

NEW YORK STATE SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY

State Constitution

Name and Purpose

Article 1: The name of this Society shall be the New York State Science Honor Society (NYSSHS)

Article 2: The purpose of this society shall be to:

- A. Provide recognition of achievement in the study and practice of science at all levels.
- B. Enhance knowledge and understanding of science among all levels of science students, by promoting scholarship and enjoyment through activities at various appropriate levels.
- C. Create enthusiasm for scholarship, strengthen skills, promote leadership and develop character.
- D. 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.
- E. Stimulate the desire to render service within the science department, school and community.
- F. Encourage students to seek science, and technology-related careers.
- G. Encourage talented science students to help other students develop an interest and achievement in science.
- H. Encourage and support the development of local Society chapters.

NEW YORK STATE SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY BY-LAWS

Article I: Board of Governors

- Section 1: It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Governors to develop and enforce policies that will govern the operation of all levels of the New York State Science Honor Society.
- Section 2: The Board of Governors shall consist of a Chairman, Past Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) representatives from the STANYS Board of Directors, and a representative from the New York State Science Education Leadership Association and an officer from each of two (2) officially recognized local chapters.
- Section 3: The representatives of the STANYS Board of Directors and the Science Education Leaders Association shall be appointed according to the rules as established by each.
- Section 4: The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the local chapter representatives shall be elected as described in Article II.
- Section 5: Each member of the Board of Governors shall serve a term of office of two (2) years, with the exception of the Vice-Chairman.
- Section 6: The Vice-Chairman will accede to the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors upon the completion of the present Chairman's term of office.
- Section 7: The Chairman will accede to the Past-Chairman of the Board of Governors upon completion of his/her term of office.
- Section 8: The Secretary, Treasurer and local chapter representatives, if duly elected, may succeed themselves for two consecutive terms of office.
- Section 9: An official annual meeting of the Board of Governors shall be called by the Chairman of the Board and will be held at the STANYS annual convention.
- Section 10: The Board of Governors shall:
- A. charter local chapters;
 - B. approve chapter names;
 - C. designate chapter registration numbers;
 - D. establish and collect fees;
 - E. review and approve chapter by-laws and annual reports;
 - F. establish subcommittees as needed;
 - G. review and approve applications for Honorary membership;
 - H. be empowered to enforce its decisions regulating the conduct of its affairs as set forth within this constitution;
 - I. accede to office on July 1 following the May election.
- Section 11: The Board of Governors shall have the authority to censure, suspend or revoke any member or local chapter membership in the Society for being in violation of the goals and regulations or non-payment of fees as set forth in these By-Laws.

Section 12: Responsibilities of the Board of Governors' Officers

- A. The Chairman shall:
 - 1. preside over all meetings of the Board of Governors;
 - 2. oversee the implementation of the policies established by the Board of Governors;
 - 3. call additional meetings of the Board of Governors no later than thirty (30) days after a request for a meeting by a majority of its members;
 - 4. be empowered to fill vacancies on the Board of Governors created by death, leave of absence, resignation or inability to serve.
- B. The Past Chairman shall:
 - 1. assist the chairman in the administration of the society;
 - 2. preside at meetings of the society or the Board of Governors when the chairman and vice-chairman are not present;
 - 3. convene sub-committee meetings and report to the Board of Governors on the progress of each committee.
- C. The Vice-Chairman shall:
 - 1. fulfill the duties of the Chairman in the event of the Chairman's absence;
 - 2. serve as chairman of membership.
- D. The Secretary shall:
 - 1. keep the minutes of all official meetings of the Board of Governors;
 - 2. report communications to the Board of Governors and to the Past President of STANYS;
 - 3. write communications as directed by the Board of Governors;
 - 4. send all copies of communications to the historian.
- E. The Treasurer shall:
 - 1. keep all records of Society transactions;
 - 2. transfer Society funds as directed by the Board of Governors;
 - 3. pay Society obligations approved by the Board of Governors;
 - 4. receive and record local chapter fees;
 - 5. coordinate all functions associated with the office of the Society with the Treasurer of STANYS.
- F. Leave of Absence will be granted to any member of the Board of Governors, upon written notification to the chairman, for a period of time not to exceed 1 year.

Article II: Election Procedures

Section 1: In December:

- A. the Chairman shall appoint a nominating committee of five (5) to prepare a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Governors;
- B. the nominating committee shall consist of the Vice-Chairman, one (1) director and three (3) local chapter advisors;

C. the chairman will contact the STANYS Executive Board and Science Education Leaders Association for the names of their appointees to the NYSSHS Board of Governors.

- Section 2: The slate of nominees shall consist of a minimum of two (2) candidates for each elective position, whenever it is possible to do so, and shall be mailed to the chapter advisor(s) and the Board of Governors, not less than three (3) weeks prior to a May election.
- Section 3: Provisions shall be made for open nominations from the chapter advisors by the nominating committee not less than two (2) weeks prior to February 1st.
- Section 4: Each active chapter is entitled to cast one vote. An active chapter is one that has paid current annual dues.
- Section 5: The nominating committee chairman will report the new slate of officers to the Past President of the STANYS Executive Board as soon as the election results are official.

Article III: Society Membership Requirements

- Section 1: Schools seeking to initiate a chapter must submit to the Board of Governors the New Chapter Application Form, the appropriate fees and a copy of their local chapter constitution and by-laws.
- Section 2: Membership shall be based upon science scholarship, service and character.
- Section 3: Applicants must have demonstrated exemplary character and citizenship.
- Section 4: Applicants must have successfully completed a minimum of three (3) semesters of high school/college science.
- Section 5: Applicants shall have a minimum science scholarship average of 85% or its equivalent.
- Section 6: Applicants are required to have an overall scholastic average of 80% and minimum average in high school/college mathematics of 75% or their equivalent.
- Section 7: Applicants must submit all supporting documentation as outlined in the local chapter constitution.

Article IV: Local Chapter Responsibilities

- Section 1: All membership responsibilities must be in compliance with the State Constitution and By-Laws and should be written that way.
- Section 2: Additions or deletions to membership responsibilities must be approved by the Board of Governors.
- Section 3: Guidelines and responsibilities of sponsors and officers must be approved by the Board of Governors.
- Section 4: Each Chapter will submit an annual report no later than June 30 of each year to the secretary of the Board of Governors. This report should include the following:
- A. sponsored activities and events;
 - B. honors, achievements and recognition for individuals or chapters from the previous year;
 - C. additional information a chapter may wish to convey regarding its operation.

Article V: Miscellaneous

Section 1: Honorary Membership

- A. Alumni and adults, who have taken an active role in furthering the cause of science and science education, may become honorary members of the New York State Science Honor Society.
- B. Honorary members may be nominated by an active Society member.
- C. Honorary member nominations must be submitted to the Board of Governors for action.

Section 2: Historian

- A. The Historian will be appointed by the Board of Governors.
- B. The Historian will provide an ongoing chronicle of the events that take place in, and as a result of, the New York State Science Honor Society.

Article VI

Section 1: Constitutional amendments must be submitted in writing no later than thirty days (30) prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Governors by any local chapter or two members of the Board of Governors.

Section 2: Discussion of an amendment will take place at the first scheduled Board meeting after its receipt.

Section 3: A vote on a previously discussed amendment must be taken no later than the second Board meeting after its receipt and may be done by mail. Passage shall require a two-thirds vote of the entire board.

Section 4: The chapters and the Past President of the STANYS Executive Board will be notified by the NYSSHS Secretary of any changes to the Constitution in writing no later than thirty days (30) after they have been approved by the NYSSHS Board of Governors.

Section 5: The By-Laws may be amended by simple majority vote at any meeting of the Board of Governors at which a quorum is present.

Article VII: Parliamentary Authority – Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised (latest revision), shall be the authority on all questions of procedure not set forth in this Constitution.