



WINTER 2016 ■ VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

NEHS NEWS

Little Kids Can Make a BIG Difference Get Your Chapter Involved with Our Global Citizenship Initiative

Every day, National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) chapters do amazing work not only at their schools, but throughout their hometowns. With more than 25,000 active chapters, it is estimated that Honor Society members perform millions of hours of service each year. We know our youngest achievers in the National Elementary Honor Society also have incredible capacity to make a difference in their communities—both for their fellow students and beyond.

It is with this extraordinary potential in mind that the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Student Leadership Advisory Committee selected **global citizenship** as its first-ever initiative combining the forces of NEHS with NHS, NJHS, and the National Association of Student Councils. Over the next two years, we're inviting all of our chapters and student councils to participate in projects, activities, and events that contribute to being a positive global citizen.

We Are All Connected

What does global citizenship mean? For purposes of this initiative it

is defined as “a demonstrated awareness of, concern for, and involvement in the well-being and success of others beyond one’s immediate community, extending into the nation and the world.”

That’s certainly a value educators try to instill in their students, particularly at a young age. But to make this message stick, we need to do more than talk—we need to help kids think globally and act locally.

There are five major strands woven into the global citizenship initiative, which we believe get to the heart of our students’ strengths and have the power to produce meaningful change in the actions, behaviors, and knowledge of their schools and communities. The five strands, along with suggestions for related activities or projects, are as follows:

- **Equity:** Projects that engage or improve relations with varied and underserved populations
Examples: Special Olympics,



No Name Calling Week, Best Buddies, etc.

- **Civic Engagement:** Projects that raise awareness or engage in civic-based activities

Examples: mock elections, voter registration drives, Mayor for a Day, etc.

- **Positive Social Change:**

Projects that raise awareness of or engage others in activities addressing identified social issues in the school and community

Examples: drunk driving awareness, Random Acts of Kindness Week, culture fairs, etc.

- **Empathetic Actions and**

Wellness: Projects that assist people in need or crisis, or improve the environment
Examples: clothing/food drives, care packages for vets/homeless, donations or drives for children’s hospitals, etc.

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VISIT

www.makingglobalchange.org
to learn more about the NASSP
Student Leadership Initiative:
Global Citizenship today!

ADVISER FAQs

Q: How do we write effective bylaws?

A: In addition to the resources available in the Adviser Resource Center (see www.nehs.org/bylaws), the following tips are offered for your consideration.

- **Member selection.** Spell out your chapter's selection procedure.
- **Service.** Specify your members' service obligations and inform parents prior to induction.
- **Membership dues.** If your chapter requires membership dues, that should be outlined in your bylaws and made clear to parents. If your chapter charges dues, consider them a membership obligation, not an "application fee." Chapters must take financial difficulty into consideration when enforcing this requirement.
- **Officers.** If your chapter elects officers, the method of election and officer duties should be decided by the members, approved by the faculty council and principal, and outlined in the chapter bylaws.
- **Due process and discipline.** Each chapter is required to provide due process for members. Use your school's code of student conduct as a reference. Take time to define and prohibit certain infractions for your members.

Q: What information should we make available for induction speakers?

A: Occasionally, the national office receives inquiries from individuals who have been asked to give speeches at an NEHS

In this issue, we answer your questions about writing bylaws and induction ceremony guest speakers.

induction ceremony. We encourage you to create a speaker's resource packet and consider including the following items:

- The history of NEHS can be found under "About Us" on the NEHS website (www.nehs.org) and in the *NEHS National Handbook*. Knowing a little more about the organization will prove helpful.
- Many speakers want to learn about the criteria for membership. The *NEHS National Handbook* provides some general descriptive information. Your local selection process description may offer additional insight. You may wish to ask the speaker to reflect on how these criteria have influenced his or her life and career in some realistic and practical ways.
- The school mascot, along with your school colors and even the name and history of your chapter, could be helpful. Many creative elements are suggested by these details and will help make the presentation relevant to your school.
- Finally, don't forget to include the program or agenda for your ceremony, directions to the school or location of your ceremony, and contact information for the adviser or principal.

Your speakers will greatly appreciate this information. To guarantee unique presentations each year, you can always create a new annual theme for your inductions, perhaps based on some of your chapter goals.

ADVISER TIP

Selecting Members—Visit the Adviser Resource Center for Handy Tools

One of the features of the new online Adviser Resource Center is the "Selecting Members" section. In this section, you will find sample forms and letters to use in your selection process. In addition, you'll also find a step-by-step guide to the recommended selection procedure, including how to develop candidate packets and handle appeals.

Please visit this section at www.nehs.org/selection to take advantage of these time-saving resources.

CHAPTER PROFILE

Leaders in Action at Swain County East Elementary School

Located in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina, **Swain County East Elementary School** boasts an active NEHS chapter consisting of 15 bright, service-minded fourth and fifth graders whose efforts have had an impact on everyone from hungry families to homeless cats and dogs.

Whether organizing supply drives for their local animal shelter, creating and delivering Valentines for residents of an area retirement home, or leading a schoolwide food drive for the MANNNA FoodBank, these young leaders reach out to all corners of their small, tight-knit Bryson City community—and beyond. Last year, they focused their efforts outside of their hometown, hosting a Movie, Popcorn, and Pajamas Day that raised \$600 to buy Christmas presents for patients at Mission Children's Hospital in Asheville, NC. The members even delivered the gifts to the hospital—over an hour away—personally.

"It's a great honor for these students to be chosen for NEHS and they take it very seriously," says Adviser Ann Russell about her NEHS chapter. "The students love volunteering and leading service projects."

Russell, a counselor who became NEHS adviser at the K-5 school in 2012, makes sure to give her students a voice in choosing which projects they take on. At the beginning of each school year, they vote on the two or three initiatives they are most enthusiastic about. In addition to meeting periodically throughout the year, they also assemble to create promotional posters for special events at the school.

When it comes to those events, Swain's NEHS members help with a lot more than advertising. Whether it's the fall festival, spring fling, or annual Veterans Day luncheon, the students are eager to pitch in. The Veterans Day event is particularly meaningful to many of the children—as parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of NEHS members are frequently among the honorees.

NEHS members get ready to deliver gifts at Mission Children's Hospital.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SWAIN COUNTY EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NEHS members wait to greet visitors during the school's annual Veterans Day celebration.

With 90 percent of its 425 students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch and 50 percent being of Cherokee Indian heritage, Swain County East Elementary has a unique profile. While being located in an area of low socioeconomic status can present challenges for students and educators alike, the school has made having an NEHS chapter a priority from early on. In fact, the elementary school has the distinction of being among the country's original 100 chapters.

Russell notes, "I believe NEHS is a great way to reward students who are consistently leaders in their school and community, as well as achieving in the classroom. These students model for their peers what it looks like to be a leader in action. NEHS students often assist younger students in the mornings before the bell rings, either with morning work or breakfast. They also help our teachers prepare for their day."

Being an NEHS adviser is clearly a rewarding experience for Russell, although she notes that there is one challenging aspect to her position—setting the standards for selection into NEHS. Her advice for fellow advisers? Set very specific guidelines and get multiple perspectives on your potential inductees.

For her selection process, she relies on a committee of teacher representatives from the third, fourth, and fifth grades, as well as one physical education coach. "I believe this gives a broader perspective into how the student carries themselves in all areas of the school," she says.

Until recently, there was no Honor Society chapter at the middle level to bridge the gap between the primary and high school levels. In the past year, however, a National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) chapter was instituted at the local middle school. Russell notes, "This has been very exciting for our students."

IDEA EXCHANGE

INSPIRATION KICK-STARTERS

There are more than 5,000 project ideas at your fingertips in the National Student Project Database. Visit www.nehs.org/projects.



TURKEY TROT. Each fall, the Chartiers Valley Middle School student council in Bridgeville, PA, organizes its annual "Turkey Trot" to raise money for local needy families. The entire student body is encouraged to gather pledges of 20, 30, 40, and 50 cents for each lap they walk, jog, or run around the school track in one hour. Flat donations are also accepted. Parent volunteers mark the beginning spot for each lap. Every time a student completes a lap a parent gives the student a pot holder loop to place on his or her wrist. At the end of one hour, students count their pot holder loops then collect all pledge money. Approximately 600 participating students raised in excess of \$7,000 in one hour's time last year!

HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATING CONTEST.

The holiday door contest at Aiea High School in Aiea, HI, is held annually at the end of November, but your NEHS chapter can tailor this activity to any season, holiday, or theme. Teachers and students collaborate to decorate their classroom door in the spirit of the season. Each class that enters the competition is given a seven-foot piece of colored paper provided by the student association. Each class can only spend a maximum of \$25 on their door design. Faculty, staff, and students then judge decorated doors. Winning classes are given a small prize and bragging rights for the rest of the year. This event aims to boost school spirit, faculty and student collaboration, and positive school climate.

CUPCAKE WARS. During Cupcake Wars at Garnet Valley High School in Glen Mills, PA, any student or student group can prepare a batch of cupcakes for judging. Each entrant fills out a form that includes the cupcake ingredients (in case of allergies). Each group/individual is asked to follow a theme, such as Valentine's Day. School staff scores cupcakes on a scale from one to ten

for decoration, theme creativity, and taste. The remaining cupcakes are sold during lunches for \$1 each. At the end of the day, the winners are announced and awarded prizes. This event can be both fun and a good fundraiser for your NEHS chapter.

NURSING HOME BINGO. The NJHS chapter at All Saints Catholic School in Broken Arrow, OK, purchased bingo prizes to take to the local nursing home. While there, they served beverages and snacks. Members then assisted residents while playing bingo and distributed prizes to the winners. Members also shared a small gift with each resident and Thanksgiving cards made by fellow students.

FOOD DRIVE COMPETITION. The NJHS chapter at Gunston Middle School in Arlington, VA, wanted to raise awareness about the mission of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). A three-week project collected canned and nonperishable foods to help the hungry in Arlington. The chapter hosted a competition between homerooms. The homeroom for each grade that brought in the most food won a donut and hot chocolate party, courtesy of the NJHS chapter. The adviser initially hoped to collect about 500 pounds of food; however, they collected 1,215 pounds—far exceeding the chapter's expectations!

The National Student Project Database needs your ingenuity!

Do you have a project that you'd like to share with other NEHS chapters? Please upload your project description and photos and let us know about all of the great things your chapter is doing. Visit www.nehs.org/projects.



Words of Wisdom

If you're looking for creative ways to start a meeting, something new to share in member communications, or wish to make a contribution for your school's morning announcements, look for motivational quotes. The way you start your morning can affect your whole day and you never know who may need a little inspiration. If your NEHS chapter has a Facebook group or page, you can also share these as "Monday Motivation" or "Wednesday Wisdom." Here are some quotes to get you started:

“Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.

BABE RUTH

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.

WALT DISNEY

“He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.

MUHAMMAD ALI

“Today I shall behave as if this is the day I will be remembered.

DR. SEUSS

“If you can imagine it, you can create it. If you can dream it, you can become it.

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

For more motivational quotes like these and NEHS news and information, "like" the official NEHS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors.

Little Kids Can Make a BIG Difference continued from page 1

■ Awareness/Perspectives:

Projects that raise awareness and perspectives to promote meaningful dialogue on identified school and community issues

Examples: anti-bullying/smoking/drugs, blood drives, pause before you post, etc.

So Many Ways to Help

Our schools and communities offer abundant opportunities to get involved, and our students possess inordinate potential to have a positive impact. We hope that you, as an adviser, will take this initiative and run with it, finding new and creative ways to get your chapter involved.

The NEHS National Student Project Database (www.nehs.org/projects) already has thousands of ideas that you can implement with your students—from new twists on food drives to beautification projects benefiting your school or surrounding area. Many of the project submissions are from middle level and high schools; however, quite a few can be easily adapted for an elementary school chapter. We welcome hearing about how you bring global citizenship to your community.

Be sure to let us know about your chapter's activities by visiting the database and submitting your project summaries and photos. You can also email us at nehs@nehs.org. You may just see your story in an upcoming issue of *NEHS News*!

Share your chapter's or a chapter member's individual work related to global citizenship on social media. (When posting pictures of students, make sure you have permission first!) Use #makingglobalchange and tag @elementaryhonors on Facebook.



Helping Fourth Graders Discover America's Natural Wonders

Every Kid in a Park is an exciting new initiative launched by President Obama to protect our outdoor spaces and get young people outside. Through this program, every fourth grader in the country can log onto the Every Kid in a Park website at www.everykidinapark.gov and complete a fun educational activity. They can also download a pass to access these federally managed lands and waters for a full year for free!

Exposing students at this impressionable age to our incredible natural and cultural heritage can foster a sense of stewardship and inspire these youngsters to preserve these very special places.

The benefits of Every Kid in a Park are multi-faceted: exposing children to natural beauty, cultivating an appreciation and passion for our country's natural and cultural history, strengthening elementary school education, and promoting a healthy active lifestyle. After the program has run for 12 years, every school-age student in the country will have had the chance to explore their federally managed lands and waters free of charge.

Educators are encouraged to visit the Every Kid in a Park website for more information and additional tools and resources to aid them in creating lesson plans (in English and Spanish) and in planning a trip.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PUT SOME JOLLY IN YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Shop the NEHS Store online and use the code HOL16 for 10 percent off online orders. Take advantage of this holiday promotion to stock up on chapter supplies, member recognition items, clothing, and more. Visit www.nehs.org/store through December 31, 2016.



Digging Into the NEHS News Archives

Visit the NEHS website at www.nehs.org/publications to find past issues of *NEHS News*. Check out these past issues and what you can learn from them.

FALL 2016:

Everybody loves good news. Get help publicizing your chapter's activities through local and social media by reading the cover story.

SPRING 2016:

The issue provides an in-depth look at all of the tools and resources available through the Adviser Resource Center at www.nehs.org/arc.

WINTER 2015:

Review a handy checklist for help determining how a charitable program can be evaluated for legitimacy.

NEHS in the News

Has your chapter been featured in your local media? We'd love to hear about it!

Send us a link and a photo (with photo credits) to nehs@nehs.org, subject: **NEHS in the News.**



NEHS is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals in partnership with the NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals) Foundation.

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NEHS News is the official newsletter of the National Elementary Honor Society, published four times a year in fall, winter, spring, and summer by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537. Telephone: 703-860-0200. Website: www.nehs.org.
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NEHS is a program of NASSP in partnership
with the NAESP Foundation

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NEHS NEWS

WINTER 2016

WHERE'S WATSON?

Watson's bags are packed and ready to go! But what's his next destination? If you would like to have Watson visit your school to support your service activities, participate in your induction ceremony, or just give him a tour of your school, let us know.

When submitting a request, please include all of the following information:

- School name and address

- Event (service project, induction, etc.)
- Dates (Watson is "booked" on a first-come basis, so consider including an alternative date in the event that he is not available for your first choice.)

Email your request to nehs@nehs.org. Following the visit, you'll be asked to submit a summary of the visit as well as photographs, which will be featured in an edition of *NEHS News*.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share *your* experience. Share your chapter's experience. We are always looking for creative project ideas to highlight or chapters to profile. Consider telling us your story for a future issue of *NEHS News*. Email nehs@nehs.org with details and your contact information. We can't wait to hear from you!

“Keep looking up.
That's the secret
of life.”

SNOOPY



For more inspirational quotes, “like” the official NEHS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors.