

National Honor Society Admission Essay

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I am qualified to be a member of National Honors Society based on the aspects of my character, my leadership skills, and service initiatives.

I am a person of character because I am a teacher and camp counselor. I volunteer to teach religious education, and I work at a theatre camp during the summer. I act as a role model by teaching my students to be kind, and to love and forgive. I go above and beyond what is expected of me because I am a full International Baccalaureate candidate, while also balancing various drama programs, playing piano and singing, exercising, and serving as a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society.

In terms of leadership, I've served as Vice President of the class of 2017 since Fall of 2013. I was also Vice President of NJHS during the 2012-2013 school year. During my terms of service, I've assisted in publicizing and organizing fundraising events such as "Shop for a Cause" at Macy's and class apparel sales. I've also organized team activities like float building, and window painting for homecoming.

I personally give back to the community by playing the piano and singing at assisted living homes during the holidays. I volunteer at school events as often as possible, and organize a charity bake sale called "Home baked for Hunger" each May. Lastly, I've served at the NENY food bank and also fundraised for HOPE and BEST at Saratoga Racetrack.

From my experiences, I've learned about myself and others. I've found that leadership is a team effort where you must work with and listen to your peers to create solutions. I've also learned that giving back is important because it's our duty to help those less fortunate. Finally, I've learned that it's important to always keep a positive attitude, and stay dedicated to all that you do.

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I have taken many leadership roles in the past that have been beneficial to both myself and the community I took this role in. Although all of these have been important, none compare to the lacrosse clinic I helped to organize in Mohonasen. Two years ago I came into contact with the athletic director at Mohonasen High School. He was interested in starting a youth lacrosse program. The majority of other schools had recently developed some form of lacrosse but Mohonasen had not yet. Since I had been playing lacrosse for many years and knew the athletic director personally, I was invited to come and run the clinic. I had previously helped out at clinics here in Ballston Spa but had never had the opportunity to take charge and run one myself. One the first day, the turnout was larger than expected. Although many parents had been kind enough to volunteer, very few had experience with the game. Since the clinic was mostly meant to get younger children interested in the game, it was difficult to find drills that were easy to learn but would keep the kids invested. At the end of the four-day clinic, there were many kids interested in playing the following year. I believe that bringing youth lacrosse to Mohonasen was extremely beneficial to both the children and a community as a whole. Through lacrosse, these kids will be able to learn leadership, respect, and the ability to work as a team, all of which are important life skills. Over the course of this camp I was fortunate enough to lead both children and adults, an experience that is much different than leading other high school students in a class event. Overall, helping at this clinic allowed the growth of the community and my character.

During high school I have held leadership positions both in school clubs and outside activities. Last year, I was president of Art Club and this year I am treasurer. Being president of Art Club means keeping in touch with Mr Belknap to inform members on meeting dates and helping with projects. Being president of art club gave me a feeling of responsibility over something that I enjoy. I was vice-president of Venture Crew 13 (a coed branch of Boy Scouts) last year. As vice-president I acted as communication leadership between the adult leader and the members. At the time there was no communication system set up, and I was able to set that up and they still use it today. I realized that the crew became inactive due to a lack of communication, which I helped solve.

I've been a member of the Girl Scouts since I was in 1st grade. Now, I am working on my Gold Award, which is the highest award you can get as a Girl Scout. Throughout all the years as a Girl Scout I have mentored the younger girls, helping them get their badges, and helping them get their Bronze and Silver awards, which is how you get to Gold award.

For my Gold award, I am giving back to the community by creating a program that provides free piano lessons to children in Amsterdam who are not able to afford them. I expect to personally teach a minimum of 10 children and also recruit others to teach and carry on this project for many years after I'm done. Through working on this project I have learned that it is important to give back to people who don't have the privileges that I have. And I get to share my love of music.

I am honored to be among the students who are being considered for National Honor Society. I believe I embody most, if not all, of the qualities desired to belong to this prestigious group. However, I know I am not perfect but I work hard to be the best me I can be. I have achieved high academic grades throughout high school and have taken many advanced courses. Not only do I focus on my grades, I try to be a positive role model in school. For example, I have been president of the Environmental Club for the past two years. As I have met new people and participated in activities where I am the leader, I make sure that I work with my peers and listen to their ideas to join together in creating the best plan of action. Another leadership role I have had is leading the youth group at my church for the past 6 years, not only in our numerous service projects but on our faith journey as well. The past 3 years I have led 10 of my peers on a weekend long Christian youth conference in Syracuse. Through this amazing experience I have learned not only to accept myself but also others. I pride myself on helping others through rough times. I realize everyone has their own struggles and try my best to help and make their life better. I sponsor a young girl from Guatemala through Compassion International both financially and by writing to her and giving her hope. Cicely has opened up a whole new world to me and I am so thankful for what I have been given in my life. I believe that if I am accepted into the National Honor Society, I will bring a positive attitude and help my peers be their best while allowing them to also help me. I promise to be the best me and act with honesty, dignity and integrity.

I meet the standards of character, leadership and service set by the National Honor Society.

When I attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth leadership seminar (HOBY) in my sophomore year it changed my view of leadership and what it means to be a leader providing service to the community. HOBY is a three-day experience for students around the country (2 students per school). It taught me that being a leader and role model to others is a big responsibility. Being a leader means knowing when to step back and let others be in control and when to step forward and take charge. A leader does what they believe is best for the group, rather than what is best for their own personal gain.

The first chance to demonstrate the skills I learned at HOBY came during the summer of 2015 when I was the junior coach for Pop Warner cheerleaders aged 9-12. I have cheered since I was 7 years old and have always had a passion for the feeling of teamwork and work ethic it inspires in athletes. As a junior coach I had a responsibility to instill these feelings in the girls and serve as a role model as well as skill developer. Although the majority of Pop Warner practices occurred after my own Varsity practice and I was tired I always gave it my all to the girls. It is important to me that I provide the girls with all I can to help them succeed in the future. The girls' experiences also helped me to grow and develop.

This year I have been able to apply these skills as an NCBI leader. This has given me the opportunity to spread awareness of the importance of diversity and influence my peers at Ballston Spa and other schools.