

Selection Criteria

The RHO KAPPA National Advisory Committee establishes the national standards for all RHO KAPPA chapters. Local Chapters create their own bylaws that must be consistent with and comply with the RHO KAPPA national constitution.

Membership in RHO KAPPA is an honor bestowed upon a student by a local chapter for his or her accomplishments in the field of social studies and overall academic achievement.

Students eligible for membership must:

- have been in attendance at the school for the equivalent of one semester;
- have completed four semesters of courses in the field of social studies and be prepared to complete at least six semesters; and
- have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.00 or the numerical equivalent.

The application process will require candidates to show participation in activities that demonstrate civic engagement in the school or community and their desire and aspiration to be a member of the organization. All applicants must have a letter of recommendation from a current faculty member.

Any student who meets the above criteria in a school that has an official charter and an up-to-date affiliation with NCSS is eligible for membership. All other methods of selecting candidates are left up to the individual chapter.

Selection criteria and procedures may vary from one local chapter to the next. These variations are acceptable as long as they comply with the RHO KAPPA national constitution available at: rhokappa.socialstudies.org. A description of the selection procedures and the local chapter's selection criteria should be made available to all of the school's administration, faculty, students, parents, and community members. The local chapter advisor supervises the selection process and maintains the local procedures.

For information on obtaining a charter or the selection of members please contact the national office at 301-588-1800.



Membership in RHO KAPPA

Students meeting the selection criteria join RHO KAPPA during an induction ceremony. Procedures and proceedings for the ceremony are determined by each of the local chapters, the chapter sponsor, and the high school administration.

Each member participates in regular chapter meetings and activities during the school year. The regularity of meetings and appropriateness of activities is determined by each individual chapter.

It is the responsibility of each chapter and its members to represent the national RHO KAPPA organization in a positive and suitable manner.

RHO KAPPA Local Honor Societies

Any accredited public or private high school approved by a state department of education or an accrediting agency is eligible to apply for a charter of a local chapter. All schools that wish to have a RHO KAPPA chapter must maintain a paid affiliation with NCSS.

State and Regional Organizations

Local chapters may organize state or regional RHO KAPPA affiliations to sponsor events for the local chapters and engage in projects at the state and regional level. State and local affiliations should comply with the RHO KAPPA national constitution.

Chapters interested in forming state or regional affiliations can contact the office for assistance.

Chapter Sponsors

Every local chapter of RHO KAPPA has a designated faculty sponsor approved by the school principal. The chapter sponsor is a member of the school's faculty and may serve multiple terms. The chapter sponsor is responsible for the chapter's day-to-day activities, acts as a supervisor over the chapter, and performs the duties of a liaison among administration, faculty, and students, community members, and the national organization.



Information on obtaining and keeping up a local chapter is available on the RHO KAPPA website rhokappa.socialstudies.org.

Introduction

RHO KAPPA National Social Studies Honor Society is the only national organization for high school juniors and seniors that recognizes excellence in the field of social studies. Any accredited public high school or non-secondary school can apply for a local chapter, through which individuals will be inducted into the RHO KAPPA National Social Studies Honor Society.

RHO KAPPA provides students with national recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies. RHO KAPPA National Social Studies Honor Society is a program of National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) developed to encourage an interest in, understanding of, and appreciation for the social studies.

History

The Florida Council for the Social Studies (FCSS), an affiliate of NCSS, established RHO KAPPA Social Studies Honor Society in 2000. Prior to FCSS founding RHO KAPPA, many national high school honor societies began popping up in various other fields, but not in the social studies. National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) saw a need for a national student award program that recognized students for their achievement in required and elective social studies courses. Encouraged by FCSS, National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) began RHO KAPPA National Social Studies Honor Society in 2011.

RHO KAPPA National Social Studies Honor Society is quickly establishing itself as a premier recognition program for secondary level students. The first national chapter application was received from the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson, MD in January 2012.

RHO KAPPA is a program of National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), which appoints a National Advisory Committee as the oversight body of RHO KAPPA.



NCSS

With members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 69 foreign countries, National Council for the Social Studies is one of the most important and largest associations devoted solely to social studies education. NCSS serves as the umbrella organization for elementary, secondary, and college teachers of history, civics, geography, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and law-related education. Since its founding in 1921, the council has continued to engage and support educators in strengthening and advocating for the social studies.

The National Council Services division of the NCSS External Relations and Council Communications Department is responsible for administering RHO KAPPA, Affiliate Councils, Online Communities, Associated Groups, and Operations Committees, as well as important professional development and recognition programs, which offer members a means to communicate, learn and grow in the field of social studies.

Schools affiliating with the national office receive a charter certificate, welcome packet, and web access. The national web site, rhokappa.socialstudies.org, is an important resource for all chapters, with information on programs and resources. The Faculty and Administrator Zone, a members-only section of the site, features an administrator discussion board to network and share resources with other chapter administrators.

RHO KAPPA, like NHS and NJHS, is among the distinguished group of national honor societies for secondary level students. School affiliation with RHO KAPPA will allow the school a means to promote scholarship, leadership, and service in social studies within the school and community.

For information about the benefits of affiliation with RHO KAPPA, establishing a charter at school, or assistance with your existing chapter, please contact:

RHO KAPPA

National Council for the Social Studies

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RHO KAPPA
National Social Studies
Honor Society

Established in 2011

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National Council for the Social
Studies.

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