since our membership began, the faculty has selected eligible juniors and seniors for NHS membership annually. The purpose of this organization, as stated in the NHS constitution, is "to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to develop character in the students of secondary schools."

You have received this invitation based on your demonstrated **scholarship** (a grade point average of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale.) From this point, the decision to pursue membership is yours, and it is never automatic. Enclosed you will find specifics about the selection criteria for the **leadership**, **service**, and **character** components of your application and a description of what you need to provide for your application. A selection committee of faculty members selected by the O'Gorman principal will select students as objectively as possible based on their application information. The following items must be included in your application:

- Completed leadership form with 3 different ongoing activities demonstrating leadership
- Completed service verification form (10 hours required)
- Letter of recommendation (for the character component)

The NHS selection committee reserves the right to examine all matters of student record (including code of conduct and academic integrity issues) in the attempt to maintain the integrity of the National Honor Society and its membership worldwide.

Again, it cannot be overstated that NHS membership is a privilege. Membership is not guaranteed to any student and selection is not automatic. The effort of the O'Gorman High School chapter of the National Honor Society is to maintain the values and principles upon which the NHS was originally established, and will not be compromised.

The application deadline is Wednesday, February 8, 2017. Applications submitted after that date will not be considered for membership.

On behalf of the O'Gorman High School chapter of the National Honor Society, and the entire selection committee, I encourage you to complete the three components of the NHS application with your best effort. I wish all of you well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather V. Nohrenberg".

Heather V. Nohrenberg, O'Gorman National Honor Society Adviser, and Kyle L. Groos, O'Gorman Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kyle L. Groos".

# *O'Gorman National Honor Society*

O'Gorman High School is proud to be a local Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools. Since our membership began, the faculty has selected eligible juniors and seniors for NHS membership annually. The purpose of this organization, as stated in the NHS constitution, Article 1, is "to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to develop character in the students of secondary school."

## Selection Criteria:

### ◇ **Scholarship**

- A. Cumulative 3.6 (on a 4.0 scale) GPA (Weighted or Unweighted) after the fall semester of their fifth or seventh academic semester.
- B. Juniors and seniors are eligible for consideration.
- C. International students must have attended O'Gorman High School for at least one academic year; grades from their previous school will also be included in the average.

### ◇ **Leadership: A student who exercises leadership:**

- A. Is resourceful in proposing new ideas, applying principles and making suggestions.
- B. Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities and/or community activities.
- C. Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.
- D. Successfully holds school or community offices or positions of responsibility.
- E. Exemplifies positive attitude.
- F. Is willing to represent the school or class in inter-class or inter-scholastic activities.
- G. Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.

Student must list 3 different ongoing activities in which they are a current participant and explain in a paragraph how they have displayed the above types of leadership roles while participating in the activity. (form attached)

### ◇ **Service:**

The pillar of service requires more explanation. The National Honor Society at O'Gorman High School seeks to serve the most vulnerable in our society (**the poor, the elderly, the hungry, the sick, etc.**) We also seek to serve our Church in a variety of capacities. Our emphasis is on the Gospel, rather than just volunteering in random ways. We should always ask the question, "Who is benefiting from our service?" Volunteering that assists those who are able to do the work themselves, or who can afford to have it done for them, falls outside of our expectations for service.

Student must return a completed O'Gorman NHS service form (attached). A minimum of 10 hours of service must be served. These are guidelines for the 10 hours:

1. The hours must be served after June 1<sup>st</sup> of the academic year in which you apply.
2. The hours must be earned specifically for NHS—you cannot use hours from confirmation or Theology class.
3. The intent is to provide a variety of service to the community. For that reason, service should not exceed 5 hours at one time.
4. No more than 2 of the hours may be related to extracurricular activities (i.e. coaching a softball team, helping at a camp, teaching dance lessons...).
5. No more than 2 hours may be related to helping at animal shelters.
6. The hours must be unpaid and not worked for a family member.
7. The following are examples of activities that do NOT fulfill the service requirement for O'Gorman NHS:

\*babysitting

\*mowing or blowing snow for people who are capable of doing the work or who can easily pay for it

\*service provided as a requirement of another group (such as TATU, student council, or student ambassadors)

\*helping a teacher in their classroom

\*this list is not all inclusive—if you have questions about service talk to Mrs. Benson or Mrs. Nohrenberg

## CHECK LIST FOR NHS APPLICATION

### SCHOLARSHIP

- ✓ You have completed this by having a cumulative GPA of 3.6.

### LEADERSHIP

- Complete the enclosed Leadership Form. (An example of a completed form is included in this packet.)

### SERVICE

- Complete 10 hours of service, separate from another requirement such as confirmation, Christian Service, or theology. The service should have been performed since June 2016 and it cannot be done for family. (Specific guidelines are included in this packet.)
- Complete Service Verification form(s) for the 10 hours.

### CHARACTER

- Seek a letter of recommendation from an adult (other than a parent, relative, or an O'Gorman faculty or staff member) using the form provided in the packet. Remember to allow ample time for your source to write the recommendation and return it to you.
- Those who have had either a Code of Conduct violation or any incident of theft, cheating, etc., should explain the incident and tell what you learned from the situation. Type your answer on a sheet of paper and include it with the other forms in your application envelope. **\*Any Code of Conduct infractions or failure to disclose any infractions may deny the student an opportunity to be inducted into National Honor Society.\***

After completing the above, place all of your forms in a LARGE manila envelope with your name on the outside, and hand your envelope directly to Mrs. Heather Nohrenberg (Room O-203). Applications left on Mrs. Nohrenberg's desk or turned in anywhere other than directly to her will not be accepted.

**\*\*If you have questions about any of the information above, talk to Mrs. Nohrenberg or Mrs. Benson\*\***

**DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017, 3:30 PM**

**National Honor Society  
O’Gorman High School  
Leadership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 different ongoing activities in which you are currently participating (they may be school, church, or community activities.) In the space provided, write a paragraph explaining how you have demonstrated leadership while participating in the activity. Below are general examples of what constitutes leadership.

**Leadership: A student who exercises leadership:**

- A. Is resourceful in proposing new ideas, applying principles and making suggestions.
- B. Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities and/or community activities.
- C. Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.
- D. Successfully holds school or community offices or positions of responsibility.
- E. Exemplifies positive attitude.
- F. Is willing to represent the school or class in inter-class or inter-scholastic activities.
- G. Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.

Sample Paragraph:

1. Activity Sample Activity O’G Basketball

(Sample Paragraph)

I often demonstrate leadership through my role on the basketball team. Being an upperclassman, I am looked up to by the underclassmen and need to lead by example. Being a good sport is important to not only my character, but also the image of the school as well. It isn’t always easy to “play fair” when your opponent may not be, but I aspire to be a good leader for my team by showing them all that sportsmanship matters.

**COMPLETE YOUR PARAGRAPHS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

**ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET!**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SERVICE VERIFICATION FORM:** *In consideration of the opportunity for the student listed below to participate in the National Honor Society service program and fully recognizing that such an undertaking involves an element of risk, I assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation and do hereby release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless O’Gorman High School, its agents, employees, organizers and sponsors. \*Parents must sign the verification form prior to the beginning of any service work. \**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*\*Signature of Parent/Guardian*

*\*Parents must also initial the verification form prior to the beginning of any service work.*

<i>Parent Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Supervisor Signature – CANNOT BE SIGNED BY PARENT</i>	<i>Supervisor’s Phone #</i>

I have fulfilled the above National Honor Society Service hours to the best of my ability and in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the NHS requirement packet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY  
O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL  
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of person writing the recommendation (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to the student** \_\_\_\_\_

This recommendation should address the applicant's integrity, sense of responsibility, behavior, reliability, etc. The recommendation may be written below, or on a separate sheet of paper. Please sign your recommendation, enclose it in a sealed envelope, and give it to the student.