

National Junior Honor Society ByLaws Larkspur Middle School – Lion Chapter Virginia Beach, VA

Article I

Name and Purpose

The name of this chapter shall be the Larkspur Middle School National Junior Honor Society Lion Chapter. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship.

Article II

Membership

Section 1 – Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, service, and citizenship. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2 – The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS advisors, or adults in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 3 – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony in the spring of each school year.

Section 4 – A National Junior Honor Society member who transfers from another school and presents a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to the school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the Lion Chapter. Transfer members must meet the Lion Chapter's standards within one semester.

Section 5 – Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Article III

Selection of Members

Section 1 – To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a student in the seventh or eighth grade at Larkspur Middle School (LKMS).

Section 2 – Candidates must have a combined scholastic average of all subjects from the beginning of middle school of at least 3.20 (3.5 beginning with the selection process during the 2007 – 2008 school year). A list will be compiled of academically qualified students. All faculty will be asked to review this list and recommend students who they feel demonstrate leadership, character, citizenship, and/or community service. The recommended candidates will be *invited to complete an interest survey*. Surveys will then be anonymously evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship by the faculty council. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by majority vote of the faculty council.

Section 3 – Students must be good citizens. Any student who has ever been in or out of school suspension or has been referred to the Office of Student Leadership will NOT be invited to be a member unless there is a unanimous vote of the faculty council.

Section 4 – Students not accepted into membership will have three weeks after the announcement of new inductees to ask for a review to determine if they are eligible for membership according to these bylaws. The appeal must be made in writing and will be considered by the faculty council.

Section 4 – A description of this selection procedure shall be published on the LKMS website, which is available to students and parents in the school.

Article IV

Dismissal

Section 1 – The procedure for dismissal shall be determined by the faculty council in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2 – Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency in the following reporting period. In the case of flagrant violations of school rules or civil laws, a member does not necessarily have to be warned; a member who is suspended is automatically dismissed unless overruled by a unanimous vote of the faculty council.

Section 3 – The faculty council shall determine when an individual has exceeded two warnings, and he/she shall be dismissed.

Article V

Chapter Officers

Section 1 –The chapter shall include the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Historian. The President will preside over all meetings. The Vice-President will assume the role of the President if necessary and will co-chair committees. The Secretary will take notes at all meetings and perform all official correspondence. The Historian will maintain a history book documenting chapter activities and projects for the year.

Section 2 – The officers shall be elected from the rising eighth graders. The officers' election shall be determined by votes from the members of the chapter. Election of the following school year's officers shall be held in the late spring after their induction.

Section 3 – Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of all members. The chapter advisor shall count votes.

Article VI

Executive Committee & Advisor

Section 1 – The executive committee shall consist of the chapter advisor and the chapter officers.

Section 2 – The chapter advisor shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings and make recommendations to the chapter.

Section 3 – The chapter advisor shall have the responsibility of ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

Section 4 – The chapter advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Sections 5 – The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 6 - The chapter advisor shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VII

Faculty Council

Section 1 - The Faculty Council shall consist of five 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.

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 the national guidelines.

Article VIII

Meetings

Section 1 – Chapter meetings will be held monthly on Tuesday afternoons from 3:50pm to 5:15pm. Executive Council meetings will be held on Monday mornings before meetings from 8:45am to 9:00am.

Section 2 – Special meetings approved by the chapter advisor may be called by the president, and the presiding vice president or committee chairs may call committee meetings approved by the chapter advisor.

Article IX

Activities

Section 1 – Lion Chapter shall determine two 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 faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well planned, organized and executed.

Section 4 – Activities and projects shall be publicized in a positive manner.

Section 5 – Lion Chapter members shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in service projects which reflect their particular talents and interests.

Section 6 – Each member is responsible for a minimum of 5 service hours per semester; an adult must sign notice of the service hours.

Sections 7 – Any member not earning these hours will be subject to dismissal.

Article X

Dues

Section 1 – Dues shall be \$10.00 per member.

Section 2 – Dues shall be payable to LKMS upon induction into the NJHS.

Article XI

Veto

The Principal has final say over all NJHS activities and has the right to veto any action taken by the members, Executive Committee, or Faculty Advisor.

Article XII

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the faculty council.