

GACS ACTIVITIES

SECTION I

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CHRISTIAN HONOR SOCIETY

Georgia Association of Christian Schools

Christian Honor Society History

Realizing the need for a truly Christian honor society program in member schools, GACS leaders developed the GACS Christian Honor Society in 1981. The GACS Christian Honor Society provides a means of recognizing junior and senior high school students who excel not only in academic performance but in Christian character and testimony.

The emphasis on both academics and spiritual character makes the GACS Christian Honor Society different from a number of secular honor society programs which stress only academic performance in students. “Christian leadership through service” is the Honor Society theme. GACS schools which have Christian Honor Society chapters are encouraged to provide opportunities for their student members to exercise this theme. Various types of activities have been put into place by many member schools in line with the basic purpose of the GACS Honor Society Program.

The GACS Christian College Scholarship Program, which had been established in 1980, was put under the Honor Society auspices in 1982. Since that time scholarships have been awarded annually to graduating seniors who are members of the GACS Christian Honor Society. An application form for one candidate from each chapter may be entered, and a committee of administrators determines the winners on the basis of the applications.

Scholarship applications include information on the student’s academic achievement; Christian testimony; participation in school, church, and community activities; and recommendations from the student’s administrator, pastor, and teachers. The scholarships, which are given toward the winners’ first semester tuition costs at a Christian college, have been a significant encouragement to a number of GACS graduates through the years.

Member schools are invited to participate in the GACS Honor Society by submitting chapter registrations annually. Registration forms are sent to each school at the beginning of the school year.

The GACS Christian Honor Society Program is an activity directly related to the purpose and goals of the Association – that of training students in quality academic achievement and consistent Christian character. Information on the Christian Honor Society may be obtained from the GACS office.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CHRISTIAN HONOR SOCIETY BY-LAWS

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (7-9)

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (10-12)

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GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CHRISTIAN HONOR SOCIETY BY-LAWS

Junior High Society (Grades 7-9)

Senior High Society (Grades 10-12)

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.” (Proverbs 3:5-7)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the GACS Christian Honor Society shall be to foster excellence in achievement by students in member schools to the end that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shall be glorified. Each student will be encouraged to make maximum use of his God-given talents through service to the Lord in his school. The GACS Christian Honor Society will recognize students who in the opinion of their teachers have attained an above average level in character development and achievement.

ORGANIZATION

The GACS Christian Honor Society program is available only to those schools who are members of GACS in good standing. Each member of GACS that offers grades 7-9 and/or 10-12 is encouraged to form a GACS Junior and Senior Christian Honor Society chapter. Schools form chapters by submitting an application to the GACS office. Membership is on an annual basis and is continued by remaining a member in good standing of GACS and paying the annual fee for each chapter at the beginning of each school year. A certificate recognizing the existence of a local chapter will be issued by GACS and should be displayed by the member school in a prominent location.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students nominated for membership in the GACS Christian Honor Society must in the opinion of their teachers have demonstrated above average qualities in each of the following areas:

Scholarship

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

Leadership

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in work, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (I Timothy 4:12)

Service

“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.” (I Corinthians 9:19)

Honesty

“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.” (II Corinthians 8:21)

Cooperation

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)

Responsibility

“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Matthew 25:23)

Humility

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.” (Proverbs 15:33)

Submissiveness

“Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said, I, Here am I, send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)

Consideration

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” (Roman 12:10)

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Philippians 12:3)

Membership in the GACS Christian Honor Societies is open to all students in grades seven through twelve whose schools have a local chapter and (1) who personally meet the standards enumerated above, (2) have been enrolled in a member school with a local GACS Christian Honor Society chapter for at least one semester immediately prior to their nomination, (3) who have a B or better in every subject for which a letter grade is given for the grading period immediately prior to their nomination (exceptions: a student may have a maximum of one C in the grading period prior to his nomination if that grade is balanced with an A in a course carrying

the same or higher unit value); an 85 average or better is required for students in schools that do not use letter grades, (4) and obtain the nomination of the faculty of the school. The grading period for the Junior Honor Society is grades six through nine (grade six being the year prior to eligibility); for the Senior Honor Society it is grades nine through twelve (grade nine being the year prior to eligibility). In either group, the grades of the student nominated will be averaged beginning with the first year of the appropriate level (junior high or senior high) and must meet the minimum required for the appropriate three-year period (grades seven through nine or grades ten through twelve). The student must have the required GPA (grade point average) up to the point where he/she currently is located. GACS member schools may establish higher standards for membership in their local chapters if they desire to do so.

Nominations for membership should be made by schools once a year. Membership rosters are to be submitted to the GACS office during the first semester of each year on forms provided. All forms require verification from the principal that all students nominated meet the minimum standards established by the Association.

Students are nominated for membership only once for each society. However, to remain in good standing, the minimum academic average for initial membership must be maintained. Students whose academic averages fall below the minimum required for two consecutive grading periods are placed on an inactive status. They are automatically returned to an active status the next grading period in which their grades are at the minimum level.

Memberships in the Junior and Senior Honor Societies are separate and distinct from one another. Separate nomination is required for each. Students who are elected to the Junior Honor Society do not automatically become members of the Senior Honor Society upon promotion to the tenth grade.

Any student who is a member of the Junior or Senior GACS Christian Honor Society who transfers to another member school that has a local chapter is automatically a member of the chapter at the new school.

Students suspended from school for any reason (unless they are later found to be innocent of the offense) are not eligible for membership in the GACS Christian Honor Society for at least one semester after the suspension, and if their suspension occurs after they have been elected to a chapter, they are automatically suspended from the chapter for at least one semester. This may be a longer period according to the decision of the school. Students expelled from school for any reason (unless they are later found to be innocent) are not eligible for membership in the GACS Christian Honor Society at any GACS school. If their expulsion occurs after they have been elected to a chapter, they are automatically expelled from the chapter and shall not be eligible for re-admission.

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Local chapters should elect officers including president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. It is recommended that members of the chapter be given opportunities to perform meaningful

service for the school. The duties of the officers and service opportunities will be at the discretion of the local school.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year a number of graduating seniors (usually three) who are members of the GACS Christian Honor Society will be awarded Christian college scholarships. Each student selected will be given a scholarship toward tuition at a Christian college in an amount to be determined on an annual basis by the GACS Executive Committee. These students will be chosen from nominations submitted by local chapters. The scholarship recipients will be selected by a committee whose members are not affiliated with any school submitting nominations for the awards.

Each chapter may nominate one graduating senior who represents the ideals of the GACS Christian Honor Society and is committed to attending a Christian college. The nomination is to be entered on a form to be provided by the GACS office. The Executive Committee will have the final judgment on the acceptability of the college to be attended. The scholarship amount will be sent directly to the college upon notification of official acceptance. If, for any reason, the student does not attend the college stated in the application or another Christian college approved by the Executive Committee, the scholarship amount is to be returned to GACS.

PLEDGE

The following pledge should be administered to new members at the Honor Society induction ceremony and used at other appropriate times during the school year:

I promise that with God's help I shall endeavor to uphold the principles of the Georgia Association of Christian Schools Honor Society.

I will do my best in academic achievement.

I will exemplify Christian leadership through service.

I will have a cooperative spirit and be submissive to those who have authority over me.

I will be faithful in carrying out the responsibilities which are given to me.

I will serve with humility, realizing that talents and abilities are gifts through the grace of God.

I will be honest, considerate, and fair in my dealings with others.

Appreciating all of the blessings of God and the freedom we enjoy in our great nation, I will strive to be a good citizen and a good testimony for my family, my school, and the Lord Jesus Christ.