



NEHS CHAPTER PROFILE Getting Their Feet Off the Ground



Keone'ula Elementary School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, had its first National Elementary Honor Society induction ceremony in October, 2017. The 20 student members in the chapter were chosen from approximately 80 candidates, all of whom satisfied a strict set of criteria. "We want the students who really want to be in it, really work for it," says adviser Josh Dela Cruz. He is insistent on keeping standards high, so that the prestige of being an NEHS member resonates with the students.

"[Principal Paul Braga] realized that there was a need to recognize those who are excelling," says Dela Cruz. "We just have young leaders at this school. The families are very community-oriented, so they do a lot of community service. [Braga] was looking for a club that would kind of embody that." Braga and Dela Cruz started the chapter last year to shine a light on these students and encourage them to grow as leaders in the community.

Community service has been

a focal point of the club: "For our kids, they value the part of giving back, because whenever we bring up, 'Okay, we're going to do another community service,' their eyes light up. They get excited," explains Dela Cruz.

The chapter has been trying to do one project a quarter, and they have had to get creative in the face of challenges—mostly with regard to finding community partners who are able to work with younger kids. They took part in a beach cleanup and campus beautification projects. Recently, they completed a toiletry drive for the local homeless population—collecting hotel-size toiletries, Q-tips, slippers, socks, and more, that were then distributed by a local partner.

"These are all generated from the students. All they know right now is, 'Okay, we just have to give, give, give.'" Dela Cruz explained

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ADVISER FAQs

Question: Our chapter would like to share some of our projects with other chapters. How do we go about doing that?

Answer: There are a couple of ways that chapters can publicize their activities. First, submit your project online through the National Student Project Database. The database is a collection of projects and activities from all three Honor Societies (NHS, NJHS, and NEHS) and National Student Council. You can enter your project and also search for project ideas using filters like keywords, location, and community size.

Second, chapters can apply each year for the Outstanding Service Project Awards. Applications will be available next academic year on the NEHS website in the "Awards" section. Each year, five NEHS service projects will be selected among the submissions and be recognized with a plaque commemorating this achievement.

In this issue, we answer your questions about NEHS chapter projects.

Question: What type of recognition can I provide to my graduating students who are moving on to middle school?

Answer: The NEHS Store has a few items available to NEHS chapters. NEHS honor stoles and cords can be given to graduating members, and officer coins can be presented to your outgoing officers. A more lasting gift is a Watson bear, the official mascot of NEHS. Chapters can give Watson to graduating members as a keepsake as they enter middle school/junior high school.



Bring Watson to Your School

Watson, the adorable furry mascot of NEHS, wants to visit your chapter and help your members with a future service project!

In past visits to NEHS chapters across the country, he's engaged in activities like packing boxes of food for a Thanksgiving drive and assisting at a blood donation drive, and now he wants to help your students. Have Watson join in your chapter's service projects and help create special memories for your members.

Simply email nehs@nehs.org to request a visit.





MAKE YOUR MARK ON THE WORLD

DREAM. LEAD. SERVE.

How important are student leaders to your school? We know that supporting student leaders can help inspire not only an NEHS chapter, but a whole school community. Each year since 1972, the national office of the National Honor Societies and National Student Council has sponsored National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) to celebrate the vital role of student leadership.

The theme for the 2018 NSLW is “Make Your Mark on the World: Dream. Lead. Serve.” It is rooted in a student leadership initiative on global citizenship,



which has been underway since 2016. Browse www.njhs.us/nslw for special activity ideas, suggested social media posts, and resources to help you honor

student leadership. Follow #NSLW2018 on the NHS/NJHS and NatStuCo social media channels for more ideas and inspiration.

And don't forget to tell us your dream—your dream project, that is. One of the ways you can get involved is by having your chapter submit a pitch for the project of your dreams. Enter #OurDream18 contest and we may help you fund it! While NSLW will be April 15–21, this contest will be open the whole month of April.

It's Quiz Time

Get a little competitive in your next chapter meeting! Share this quiz with your members, or see if you can answer the questions yourself.

1. What year was NEHS established?

- a. 2005
- b. 1964
- c. 2008
- d. 1995

2. What inspired Watson the bear's name?

- a. Sherlock Holmes
- b. The IBM computer
- c. The movie “Castaway”
- d. A Muppet

3. Who said, “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other”?

- a. The Dalai Lama
- b. John F. Kennedy
- c. Oprah Winfrey
- d. Pope Francis

4. How many members are there in the U.S. House of Representatives?

- a. 100
- b. 320
- c. 435
- d. 82

5. Where were the 2018 Winter Olympics held?

- a. Pyeongchang
- b. Seoul
- c. Oslo
- d. Nagano

Answers: 1. c; 2. a; 3. b; 4. c; 5. a.



2018 OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The recipients of the first NEHS Outstanding Service Project Awards have been selected. Thank you to all of the chapters that submitted applications for consideration. Five projects have been selected for this recognition; three are highlighted here. You can find the full list of this year's recipients and descriptions of all five projects on the NEHS website.

BUILDING BONDS

The NEHS members of the Academy of Greatness and Excellence in Teaneck, NJ, took part in a series of visits to Oasis Safe Haven, a domestic violence shelter, and provided assistance in their after-school program. The 32 members visited Oasis, going eight at a time over the span of four weeks. During their visits, they provided tutoring to the students enrolled in the program and also took part in activities with them, such as playing board games, engaging in sports, and doing crafts. Through a schoolwide bake sale, members were able to raise funds to donate over 100 outdoor toys to Oasis on their last visit.



BUDDY BENCH

The NEHS chapter at Bartram Springs Elementary in Jacksonville, FL, made friendship a priority when deciding to purchase a "Buddy Bench" for their playground. When a member noticed that some students were playing alone and looking sad on the playground, she suggested the chapter raise money to purchase a "Buddy Bench" to encourage kindness, awareness, and friendship. Members worked for two months to create 100 friendship bookmarks to sell along with friendship bracelets. The project was a success—the new "Buddy Bench" is a welcome addition to the playground and a reminder to always be a friend!

BLANKET AND SOCK DRIVE FOR CEDAR HILL HEALTH CARE CENTER

The Plummer Elementary School NEHS chapter in Cedar Hill, TX, spearheaded and coordinated a blanket and sock drive to benefit a local nursing home. NEHS members created and posted advertising, as well as composed and delivered updates, information, and encouraging messages daily during the morning announcements. They then invited the Plummer Ambassadors and Plummer Choir to join them in bringing the donated items to the nursing home. The chapter delivered the donated blankets, socks, and cards while the choir sang. The students warmed both the hearts and bodies of the nursing home residents. There were smiles all around!



Sharing Is Caring!



The National Student Project Database needs your ingenuity. Share a project 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. Tips for submitting projects:

- Include photos, if available.
- Provide a written description of the project that includes the project date(s), names of any partner organizations or schools, and details that give the reader a full understanding of the project's scope and impact.



Visit the National Student Project Database at nehs.org/projects today.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEONE'ULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

to them, "It doesn't have to be material things, we can also give our time to serve ... we can go ahead and give our time after school." They are planning to implement an adopt-a-classroom program, where NEHS members will stay after school to help teachers at Keone'ula with any classroom tasks they might have.

The success of any chapter is bolstered by the support of the school community, and at Keone'ula, the spirit of NEHS has had an effect on everyone around them. Parents love having NEHS

at the school to encourage the kids; teachers have been using its prestige to raise their expectations of the students; younger students are working harder so that they, too, can become members; and other elementary schools in the area are planning to start chapters themselves.

Dela Cruz, a former member of the National Honor Society himself and a chapter adviser for three years before coming to Keone'ula, has been working with another elementary school to help them start a chapter. His tips for getting a new chapter going are: 1) start small,

2) have patience, and most important, 3) believe in what you're doing. "In order for me to start [NEHS] here, I just had to keep it at that [high] standard. I believe in this, and these are the expectations I'm going to hold my kids to and you know, the funny thing is, these kids rose to that occasion. And we have students outside that want to come in ... and they want to be part of it, so they're doing other service projects. Hopefully, they'll apply next year and get in."

By the Numbers NEHS Members Have Been Doing Amazing Things in Their Communities



As remarkable as these numbers are, they only represent accomplishments of about 25 percent of NEHS chapters. Each year, we obtain this data through our annual adviser survey. If the numbers here show just a quarter of the impact, imagine what the numbers would

look like if all advisers completed the survey?

The link to the annual adviser survey will be emailed to you in April. Watch for an email from the national office and do your part to showcase the incredible impact that NEHS members have!



120,444
Service Hours Performed



269,218
Dollars Raised



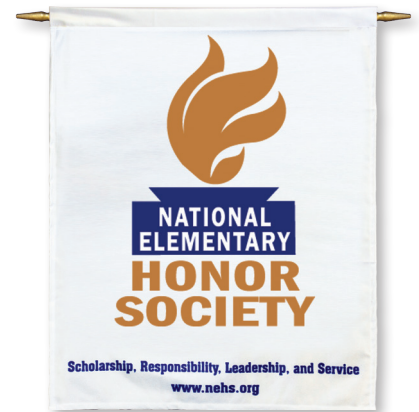
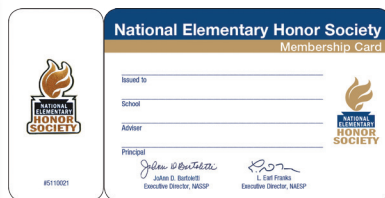
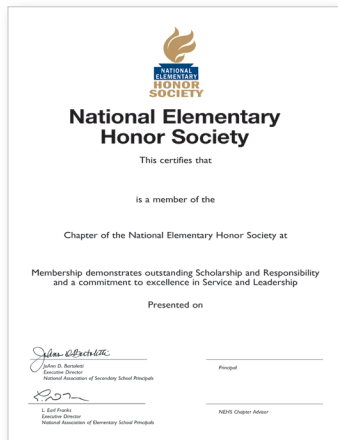
113,983
Pounds of Food Collected

Spring Forward Plan Ahead for Induction and Promotion Ceremonies at the NEHS Store



Spring brings April showers, May flowers, and numerous opportunities to guide students toward their next academic chapter. The NEHS Store can be a great resource along the way, whether you need balloons, banners, or other decorations; certificates; membership pins; or any other item to make your induction or promotion ceremony complete. And remember to let parents of new members know that students can show their NEHS pride by placing personal orders for Honor Society clothing, jewelry, and keepsakes through their adviser.

Shop nehs.org/store today. Use promo code IND18 by March 31 and save 15% on your online order!



Tell Us Your Story!

We are always looking for chapters to profile or clever project ideas to spotlight. Consider sharing your experience for a future issue of *NEHS News*. Email nehs@nehs.org with details and your contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!



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NEHS NEWS

SPRING 2018

TIME TO RENEW



Chapters can now renew their affiliation online and pay by credit card. NEHS advisers can log in to their online account on the NEHS website to renew online. Invoices can also be downloaded for check payments. Hard-copy renewals are being sent in March to principals and advisers as well.

Be sure to “like” the NEHS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors for inspiration, news, and tips. (And to be sure you see our posts, click “Following,” then “See First.”)



“We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy.”

**ALBUS DUMBLEDORE,
HARRY POTTER**