



Spring 2008

Keystoner

Florida Council of National Honor Society

Upcoming Events

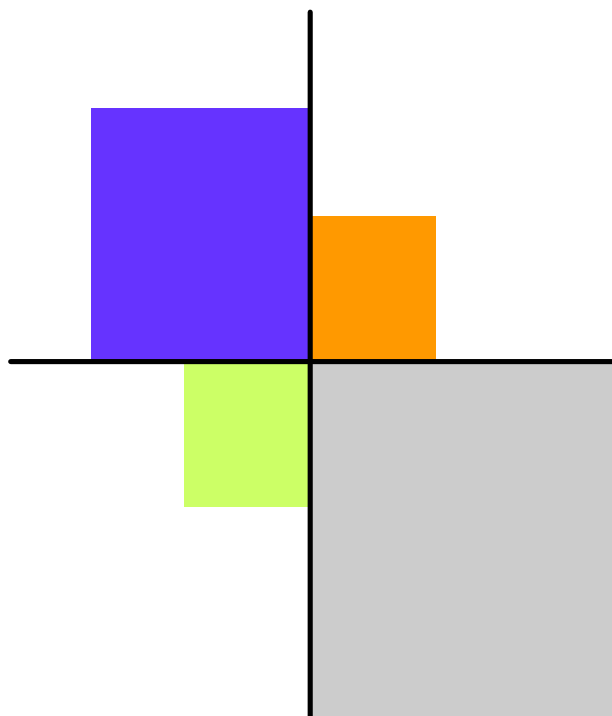
FCNHS BRAIN BRAWL is coming up at West Orange High School at 9:30 a.m. on April 26, 2008. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this event. Here is the link to the information and registration forms: <http://www.fasa.net/fcnhs/State-Brain-Bowl-Championship.cfm>. We hope to see you there.

Special points of interest:

- Chapters should try to remain active over the summer
- Service Projects
- The officers of the chapter determine the success of a chapter

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Find us on the web at:
<http://www.fasa.net/fcnhs/>

Letter from the President

March 2008
Hello everyone!

I am very excited to have the honor of being this year's State President. My name is Ariel, and I am a junior in IB here at Spruce Creek. I am a varsity member of the track team, and I enjoy photography and journalism. I plan on spending my summer in Europe studying photojournalism and soaking up the culture. I have my eyes set on the University of Florida, and I am maintaining a 4.0 to help make this dream come true. Working hard for things I believe in and NHS is a big

priority for me.

I would so appreciate NHS chapters working together to overcome a few of the obstacles of apathy that sneaks up on us. If you're frustrated with the inactiveness of NHS chapters, I want to work at stopping the spread of this disease once and for all. Instead of becoming frustrated, I hope that everyone will join me, and together we can create a solution. My main goal is to unite all the chapters. With all the bright members of NHS uniting, I know that new ideas will be created and that can only mean an increase in motivation.

With that being said, this year I have chosen the Big Brothers Big Sisters program for all the members to support. It is a rewarding program that helps young kids who don't have role models. There are many schools in different counties that support the program and volunteering is easy. As young leaders we should be encouraging others to lead the same way we do and the best way to do that is mentoring them. I hope this year proves to be the biggest success yet.

Sincerely,
Ariel Hill

"The commitment each person makes to his or her community does not end simply because it is summertime."

Keeping Chapters Active Over the Summer

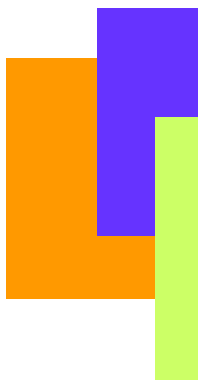
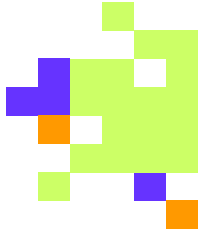
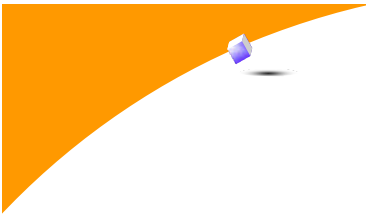
Everyone views summer as an opportunity to relax and take a break from the rigorous academics most NHS members engage in throughout the school year. However, the commitment each person makes to his or her community does not end simply because it is summertime. It would be advantageous for each chapter to maintain a few commitments during the summer in order to remain involved in the commu-

nity. For example, a chapter could participate in a local 4th of July activity or plan a "Back to the Beach" party for children who are sick and unable to leave the hospital for over the summer. This would also give the chapter an opportunity to see each other and socialize during the summer while, at the same time, servicing the community.

This is simply a suggestion to keep in mind; however, plan-

ning for such summer activities takes time and should need to begin before the end of the school year. So, if a chapter is interested in participating in activities over the summer, it needs to begin organizing such activities now.

-Megan Johnson





SERVICE Projects

Service is pivotal to the National Honor Society experience. Service projects help mold the character of each National Honor Society member, and thus, the service project holds great importance.

Ariel Hill, FCNHS president, attended the district NHS meeting in Deland in February and talked with representatives from the Big Brothers & Big Sisters organization. This organization gives members an opportunity to get involved in the lives their little brother or little sister. These children are in need of support and motivation from a role model. Participation in such an organization would benefit each chapter and enrich the lives of each member who gets involved. Since NHS students are successful academically, they can provide the necessary motivation for these children to do well in school and pursue their studies and their dreams.

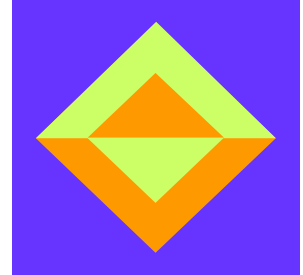
Additionally,

Ariel reported back on a number of service projects completed by various schools in Volusia County. These ideas can be used as a way to enhance and develop other chapters by adapting and changing these projects to fit each particular chapter. The NHS chapter of Deltona High School adopted a family for Christmas sharing over 100 gifts, a good basket and over \$100 in gift cards and sent bags of chocolate and letters of support to soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. Father Lopez High School's NHS chapter rose over \$2500 walking in "Making strides for Breast Cancer" and volunteered at Hospice of Volusia County by decorating the entrance for Christmas and weeding the garden. There are Hospice centers all over the state and it is a great organization with which each chapter can become involved. New Smyrna Beach High School's NHS chapter donated money to "Smile Train"

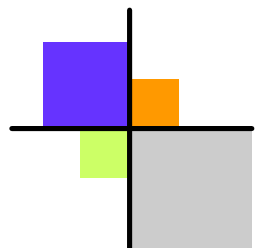
an organization that helps children with cleft plate surgeries. The NHS chapter at Spruce Creek High School collected food for "make a Difference Day" to present to Gifts of Love. Spruce Creek was also involved in an interesting project where the members build their high school out of Legos as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity.

All of these ideas are fantastic and these suggestions are nice for chapters who are looking for a new project. Not only is the act of doing these service projects fulfill NHS requirements, they enrich the lives of each person involved and help they to truly become the model NHS student.

- Megan Johnson



"Father Lopez High School's NHS chapter rose over \$2500 walking in 'Making strides for Breast Cancer' "



Forming Strong Inter-officer Bonds

The first step to success when forming any sort of club is team work and good officers. A combination of both positive characteristics of the club will lead to inevitable success. It is important to make sure that the bond among officers is strong. Not only does this make every one's job easier but with this bond comes friendship. Below is a list of ideas on how officers can obtain this stronger bond.

- Have special service activities planned just for officers: This gives the officers an opportunity to bond only with each other rather than bouncing back and forth among the other members at a large event.
- Get together in a more social setting: Eliminating the stress of keeping the chapter aligned makes for a much easier time getting to know one another.

Try to listen to each other's ideas about the chapter: Since this is a team of officers, they need to work together to accomplish the common goal – running the NHS chapter smoothly.

Remember, the relationship among the officers dictates the success of the organization as a whole.

- Kishan Patel

A Local Service Project



Caption describing picture or graphic.

The Seminole High School National Honor Society Chapter has performed many different service events this last year. One of the most memorable was the Halloween “Spooktacular” in the City of Sanford. During this event, members of NHS set up tables and booths throughout downtown. At each booth, NHS members had various candies and treats for the children of Sanford so that they could trick-or-treat in a safe environ-

ment. Officers also dressed up in costumes to help get into the spirit of Halloween and further engage with the children. Vice-President Ben Joseph, claims “It was amazing. Truly amazing. Who knew that dressing up like Batman for one night could make kids smile more than Santa. The feeling of giving candy, such a small item, to a child truly makes one realize the joy of community service.”• Officer Sey Hee Park states that “Back in middle

school taking candy from little kids made me feel good. Who knew that four years later I would be giving those kids the candy back? Giving is the most powerful gift possible.”• Many members took part in the activity and the underclassmen are looking forward to the event next year.

- Kishan Patel