



Eta Sigma Alpha
National Home School Honor Society
Lambda Gamma Chapter
York County, SC

Sponsored by: York County Homeschool Support Groups
For Applications send a legal size SASE: Lambda Gamma Chapter
C/O Mrs. Martha Andersen 2930 Brookridge Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29732
Go to: www.YEAHonline.org for applications online.

Mission Statement:

"The purpose of The Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among home school students. To achieve this purpose, Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society shall provide opportunities for the development of leadership and service.

Eta Sigma Alpha shall encourage the development of an intellectual climate that will stimulate the exchange of ideas and ideals, foster scholarship, and promote academic excellence. Eta Sigma Alpha shall also advocate homeschooling as a viable and successful educational methodology and act as a liaison for homeschooling to the general public, colleges/universities, and the media."

History:

Eta Sigma Alpha is the first honor society established exclusively for homeschooled students. Founded in 1999 by Joanne E. Juren, M.Ed, Executive Director of the Home Education Partnership of Texas, it has grown into a national organization.

As a former public school administrator, Mrs. Juren contacted the National Honor Society with the intent of forming a homeschool chapter for her sons and others in a local support group in 1997. When told that NHS did not accept homeschool students, Juren decided to start a new honor society for homeschoolers. Over the next two years, the idea for Eta Sigma Alpha was refined and the "Alpha" chapter was started in 1999 through the Home Education Partnership of Texas. Barbara Gorman served as the first lead advisor along with Joanne Juren and Terry Arnold as co-sponsors.

Chapters:

Today, there are over 136 active chapters in 31 states. York County's first Chapter is Lambda Gamma and was established in the summer of 2003. Current adults volunteering in leadership for this Chapter are Sr. Advisor Mrs. Martha Andersen (803)366-9553 from Rock Hill Area Home Schoolers and Sponsor Mrs. Tonya Conrad (803) 324-5251 from YEAH (York Education At Home). We need a Jr. Advisor & Sponsor for 7th-8th.

ETA SIGMA ALPHA -History of the name: *Eta, the Greek letter that is shaped like an "H" and Sigma Σ , the letter for "S" were chosen, along with Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. Thus Eta Sigma Alpha means the "first home school" honor society.*

Mandatory Requirements for National Eta Sigma Alpha membership:

1) **A test Score~** of 1800 (SAT I) or 26 (ACT) or 180 (Verbal/Math -PSAT) or a 90% on the composite battery on the IOWA, Stanford, California, MAT. or other nationally norm standardized achievement tests is required for ESA membership. This test score must be no more than 2 years old and must be submitted to the local chapter and **recorded by them one time only**. This record must be kept by each chapter in order for them to remain in the National ESA Membership.

Additional Local Chapter Requirements:

(as established by the York County Chapter of Lambda Gamma)

2.) **Grade Point Requirements:** 3.5 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. This GPA may include the parent transcript, early admission college courses, co-op or support group homeschool class grades, or similar coursework supervised/directed by the home schooling parent. This must be maintained on a semester by semester basis. These report cards/ transcripts may be submitted up to one month after the preceding semester has finished. **Exception for the graduating seniors,** they must submit their first semester report card or transcript by Jan. 31st, of their senior year in order to graduate with the honor society emblem /tassels /sash; and they must maintain their grade point the last semester of their senior year and submit that to The Lambda Gamma Chapter **no later than May 1st of their senior year!** *You must be a member at least one semester, before your last semester of your senior year to graduate with honors.*

3.) **Letters of recommendation** will be sent directly from those asked to submit them to the Lambda Gamma Chapter adult leadership, by way of USPS, to **Lambda Gamma Chapter** C/O Mrs. Martha Andersen 2930 Brookridge Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29732. (Applicants may address return envelopes and supply the stamps.) **NOTE:** One letter is requested from 7th-8th graders and two letters* are requested from 9th-12th graders. (*One may be from a family member outside your immediate family (no parents/siblings.)

4.) **Essay written by applicant:** This is a **brief statement** by the applicant about why they would like to join the Eta Sigma Alpha Honor Society and what service or leadership they are willing to bring to the Lambda Gamma Chapter. (200 words **minimum** for 9th-12th graders)

5.) Applicants must read and agree to uphold and abide by the Code of Ethics & Conduct. They must acknowledge that it will be the guiding standard of conduct and principle that the Lambda Gamma Chapter will rest upon along with any additional bylaws or rules and regulations that the chapter establishes in the future.

6.) Attendance at monthly meetings is required (see bylaws for excused absences), as well as, yearly participation shown in a documented log of 20 hours of service per member. Service may be planned individually or as a group project.

At this time, any 7th-12th grade homeschool student in York County, SC is eligible to apply for membership. When we have 7th & 8th grades apply, we will split the membership into two levels: a Jr. National Honor Society (7th-8th) and a Sr. National Honor Society (9th-12th). Each member will pay dues of \$20 to join and \$10 each year following. This will help offset the yearly costs of joining the National Home School Honor Society and form a treasury for service projects to draw from and any operating expenses such as copies, mailings, etc... A cash ledger will be kept up to date, and a treasury report will be submitted quarterly by the adult advisor to the current Lambda Gamma membership for accountability purposes.

***** Attention Seniors:** You must join Lambda Gamma during the first semester of your senior year to be eligible to graduate as a member of Lambda Gamma. The graduate's family will need to purchase any honor cords, tassel, pin or sash conferred upon the graduate, in addition to the joining and yearly fees, if so desired. These can be found on the website for www.etasigmaalpha.org

For a downloadable PDF version of this application go to www.YEAHonline.org and proceed to the free [downloads page](#) and click on either the pdf or word version of the document: National Home School Honor Society Application.





**Application for Eta Sigma Alpha
National Home School Honor Society
Lambda Gamma Chapter, York County, South Carolina, USA**

Application Date _____ Current Grade Level _____
Date of Birth _____

Name of Student _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

National Eta Sigma Alpha Requirements to Join:

1) **A test Score~** of 1800 (SAT I) or 26 (ACT) or 180 (Verbal/Math -PSAT) or a 90% on the composite battery on the IOWA, Stanford, California, MAT or other nationally norm standardized achievement tests is required for ESA membership. This test score must be **no more than 2 years old** and must be submitted to the local chapter and **recorded by them one time only**. This record must be kept by each chapter in order for them to remain in the National ESA Membership. _____ is the composite score I submit.

York County's Lambda Gamma Chapter Additional Requirements:

2.) **Grade Point Requirements:** 3.5 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. This GPA may include the parent transcript, early admission college courses, co-op or support group homeschool class grades, or similar coursework supervised by the home schooling parent. This must be maintained on a semester by semester basis. These report cards/ transcripts may be submitted up to one month after the preceding semester has finished.

Exception for the graduating seniors, they must submit their first semester report card or transcript by Jan. 31st, of their senior year in order to graduate with the honor society emblem /tassels /sash; and they must maintain their grade point the last semester of their senior year and submit that to The Lambda Gamma Chapter **no later than May 1st of their senior year!** *You must be a member at least one semester, before your last semester of your senior year to graduate with honors.*

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3. Letters of Recommendation*: These are to be confidential and they should be mailed by the person making the recommendation directly to: **Lambda Gamma Chapter (see address at bottom of application)**

*One letter is required for 7th - 8th grade applicants

*Two letters are required for 9th -12th grade applicants and one may be from a family member other than your parents or siblings. You may choose to provide pre-addressed envelopes and stamps for those that you ask to write references.

(Dates Letters of Recommendation Received _____ / _____)

4. Essay: Please attach a brief essay explaining why you would like to join this Honor Society. Explain what skills, character traits or types of leadership you will share with other members, which will benefit the mission of the honor society.

(200 words minimum) All essays must be legible.

5. Attendance at bimonthly meetings is required (see bylaws for excused absence rule), as well as, 20 hours of documented service per member.

6. Code of Ethics & Conduct: All applicants must read and understand the Code of Ethics & Conduct. This Code will serve as the standard and as a moral compass for this group. The Lambda Gamma Chapter of the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society will be a Christ honoring group, which require all members to reflect strong Christian principles in their conduct, words and deeds.

I, _____ agree to uphold and abide by the Code of Ethics & Conduct. I understand that my conduct, words and deeds should reflect Christian principles at all times while participating in this local chapter of the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society. Probation for failure to adhere to this Code will be automatic. Please Date _____ and sign below.

Applicant's signature: _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s) signature(s) required:

_____, _____.

*Any rising 7th-12th grade home school student in York County, SC is eligible to apply for membership in a Jr. National Home School Honor Society (7th-8th) and any 9th-12th grader may apply to the Sr. National Home School Honor Society (9th-12th). Dues for each member will be \$20 to join and \$10 each year following. For more information about the York County Lambda Gamma Chapter, please contact our Lambda Gamma Sr. Advisor: Martha Andersen (803) 366-9553. Code of Ethics and Bylaws may be found at www.YEAHonline.org

**Please, mail your completed application; a copy of your last report card; test scores & brief essay to; Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society
2930 Brookridge Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29732 .**