

NHS APPLICANTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What if I'm absent the day the application is due?

The deadline is set in stone. Absent or not, the application is due on the due date.

2. What if I can't get one of my Activity Evaluation forms back before the application deadline?

The deadline must be met. Please take care of evaluations as soon as possible and make sure evaluators know your due date.

3. Will I be admitted to NHS if I have evidence of involvement for each section?

Admission is based on strong credentials in each of the areas. Not all activities require the same level of participation or commitment. Admission is granted at the discretion of the Faculty Selection Committee. In-School Activity, Leadership, and Community Service are all requirements for selection. A particularly strong section in one domain will not compensate for a weak section in another domain..

4. As a junior, I don't think I meet all the requirements for membership this year. Can I reapply next year?

As long as you keep up your grades, you will be invited to apply again as a senior. Every year the NHS inducts both juniors and seniors in the fall.

5. Can I count my Choir/Concert Band class for Section 1 - Service to School?

Any class you take for CB East academic credit may not be counted as service to school or service to community. Even the hours after school and the concerts are requirements. However, there are some activities that would count since they are not a part of a school class. These may include: Marching Band, Pit Orchestra, Men's and Women's Choir, Select Choir, and String Ensemble.

6. I participated in Mini-THON at East. Can I count that for my application?

Only the committee chairs, not participants, for Mini-THON will be able to include that in their application under the In-School Activity portion. You will need to ask your advisor to fill out the leadership form if applicable.

7. How does the Committee determine whether I meet the requirement for "good character"?

Good character is one of the four tenets of National Honor Society members. The Committee gauges this by checking the discipline record of each applicant. Any record of cheating, plagiarism, intentional dishonesty, or repeated infractions of school policy within the past 12 months would disqualify a student from membership in NHS. This applies to

criminal offenses in the community as well. Additionally, any dishonesty in completing this application would disqualify a student from membership as well. Students who have committed infractions greater than 12 months prior to application may complete an additional form discussing this infraction. In addition, teachers, coaches, and administrators are asked to comment on character of applicants.

8. Is it possible to demonstrate leadership without an elected or appointed position?

While elected or appointed leadership is the ideal, in some cases students without leadership titles have demonstrated outstanding leadership in an organization. For instance, a student may have taken the initiative to organize and run a school-wide fundraiser as a member of a service club. This demonstrates significant organization, planning, management of other students, and follow-through which the FSC considers essential to demonstrate exceptional leadership. If applicable to you, you may wish to stress the need for this additional information to your advisor, so they may include it on the leadership form.

9. I volunteer to serve as a peer tutor. Does that count as leadership?

Leadership generally requires evidence of the creation, management, or implementation of a project. Working as a tutor is an act of community service but is generally not leadership.

10. I just joined a new club this year. Can I count it?

Significant participation in the activity in question must have occurred PRIOR to submission of your application for that activity to count for membership purposes. For example, if you PLAN to be on the baseball team in the spring or to lead a Youth Group class in January, this does not count as an activity you have completed.

11. How does the Committee define “Service to Community”?

Service to Community is seen as volunteering in meaningful activities that serve the needs of the general community. The general community is seen as existing beyond family and school, and represents not-for-profit organizations. For example, a student who volunteers to help address envelopes at a realtor’s office is not serving the needs of the larger community, but benefiting a small group of for-profit individuals. There are many not-for-profit organizations in the Central Bucks community that would benefit greatly from having our students volunteer to help them. Of course, any activity for which you receive compensation will not be considered under this section.

12. I am a member of Key Club. Where should I list this on my application?

Key Club should be listed under In-School Activity ONLY. It is a CB East Club and therefore is considered In-School Activity. You will need your advisor to fill out an In-School Activity form. Volunteer hours through Key Club cannot count towards your community service requirement.

13. I cleaned out my closets and donated the contents to a charitable organization. Can this count as “Service to Community”?

The Faculty Selection Committee believes that community service should be an ongoing, participatory activity. Cleaning out one’s closet and donating clothes and toys is a charitable activity, but it does not fit the description of ongoing, participatory involvement.

14. I participated in the Relay for Life. Can I count the full 24 hours I was at the track?

You may count the time spent gathering donations and actually walking/running around the track. For most students, this comes to 2 hours. You may not count 24 hours for Service to Community.

This also applies to other events in which you may participate like charity music performances or runs. While a runner or musician may spend hours preparing for these events, for our purposes only your time actually completing the final task will count as service. Participating in a charity concert will only earn you the hours of the concert, not the hours required to prepare or rehearse for the concert.

15. Can I get my application packet back once it is evaluated by the Faculty Selection Committee?

We are unable to return any information you provide in your application packet. Many advisors and coaches agree to submit forms on condition of anonymity. It would be disingenuous of us to violate their trust and return the sealed contents to you. Please be sure to make copies of any special awards or supplemental materials you are including. Do not provide the originals.

16. Once I become a member, do I always remain a member of the NHS?

In order to receive credit for membership and to stay in good standing, members must adhere to all CB rules and local laws, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.7, perform a minimum of 20 hours of community service at a minimum of 4 NHS sponsored events and pay annual dues each year of membership.