**NHS Script**

**for the Traditional Induction Ceremony**

New members are inducted by the chapter president, the principal, the chapter adviser, and the four criteria presenters who represent scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Seven **chairs** are needed for these presenters along with one for each inductee (if they are to be seated on the stage).

A **table** on the stage is set with **four empty candle holders** and **one central lit candle**.

While **music** is played, “Scholarship” enters with an unlit candle and takes a place on the stage followed by the three remaining criteria presenters, “Service,” “Leadership,” and “Character.” The chapter president and principal arrive on the stage, followed by the inductees (either on the stage or in the first rows of the audience), who stop at their chairs and remain standing until all are in position.

***President*:** “Please be seated. [*Insert Principal’s name\**], [*Insert Adviser’s name*], members of the faculty, parents, and students: Welcome to the [*Insert date. Ex. “2016”*] National Honor Society induction ceremony. We are gathered here to formally recognize those students who have been selected by the faculty of our school for successfully completing their candidacy and are being inducted as new members of our NHS chapter. For current members and those former members who may be among our guests, we hope this will serve to remind you of the standards of excellence you too are charged with maintaining as members of the nation’s oldest, largest, and most prestigious student recognition program.

Our chapter is proud to have been inducting new members since [*insert year when chapter was established*] and with today’s ceremony indicates the continuing emphasis on excellence that we represent for our school and community. Throughout the year, members of our chapter serve as role models for other students. In addition to the strong academic records which established the eligibility for membership, our chapter members are leaders in many student organizations and we serve our school and community through many activities including [*insert names and summaries of 2 or 3 significant chapter service project activities completed within the last year*]. We are proud of this record of accomplishment and welcome these new members who bring new energy in support of our continuing work as NHS members.

It is at this time that we proclaim to all in attendance, that membership in the [*Insert* *school’s chapter name*] Chapter of the National Honor Society has been earned by these candidates through the effective demonstration of the four qualities that serve as standards for the Society. Members of the chapter will now review these qualities for the candidates. (*pause*) We begin with “Scholarship”.”

[***President*** *steps back from the lectern to allow “****Scholarship****” to speak, but remains standing behind and to the side of the lectern.]*

***Scholarship*:** [*steps forward, lights the candle from the lit candle on the table and places it in the first holder of the candelabra*]

“Scholarship denotes a commitment to learning. A student is willing to spend hours in reading and study, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. We should continue to learn even when formal education has ended, for human education ends only with the end of life. Knowledge is one great element in life, which leads to the highest success, and it can be acquired in only one way—through diligence and effort. Learning furnishes the lamp by which we read the past, the torch guiding us to understand the present, and the light that illuminates the future. Candidates have the charge to continually expand their world through the opportunities inherent in scholarship.” [*Insert favorite quotation on “Scholarship” here if additional text is needed*.\*\*]

[***Scholarship*** *returns to be seated, at which point* ***President*** *steps forward to introduce “Service.”]*

***President***: “Service.”

***Service***: [*steps forward, lights the candle from the lit candle on the table and places it in the next holder of the candelabra*.]

“My office is service. Service can be established in the routine of the day’s work where many opportunities arise to help others both at school and in the community. A willingness to work for the benefit of those in need, without monetary compensation or public recognition, is the quality we seek in our membership and promote for the entire student body. We are committed to volunteering our time and talents to the creation of a better tomorrow.” [*Insert favorite quotation on “Service” here*.]

[***Service*** *returns to be seated, at which point* ***President*** *steps forward to introduce “Leadership.”]*

***President***: “Leadership.”

***Leadership***: [*steps forward, lights the candle from the lit candle on the table and places it in the next holder of the candelabra*.]

“Leadership should exert a wholesome influence on the school. In taking initiative in the classroom and in school activities, the real leader strives to train and aid others to reach their common goals of success. The price of leadership is sacrifice—the willingness to yield one’s personal interests for the interests of others. A leader has self‑confidence and will go forward when others hesitate. No matter what power and resources may exist in a school, community, or nation, they are ineffectual without the guidance of a wise leader. Leadership is always needed; thus, to lead is a meaningful and substantive charge to each of our members.” [*Insert favorite quotation on “Leadership” here*.]

[***Leadership*** *returns to be seated, at which point* ***President*** *steps forward to introduce “Character.”]*

***President***: “Character.”

***Character***: [*steps forward, lights the candle from the lit candle on the table and places it in the next holder of the candelabra*.]

“Character is the force within the individual that distinguishes each person from others. It creates for each of us our individuality, our goodness. It is that without which no one can respect oneself, nor hope to attain the respect of others. It is this force of character that guides one through life and, once developed, grows steadily within. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product of constant thought and action, the daily striving to make the right choice. The problem of character is the problem of self‑control. We must be in reality what we wish to appear to others—to be rather than to seem. By demonstrating such qualities as respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship, we may hope to prove by example that we value character.” [*Insert favorite quotation on “Character” here*.]

[***Character*** *returns to be seated, at which point* ***President*** *steps forward and continues*.]

***President***: “At this time, will the new inductees please rise, raise your right hand, and repeat the pledge. The audience can follow the text as printed in your program. [*Pause for candidates to stand, and then lead the recitation of the pledge*]. Please join me in reciting the pledge:” [Other pledges are available in the Adviser Resource Center.]

I pledge to uphold [*pause*]

The high purposes of the National Honor Society

To which I have been selected;

I will be true to the principles for which it stands;

And will maintain and encourage

The high standards

Of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

***President***: “Thank you. You may be seated. [*Pause*.] And now, as your name is called, please step forward onto the stage to receive your token(s) of membership and sign the official chapter registry.”

*After the completion of the new-member presentation, the president returns to the lectern:*

***President***. “And now, please welcome our principal, [*insert full name*] who will offer congratulatory remarks to the new members.”

*Following the principal’s remarks, the president returns to the podium for closing remarks:*

***President***: “I’d like to thank our adviser(s), [*insert adviser(s) name*] and the members of the induction ceremony committee [*insert names*] for their hard work in organizing this year’s induction ceremony. Please join me in thanking them with a round of applause.” [*Lead applause*].

***President*** *continues*: “Thank you all for attending our NHS induction ceremony. In just a moment, the new inductees will recess, after which you are all invited to join us in the cafeteria [*or other location*] for a reception in their honor. But before doing so, please join me once again in applauding all of our new Honor Society members. [*Lead applause*.] Thank you. And now, will everyone please stand as our newest members of the National Honor Society recess.”

*Music begins. New members are escorted off the stage by the president and four criteria presenters and led to the reception area with the chapter adviser and principal taking up the end of the line.*

**Notes for Ceremony planners**

Supplies needed:

* Seven chairs for presenters
* Additional chairs for inductees if seated on stage (Alternative: Reserve front row seats with signs or ribbons designating seats for new inductees)
* Table with tablecloth draped over the top
* Five candle holders and candles; only one is lit at the beginning of the ceremony
* Matches or lighter (to light the first candle) or flameless candles
* Lectern
* Script
* Other supplies as dictated by local practice or tradition including:
  + Chapter Register (for new member sign-in)
  + Pins, membership cards or certificates (depending on local practice and tradition)
  + Printed programs (or copies of the pledge for recitation by new inductees)

Additional planning tips are found in the *National Handbook* chapter on induction ceremonies.

\*If additional dignitaries or special guests have been invited and are present (for example, the superintendent or members of the Board of Education), consider recognizing them among the first names in this list as well.

\*\*In addition to the many sources for quotations that one can find online, the national office offers two books for our members: *Well Said* and *The Induction Ceremony Guide*, available from [the NHS Store](https://store.nhs.us/). These include quotations, many of which have been submitted by chapter members and advisers through the years.

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