

Code of Ethics & Conduct
for the York County, South Carolina
Lambda Gamma Chapter
of the Eta Sigma Alpha
National Home School Honor Society

Chapter Advisor, Parent Sponsors and Student Members:
Please read thoroughly before signing the volunteer service
or membership application.

The Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society, Lambda Gamma Chapter was chartered as a Christian Chapter for all of York County, South Carolina, in August 2003. Each student is accepted for membership based on their academic merit, service, and character, and they are not required to be professing Christians. However, each student seeking membership must read and agree to uphold and abide by the following Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Code of Ethics & Conduct:

I will show respect and courtesy at all times to all adults (especially parental advisors and sponsors) and fellow members that are volunteering their time and resources to assist the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society. (1 Peter 2:17)

I will use communication (both verbal and nonverbal) that is decent, honoring and kind towards all fellow members and adults involved with this society. (Romans 12:10)

In private and public service, I will seek to set an impeccable example of integrity, honesty, and unselfishness as a representative of the Lambda Gamma Chapter. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

I will hold to the ideals of this organization's goals and purposes, which are to stimulate academic thought and endeavor, to build partnerships in the local community for service, and to exhort others to a higher standard of success in knowledge, wisdom and understanding. (Proverbs 2:6)

I will seek to apply the principles of devotion and service to others before self and to God first of all. (Colossians 3:23)

(All scripture references are from the Holy Bible, KJV)

After reading this Code of Ethics & Conduct, if you agree to uphold and abide by it, please sign the application for membership and return it for acceptance. You will receive a letter of acceptance, once your membership requirements have been completely fulfilled.

Requirements are listed on the Application for Membership.

Chapter Bylaws will be available upon request or at www.YEAHonline.org.

Chapter Bylaws & Information
Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society's
Senior Lambda Gamma Chapter, York County, SC

Membership Information/ Annual Dues:

Joining dues for first year members will be \$20 per inductee. Yearly dues after your first year will be \$10 per member. Dues will help offset the yearly costs of joining the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society, (National Dues: \$15 per chapter per year), and form a treasury for service projects to draw from and any operating expenses such as copies, mailings, etc... Changes in fees must be approved by the Advisor and any Parent Sponsor(s). A minimum of one Advisor and one or more adult Sponsors will lend support to the student members as they act as student leaders. Ideally, recruiting one Parent Sponsor from each of the York County Home School Support Groups, represented in the Home School Honor Society would be an excellent goal.

A ledger will be kept up to date by the Chapter Advisor with help from a student treasurer, and an end of the year treasury report will be submitted by the Chapter Advisor to the current Lambda Gamma Parent Sponsor(s) and students who are current members for accountability purposes. Parent Sponsors and student members may request current account information at any time.

Records of Donations and Letters of Appreciation:

A thank you for receipts of any donations or services to Lambda Gamma Chapter must be sent by the student secretary or Chapter Advisor or a Parent Sponsor in a timely manner and the donation or service should be recorded by date and type, and monetary value as a proof of that donor's gift or service.

Induction Ceremonies/Awards & Recognition:

Upon acceptance and completion of the membership application, an acceptance letter will be sent to each qualifying student.

A special, formal Induction Ceremony will take place once or twice a year (fall and spring), as needed. A Certificate of Induction shall be conferred on each inductee as well as a single golden cord for those under 12th grade level. For those in their senior year, there will be a special presentation of double gold cords and a senior honor sash may be purchased by the parents. These items may be worn upon the student's senior high school graduation, as long as they have met all Chapter requirements by their date of graduation.

There may also be county and/or state recognition given (names in the local newspaper, recognition at the state home school convention) and a certificate of honor and participation shall be awarded at the end of each school year to every member who has met all membership requirements during that year. This may be given to parents to use in an end of the year program or as part of the student's portfolio.

NOTE: 7th and 8th grade students....Jr. National Honor Society!

As we have more interest and participation from the 7th and 8th grade students, we shall form a separate division: a junior division of the same Lambda Gamma Chapter of the National Home School Honor Society. It will be called the Lambda Gamma Jr. Home School Honor Society ~ and will enjoy some of the same honors and awards as the senior division of Lambda Gamma. However, only the 9th-12th grades will be recognized as the senior division. Different certificates, membership requirements and separate bimonthly meetings will be some distinctions made between the two levels of Honor Society membership.

Seniors and their families shall be responsible for purchasing their own honorary cords, emblems, sash, or other specially designated items worn during senior high graduation ceremonies, and only with approval from their Chapter Advisor and local Chapter Sponsors. **NOTE:** Graduating seniors must have been accepted for membership a minimum of one semester before the semester they will graduate, and have completed all service hours and any other member requirements, (including the 3.5 grade point each semester) up until the time of graduation or they will be disqualified from graduating with the double golden cords and sash of honor.

Minimum Records kept by Lambda Gamma for each member must consist of the signed Application for Membership of each student member, and records as required by the National Home School Honor Society* and our local Lambda Gamma Chapter:

1. Proof of the student's entering standardized test score*. (Iowa Basic, Stanford, PSAT, SAT, or ACT) Scores must be submitted within the past two years of the current semester to be eligible for Induction and they must have at least 90% on the composite score. For the SAT=1800 ACT= 26 PSAT=180 (verbal + math) these are the accepted minimum scores after 2006.

2. Current grade or progress reports* must be submitted semester by semester and they must show the student's current GPA to be at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Keep a special note of recognition for any student achieving a 4.0 GPA or above per semester. Copies of a notice of probation (if given) concerning less than a 3.5 GPA per semester should be kept in the student member's personal file.

Each member may have one probation semester per every two years of membership, but none may be consecutive. If a student becomes ineligible to remain in Lambda Gamma, after two consecutive semesters of probation, then they must reapply for membership using their next grade report to be accepted in the group again. If a member discontinues homeschooling their records should be kept for up to two years and if they come back in that time, they must submit proof of GPA 3.5 and bring a letter from their parents documenting their return to homeschooling and their desire to rejoin the Honor Society.

3. Each member must complete their yearly service project(s) report sheet which documents that they have participated in the 20 hours of required service. (There will be one required group project per year and the rest of the service time may be individual hours, if initialed by an adult)

4. Each student may not miss more than 2 meetings per year, (One excused absence (24 hour notice before the meeting sent to the Advisor or the Parent Sponsor); then a second excused absence will be followed by a warning of probation if there is a third absence. If there are more than two meetings missed, then the student will be placed on probation for one year, the same as if their GPA drops below a 3.5 in any semester. (This is out of 6 required meetings per year) Any student on probation may reapply for membership after one year. The year will reset each Sept. 1st.

Also, in the member file should be the local Lambda Gamma Chapter requirements, which include:

5. Two Letters of Recommendation—9th-12th One letter for 7th-8th
6. A short essay written by the student. (200 words)
7. The Date of Membership and the Date of Induction into the Lambda Gamma Chapter, (these may be different dates because of time lapse between application and acceptance and the actual Induction Ceremony which is biyearly), and a record of each semester's membership or probation status after the first semester of membership. We need to keep a running total of semesters/years that the student has qualified for membership.
8. Any other related information concerning exceptional service, leadership or position/title held while a member of the National Home School Honor Society for media, recommendation for scholarships or other honors purposes should be noted in each student's folder.
9. Additional records may include the minutes of any Chapter meetings and a summary of at least one group service project that was completed by the Chapter members.

Other information for Chapter Advisor and Parent Sponsor(s):

Qualifications to volunteer as the Chapter Advisor or as a Parent Sponsor:

First read and agree to uphold the charter, purpose, goals, and most importantly the Code of Ethics & Conduct of The Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society, and this local York County Lambda Gamma Chapter. They must be residing in York County, SC, and be currently home schooling a minimum of one child. They must be legally home schooling in the state of SC under one of the three options of our state law.

A Chapter Advisor:

Must also be willing to serve first (for at least one semester) as a Parent Sponsor or have prior leadership experience with a student organization.

Responsibilities of the Chapter Advisor include: setting up meeting places and times for bimonthly meetings, assist members in compiling an agenda for the meeting and helping to identify any service opportunities for the group; and keeping the member files and ledger up to date and accurate; (students may volunteer to assist the Advisor as Secretary or Treasurer.)

Parent Sponsor(s):

Responsibilities of Parent Sponsor(s) may include: assisting the Chapter Advisor with meetings, providing refreshments, helping organize the Induction Ceremony; correspondence (donations, thankyou's, acceptance letters); record keeping and other jobs as delegated by the Chapter Advisor.

NOTE: If for any reason a Chapter Advisor or Parent Sponsor would need to be removed from their position(s), because of mismanagement of their duties or for a flagrant and continued disregard for the Code of Ethics and Conduct or any other offense that would jeopardize this Chapter's respectability in the home schooling community at a local, state or national level, then the Parent Sponsor(s) or parents of the students currently members of the Chapter will have the option of dismissing the Chapter Advisor by a 3/4 of majority vote, only after exhausting all reasonable means by which to rectify and resolve the situation in a biblical manner.

Local History of Lambda Gamma Chapter: founded by Cynthia Spratley, first Advisor in the fall of 2003. (Founding members: Anastasia Spratley, Luke Andersen, Jason Bowen, Joel Bowen, and Robbie Sellers.) Three local support groups contributed each \$30.00 to help us begin, they were: Rock Hill Area Homeschoolers, Ft. Mill Area Homeschoolers, York Education At Home, and the Palmetto Teen Group also contributed the same sum. Martha Andersen (Rock Hill Area Home Schoolers) was the Parent Sponsor from 2004-2006 and Cynthia Spratley (York Education At Home) was the Chapter Advisor from 2003-2006.