

# **New York State Science Honor Society Ron Reed Cortland Chapter Constitution**

## **Article I**

**Section 1.** The name of this Society shall be the Cortland Chapter of the New York State Science Honor Society (NYSSHS)

## **Article II: The purpose of this society shall be to:**

**Section 1.** Provide recognition of achievement in the study and practice of science at all levels.

**Section 2.** Enhance knowledge and understanding of science among all levels of science students, by promoting scholarship and enjoyment through activities at various appropriate levels.

**Section 3.** Create enthusiasm for scholarship, strengthen skills, promote leadership and develop character.

**Section 4.** Foster collegiality, as well as develop maturity and independence, by providing students the opportunity to come together with common purposes: a commitment to service and dedication to excellence.

**Section 5.** Stimulate the desire to render service within the science department, school and community.

**Section 6.** Encourage students to seek science, and technology-related careers.

**Section 7.** Encourage talented science students to help other students develop an interest and achievement in science.

## **ARTICLE III THE CHAPTER ADVISER**

**Section 1.** The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, daily supervision of the chapter, and act as a liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community. There may be multiple chapter advisers.

**Section 2.** The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser shall send an annual report to the State office.

**Section 3.** The chapter adviser shall frequently review each member for compliance with SNHS standards, obligations, and ideals.

**Section 4.** The chapter adviser shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

## **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student.

**Section 2.** A member must have completed three semesters of Regents Level or Above Science

**Section 3.** A member must have and maintain a weighted average of 85% in Science, unweighted average of 75% in mathematics, and overall unweighted average of 80%

**Section 4.** A member must be enrolled in a science class.

**Section 5.** A member must maintain a 85% weighted average in each science course

**Section 6.** A member must maintain behavior that is acceptable to the guidelines as outlined by the school's code of conduct in the student handbook of their educational institution.

**Section 7.** A faculty council shall be formed. This council shall consist of three voting science faculty members who volunteer on an annual basis. The chapter advisor shall be a nonvoting member of this council.

**Section 8.** The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may volunteer to consecutive terms.

**Section 9.** The faculty Council shall be consulted at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter and select members.

**Section 10.** The Faculty Council will approve when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, disciplining and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with the national guidelines.

**Section 11.** Any active member who falls below the standard of 85% in Science or who falls below a 80% unweighted average in all courses shall be placed on probation for the interim of one grading period. The member will then be given one grading period to correct the deficiency. If the standards fail to be met, the student shall be dropped from membership in the Science Honor Society.

#### **ARTICLE V SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** Candidates may be selected in any manner deemed reasonable and fair by the principal of the school.

**Section 2.** Candidates may become members based on their science performance and GPA as outlined in Article II. Prospective candidates must then petition for membership in the Science Honor Society by completing the proper form and returning it to the advisor.

**Section 3.** Candidates may only be accepted upon adherence to the policies of membership outlined Article IV, Sections 1 through 11 of this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE VI DISMISSAL**

**Section 1.** A student may be dismissed if he/she violates the standards, obligations, or ideals of the Science Honor Society. This includes violation of grade or behavioral requirements as outlined in Article IV, Sections 1 through 11.

**Section 2.** A member may be dismissed if he/she violates the standards, obligations, or ideals of the Science Honor Society as well as the school's code of conduct as outlined in the student handbook.

**Section 3.** Dismissal is approved and carried out by the chapter advisor under the auspices of the Faculty Council.

**Section 4.** Upon dismissal, the student is divested of all benefits of membership.

**Section 5.** A student may appeal dismissal by submitting a written request to the principal of their school. This request is then forwarded to the Faculty Council for action.

#### **ARTICLE VII CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by the members of their chapter and be described in the chapter bylaws.

**Section 2.** The chapter shall consist of the following officers, a president, a treasurer, a secretary, a lab assistant officer, and a service project officer. All must be members of the Science National Honor Society. See the Leadership positions sheet for details on the specifics of the individual roles.

**Section 3.** It shall be the duty of the president to preside over all the meetings of this chapter.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall fill the chair of the president in his/her absence.

**Section 5.** The chapter treasurer shall receive and distribute all funds of the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of the receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

**Section 6.** The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of the meeting, a record of all business and all records on file. The chapter secretary shall also be responsible for publicizing the events of the chapter and keeping its members informed of those events. The secretary will be responsible for recording the number of events each member has completed. Immediately following an election, the secretary must also submit to the State secretary of the Science National Honor Society a list of the names of those elected to membership.

**Section 7.** The local chapter officers shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter as overseen by the chapter adviser. All officers shall review Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised and hence, conduct the meetings in a coherent policy. The officers shall meet regularly, make recommendations to the chapter, and perform all duties named in the chapter bylaws.

**Section 8.** Chapter officers shall fulfill all duties named in this Constitution and the local chapter bylaws.

**Section 9.** The officers shall abide by this Constitution, the SHS standards, obligations, and ideals.

**Section 10.** A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect any chapter officer.

**Section 11.** The executive committee shall have general charge over the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any member of the executive committee may be subject to the review of the chapter.

**Section 12.** The officers of the chapter shall determine the exact amount of the local dues (generally \$5.00).

## **ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the officers and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

**Section 2.** The regularity of the meetings shall be once per month.

**Section 3.** Members are required to meet at least six times a year.

**Section 4.** The president may call emergency meetings, if approved by the officers and the club advisor.

**Section 5.** The officers of this chapter shall be elected in April and assume responsibilities in May.

## **ARTICLE IX CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall determine two projects per year. One project must benefit the school in some way and must have a science aspect to it. The other project can be the same or can be a fundraising project for the organization.

**Section 2.** All members shall participate in at least one or more of the chapter's projects per year.

**Section 3.** The purpose of the projects shall be to encourage scientific and intellectual thought, to further the knowledge of science in school and community, and to volunteer in the surrounding community.

**Section 5.** Members must complete twelve hours of service per school year to keep their membership. Please refer to the service project sheet and log for details.

**Section 6.** Chapters shall also attempt to bring speakers from the scientific community into the school to the extent to which their resources and location allow.

## **ARTICLE IX CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

In Science Honor Society, we will use a points system to track your progress of requirements. For Juniors, in order to maintain your membership for next year, you must complete at least 28 points of approved work.

For Seniors, in order to earn your cord and stickers for graduation, you must complete at least 28 points of approved work (15 for Seniors incoming in the Fall)

For Seniors, you must complete at least 55 points of approved work to apply for Spring Scholarships.

### Ways to Earn Points:

**Lab Assistant/Teacher Assistant** (1 point/hour of approved work)

You will be assigned to a teacher by the end of September. You will first plan with the teacher to determine your volunteer schedule and then submit the plan to Mr. Canestaro for approval. Depending on what you and your teacher decide upon, your role could include:

- The set-up/take down of labs in the class
- Helping students in class with work
- Acting as a teacher's assistant in the class in any capacity
- Teaching lessons
- Other possible roles could also be explored!

Note: You do not have to do every role above, you will decide what works best for you and your assigned teacher once you meet and get started. As this is the Ron Reed Chapter of the Science Honor Society, every member is obligated to come into their class with a positive attitude and attempt to instill the wonder of science and joy of learning with their class. While this will not be possible to do for every person, out of respect for Mr. Reed, please keep this in the back of your mind every day.

**Research Project** (1 point per hour of approved work. 10 points for any papers published or entries into competitions)

You can undertake an independent research project. The project must culminate in either the submission of research into a science fair (regional or national) or the publication of research in a local journal (such as the Finger Lakes Journal of Secondary Science), . If you decide to do this, you must have a research proposal approved by Mr. Canestaro by October 1st. Please also understand that if you decide this option and fail to culminate your work, you will not full-fill the service requirement of SHS and your involvement in the organization will be jeopardized.

**Service Outside the School** (1 point per hour of work. Cap of 5 points per year)

Under special circumstances, service outside the school will count towards service hours. These must have prior approval by Mr. Canestaro and will be considered on a case by case basis. Some possible examples include volunteer work at a hospital, acting as a lab assistant at a research facility or university, peer tutoring at the elementary or secondary level, or volunteering for a recycling company and/or sustainable energy systems company.

**Service Project** (5 points for each completed project, 1 point per hour of work on project)

In addition to the individual service requirement described above, you must participate in at least one group service project each year. Typically, we will do two service projects,

one in the fall and one in the spring. Examples include painting projects, recycling projects, attending the youth climate summit, and many more to be determined by the group. You may complete multiple service projects if desired, with no cap on points.

**Science Honor Society Meeting Attendance** (1 point per meeting)

Please sign in as that will be the only way we can document points

**Field Trip Participation** (2 points per trip)

We will try to take two trips each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. They are completely dependent on the desires of the group and availability.

**Other Projects/Activities** (point value tbd)

On a case by case basis, other activities will count towards points. Examples include science tutoring, outreach to elementary schools, and participation in science clubs outside of SHS. These must have prior approval by Mr. C before they will be considered.

