

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
RHO ETA ALPHA CHAPTER
OF THE NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY**

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be entitled the Rho Eta Alpha Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls, Inc.
The Rho Eta Alpha Chapter was founded on The University of Southern Mississippi Campus in 1988.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide recognition for those students living in residence halls who have been of outstanding service and who have provided important leadership in the advancement of the residence hall system. To provide recognition for the professional staff that assist with growth of the residence hall community at the University of Southern Mississippi. To promote activities which encourage leadership qualities in residents.

ARTICLE III NRHH VALUES

NRHH is a leadership-based honorary comprised of exemplary residential students who value recognition and service.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

I. CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Candidate Member is a pre-membership status in which the student has shown interest through intent to become an NRHH Member.
- B. The Candidate member must submit a formal intent of pre-membership to the chapter.
- C. The Chapter must educate the candidate on the following topics before the candidate can be inducted:
 - a. NRHH chapters must educate candidate members on topics including but not limited to:
 - i. NRHH History & Symbolism
 - 1. Mission and Vision
 - 2. Values of Service and Recognition
 - 3. History
 - a. Founded April 25th, 1964 at the University of Denver.
 - b. Founded to support NACURH in a time of financial difficulties and gives NACURH it's non-profit status.
 - 4. Significance of regalia
 - a. Membership Pin
 - b. Honor Cords
 - c. Bronze Pin
 - d. Outstanding Service Pin
 - e. Outstanding Leadership Pin
 - f. The Diamond
 - i. The diamond surrounding the letters of the organization and the three interconnected links, the chain of leadership, form the logo of the honorary.

- ii. The diamond, the world's most precious gem, signifies the value and beauty one finds in the residence halls experience.
- g. The Colors
 - i. The colors of the honorary colors are blue and white.
 - ii. The blue symbolizes loyalty: loyalty to purpose and idea.
 - iii. The white signifies a blank page: a page on which a student writes the successes and experiences that fill their days in the residence halls.
- h. The Links
 - i. The first link of the chain represents caring. Leaders are people who care. They are concerned about themselves and others, and are committed to making things better.
 - ii. The second link signifies dedication. Part of a leader's commitment is the dedication to a cause, which they display. Dedication is an important part of the involvement required to be truly effective.
 - iii. The third link represents participation. True leaders participate fully in their academic pursuits, their friendships, their activities, and their lives. Leaders don't sit on the sidelines, but are competent team players.
 - iv. Together the unbroken chain symbolizes the membership of NRHH. As leaders we are interconnected as caring and dedicated participants in the community of your university.
- i. OTMs
- j. Membership Qualifications
 - i. Must be a student of the college or university with which the chapter is affiliated.
 - ii. Must be a student pursuing an undergraduate, graduate or professional degree.
 - iii. Must be a student in good academic standing, as defined by the affiliated institution and chapter.
 - iv. Must be living in an institutionally owned or contracted housing and has lived in this housing for at least one academic term, as defined by the affiliated institution.
 - v. Must have made positive contributions to the residence hall system through engagement with the values of service and recognition.
 - vi. Shall be a student in good standing with the university and shall have a minimum 2.80 cumulative grade point average.

k. Requirements

- i. Understand the expected requirements for candidate, on-campus, and off-campus (if applicable) membership.
- b. NRHH chapters must require candidate members including but not limited to:
 - i. Meeting Attendance
 - ii. Attend at least one chapter meeting prior to becoming an on-campus member.
 - iii. NRHH chapters must distribute the Candidate Member Education manual that is developed by the NACURH NRHH Board annually to all candidate members.
- c. Before a Candidate Member can be inducted, they must meet the following requirements:
 - i. A Candidate Member seeking induction must be a student of the college or university with which the chapter is affiliated. "Student" shall be defined by the chapter's host institution. Students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional degrees are all eligible for induction.
 - ii. A Candidate Member shall follow the Recognition and Service requirements set forth by their chapter. Requirements for Candidate Members should be less than or equal to On-Campus and Off-Campus Member requirements.
 - iii. At the time of induction, the Inductee must be a student in good academic standing, as defined by the affiliated institution and chapter.
 - iv. Candidate Members must be living in institutionally owned or contracted housing and has lived in institutionally owned or contracted housing for at least one academic term, as defined by the affiliated institution, upon induction.
 - v. Candidate Members must have made positive contribution to the residence hall system through engagement with the values of service and recognition.
- d. Once a candidate member has met all NACURH and chapter requirements, they will be eligible for induction.

II. ON-CAMPUS MEMBERSHIP

- a. An On-Campus member of an NRHH Chapter is a member that lives in institutionally owned or contracted housing and meets the chapter and NACURH membership qualifications.
- b. On-Campus Members must meet the following requirements to maintain their membership:
 - i. The On-Campus Member must be a student of the college or university with which the chapter is affiliated. "Student" shall be defined by the Chapter's host institution.
 - ii. An On-Campus Member shall follow the Recognition and Service requirements set forth by their chapter.
 - iii. The On-Campus member must be a student in good academic standing, as defined by the affiliated institution and chapter.
 - iv. On-Campus Member must be living in institutionally owned or contracted housing.
 - v. On-Campus Member continue to make a positive contribution to the residence hall system through engagement with the values of service and recognition.

III. Off-Campus Membership

- a. An Off-Campus Member of an NRHH Chapter is a member that does not live in institutionally owned or contracted housing and meets the chapter and NACURH membership qualifications.

- b. Off-Campus Members must meet the following requirements to maintain their membership:
 - i. The Off-Campus Member must be a student of the college or university with which the chapter is affiliated. "Student" shall be defined by the Chapter's host institution.
 - ii. An Off-Campus Member shall follow the Recognition and Service requirements set forth by their chapter.
 - iii. The Off-Campus member must be a student in good academic standing, as defined by the affiliated institution and chapter.
 - iv. Off-Campus Members must continue to make a positive contribution to their community through engagement with the values of service and recognition.

IV. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Once an individual has shown dedication and commitment to NRHH according to their chapter's standards, they will become an NRHH member for life.

- a. A Lifelong Member is a member of NRHH that is no longer affiliated with their host institution as a student due to either graduation or a discontinuation of education.
- b. Anyone who leaves the chapter and institution in institutional good standing and meets the chapter's requirements for membership for life would become a Lifelong Member.
- c. By becoming a Lifelong Member, a member would have to uphold the life long commitment to the NRHH Values of recognition and service.
- d. Lifelong Members are eligible to participate in chapter-specific and NACURH activities at the discretion of NACURH Leadership and their chapter, respectively.

V. Membership Capacity

- a. The membership of a chapter includes on and off campus members.
- b. The University of Southern Mississippi will be capped at 1 percent of on housing population from the following halls:
 - i. Hillcrest Hall (364 total occupancy)
 - ii. Century Park North 1 (191 total occupancy)
 - iii. Century Park North 2 (233 total occupancy)
 - iv. Century Park North 3 (191 total occupancy)
 - v. Century Park North 4 (235 total occupancy)
 - vi. Century Park South Scott Hall (446 total occupancy)
 - vii. Century Park South Vann Hall (340 total occupancy)
 - viii. Century Park South Luckyday Hall (174 total occupancy)
 - ix. McCarty North (129 total occupancy)
 - x. McCarty South (250 total occupancy)
 - xi. Hattiesburg Hall (64 total occupancy)
 - xii. Mississippi Hall (64 total occupancy)
 - xiii. Wilber Hall (225 total occupancy)
 - xiv. Village (350 total occupancy)
 - xv. Frat row – owned by USM Housing (295 total occupancy)
 - xvi. Cedarbrook Apartments (54 total occupancy)
- c. Membership will be capped at 36 members (excluding Lifelong Members)

VI. Membership Transfer Policy

- a. NRHH members that are transferring schools at any educational level, including incoming graduate students and incoming doctoral students, are able to apply to have their NRHH membership transferred from their outgoing institution to their incoming institution.

- b. Each NRHH chapter is able to accept/reject transfer members at their own discretion. If accepted, these members shall become voting members of the new chapter. The Membership Transfer Policy must be outlined according to the following:
 - i. The student applying to transfer their membership must be fully matriculated at the new institution.
 - ii. The student seeking to transfer their membership must contact the chapter president and advisor in writing detailing why they want to transfer their membership, how they benefitted their previous chapter and residence hall system, and how they hope to be involved in the new chapter.
 - iii. The student seeking to transfer will fill out a transfer application.
 - iv. All active NRHH members will vote to accept or decline transfer.
 - v. Simple majority must be obtained to accept transfer. In case of a tie NRHH President makes the deciding vote.
 - c. If approved, the student and/or new chapter must complete the membership transfer application.
 - i. The membership transfer application may be obtained from the region's ADNRRH.
 - ii. The membership transfer application shall include signatures from the following individuals:
 - 1. The incoming chapter's President.
 - 2. The incoming chapter's Advisor.
 - 3. The NRHH member who is seeking to transfer their membership.
 - iii. The completed application shall be submitted to the region's ADNRRH for approval.
 - iv. It is the right of the region's ADNRRH to deny requests for reasons including, but not limited to:
 - 1. The application form is incomplete.
 - 2. Adding new member(s) puts the chapter over its member cap.
 - v. If the member and/or chapter wish to appeal the decision of the region's ADNRRH, they may appeal to the entire NNB. The decision of the NNB shall be final. In the event of an appeal to the NNB:
 - 1. Each ADNRRH shall have one vote.
 - 2. A simple majority shall be necessary, with NRHH President casting the tie-breaking vote when necessary.
- VII. Off-Campus Membership Pledge
- a. NRHH members that do not live in institutionally owned or contracted housing are able to apply to have voting rights within their chapter.
 - b. The member and/or chapter must complete the NRHH Off-Campus Membership Pledge
 - i. This form can be obtained from the region's ADNRRH.
 - ii. The form must include the electronic signatures of the chapter President and chapter advisor.
 - iii. This form must be submitted electronically
 - c. The completed Off-Campus Membership Pledge shall be submitted to the region's ADNRRH for approval.
 - d. It is the right of the region's ADNRRH to deny requests for removal for reasons including, but not limited to:
 - i. Submission of an incomplete application form.

- ii. The region's ADNRRH does not believe that the member applying for voting rights has provided sufficient evidence of their ability to serve the on-campus body or fulfill the requirements of the honorary.
- e. If the member and/or chapter wish to appeal the decision of the region's ADNRRH, they may appeal to the entire NNB. The decision of the NNB shall be final. In the event of an appeal to the NNB:
 - i. Each ADNRRH shall have one vote.
 - ii. A simple majority shall be necessary, with NRHH president casting the tie-breaking vote when necessary

VIII. Member Removal Policy (only required if members of the chapter do not become eligible for Lifelong Membership at the time of induction)

- a. The Removal Policy may be enacted if a member can no longer meet the chapter membership expectations.
- b. If a member is removed, they no longer count towards the 1% membership cap.
- c. The following guidelines apply to the procedure for the removal of a member:
 - i. The member and/or chapter must complete the NRHH member removal application.
 - ii. This form can be obtained from the region's ADNRRH.
 - iii. The form must include the electronic signatures of the chapter President and chapter advisor.
 - iv. This form must be submitted electronically.
 - v. The completed member removal application shall be submitted to the region's ADNRRH for approval.
 - vi. The amount of members for removal is up to the discretion of the chapter.
 - vii. It is the right of the region's ADNRRH to deny requests for removal for reasons including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Submission of an incomplete application form.
 - 2. The region's ADNRRH does not believe that sufficient measures have been taken by the chapter to address the member's inactivity or ineligibility within the chapter prior to submission of the application.
 - viii. If the member and/or chapter wish to appeal the decision, they may appeal to the Regional ADNRRH through written request as to why the Candidate deserves to continue as a member of NRHH.

IX. AWARDS

- a. Outstanding Leadership Award
 - i. This award is the highest individual honor an NRHH Chapter can award to its members.
 - ii. This award shall be awarded to NRHH members that have provided outstanding leadership to their NRHH Chapter by embodying the values of service and recognition. This may include candidate, active and lifelong members.
 - iii. The maximum number of Outstanding Leadership Awards which may be given in a year is equal to the number of regional affiliates within NACURH (8).
 - 1. NRHH executive board, RHA (Residence Hall Association) executive board, RHA Advisors, and NRHH Advisor will nominate names for this award.
 - 2. All student members of NRHH Executive board and RHA executive board will vote.
 - 3. Top 8 names with most votes will receive the award.

4. Outstanding Leadership Awards will be handed out at the department banquet in the spring. No awards will be handed out in the fall semester.
 5. NRHH President and RHA Director both announce and hand out the pins to the recipients.
- b. Outstanding Service Award
- i. This award is designed to recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding support and service to an NRHH chapter and residence hall students.
 - ii. Anyone eligible for membership, excluding those graduating in the current semester can be awarded the service award.
 - iii. The maximum number of Outstanding Service Awards which may be given in a year is equal to the number of regional affiliates within NACURH (8).
 1. NRHH executive board, RHA (Residence Hall Association) executive board, RHA Advisors, and NRHH Advisor will nominate names for this award.
 2. All student members of NRHH Executive board and RHA executive board will vote.
 3. Top 8 names with most votes will receive the award.
 4. Outstanding Leadership Awards will be handed out at the department banquet in the spring. No awards will be handed out in the fall semester.
 5. NRHH President and RHA Director both announce and hand out the pins to the recipients.
- c. Bronze Pin
- i. This award is designed to recognize those who have provided leadership and direction to their campus organizations. Recipients do not have to be NRHH members.
 - ii. This award is the highest individual honor given by the RHA or NRHH President.
 - iii. The maximum number of Bronze Pins which may be given in a year is equal to the number of regional affiliates within NACURH (8).
 1. NRHH President will select 4 recipients
 2. NRHH Advisor must approve the 4 recipients for the NRHH President
 3. RHA President will select 4 recipients
 4. RHA Advisors must approve the 4 recipients for the RHA President
 5. Bronze Pins will be handed out at the department banquet in the spring. No Bronze Pins will be handed out in the fall semester.
- d. Honor Cords
- i. Honor Cords for NRHH will be handed out to active graduating members.
 1. To receive NRHH Honor Cords the member must be:
 - a. Graduating the semester they receive the cords
 - b. Be in current good/active standing with the chapter

X. SELECTION PROCEDURES

- a. Qualification for nomination
 - i. Meet all qualifications for candidacy membership
- b. Nomination
 - i. Nominations will be completed by the second week of February
 - ii. Applications will be open through the first week of March.
 - iii. Nominations may be submitted by:
 1. NRHH member of Rho Eta Alpha Chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary

2. RHA Executive Cabinet Members
 3. The Director of Housing and Residence Life
 4. The Associate Director of Residential Education
 5. Any of the Assistant Directors of Housing and Residence Life
 6. Any of the Residence Life Coordinators
 7. Any of the Senior Resident Assistants
 8. Any of the Residence Assistants
- iv. There shall be no self-nominations
- c. Inductions
 - i. Only candidate members who have completed the candidate training can be inducted.
 - ii. One induction per year at the end of March/April
 - iii. The candidate member must be present for induction to be inducted into NRHH

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

I. OFFICERS

- a. NRHH PRESIDENT
- b. VICE PRESIDENT OF REGOGNITION
- c. VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVICE
- d. NRHH ADVISOR

II. OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The President of NRHH shall:
 - i. Conduct and preside over the meetings of NRHH which are called at his/her discretion.
 - ii. Be a member of the RHA Executive Board of the Residence Hall Association.
 - iii. Attend or appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Residence Hall Association.
 - iv. Attend SAACURH/NACURH conferences per The University of Southern Mississippi Housing and Residence Life Department approval.
 - v. Submit a yearly budget for the following academic year to the Residence Hall Association in the third week of April to be approved by a two-thirds majority of those in attendance that the RHA executive board meeting.
 - vi. Appoint ad hoc committees and the chairpersons of these committees.
 - vii. Maintain all chapter files in the NRHH office
 - viii. Coordinate induction ceremony
 - ix. President will be the tie breaking vote; therefore, President cannot vote during normal voting procedures.
- b. The Vice President of Recognition shall:
 - i. Responsible for coordinating monthly OTM awards
 - ii. Sit as the chairperson of the Selection committee after nomination forms have been submitted.
 - iii. Maintain all social media accounts for the chapter.
 - iv. Responsible for submitting campus OTM winners to the regional level.
- c. The Vice President of Service shall:
 - i. Sit as the chairperson of the service committee
 - ii. Responsible for logging all service hours for the organization.
 - iii. Take minutes at all membership meetings
 - iv. Log all member participation points for the year
 - v. Checking eligibility for NRHH cords prior to end of year banquet for graduating seniors.

- d. NRHH Advisor shall:
 - i. Ensure that all affiliation paperwork is filled out accurately and is submitted in the Fall semester
 - ii. Oversee the operating budget for NRHH
 - iii. Purchase any supplies needed for NRHH including but not limited to:
 - 1. Induction certificate and seals
 - 2. Induction Pins
 - 3. Graduation Cords
 - 4. Award Pins
 - 5. Program Supplies
 - 6. Office Supplies

III. QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICERS

- a. All officers must be NRHH members in good standing at the time of the elections
- b. No candidate member can serve as an officer of NRHH
- c. All officers must be voted in by the membership

IV. OFFICER SELECTION PROCESS

- a. One month prior to the last meeting of the Spring semester during the general body meeting the floor will be opened for nominations from the floor for officer positions.
- b. Members can self-nominate or nominate another member
- c. NRHH President will ask member who is being nominated if they accept the nomination
- d. If member accepts the nomination their name will be added to the ballot.
- e. At the last meeting of the Spring semester ballots will be open for voting.
- f. Officer is elected by majority of members present. In case of a tie the NRHH President will be the tie breaking vote
- g. Officers voted in will immediately assume the leadership position.

V. OFFICER REMOVAL PROCESS

- a. Officers not performing duties can be removed from office after the following procedures have been followed by the NRHH Advisor
 - i. NRHH Advisor has had 3 documented educational conversations for not completing job responsibilities
 - ii. NRHH Advisor has a formal written warning conversation/documentation with officer
 - iii. NRHH Advisor has a formal final written warning conversation/documentation with officer
 - iv. NRHH Advisor presents all documentation to Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life for final approval of removal.
 - v. NRHH officer has the right to appeal decision to the Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life.

VI. VACANCY OF AN OFFICER POSITION

- a. When a position becomes vacant a notice will be announced at the next general body meeting.
- b. At the general body meeting the floor will be open for nominations from the floor
- c. Members and self-nominate or nominate another member.
- d. After the floor closes NRHH Advisor ensures that members nominated are all in good standing
- e. All members who are in good standing will be put on the voting ballot
- f. Members will vote
- g. Officer is elected by majority of members present. In case of a tie the NRHH president will be the tie breaking vote

- h. In the case that the position being voted on is the NRHH President the tie breaking vote will go to the RHA Director

VII. FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR

- a. NRHH shall have a regular faculty/staff advisor who will attend meetings and advise the organization. The faculty/staff advisor shall be appointed by The University of Southern Mississippi Housing and Residence Life Department.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

I. GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

- a. General Body Meetings will take place every other week.
- b. General Body Meeting will be decided at the beginning of each semester by the NRHH Executive Board

II. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

- a. Executive Board Meetings will take place every other week
- b. Executive Board Meetings will take place on opposite weeks of General Body Meetings.

ARTICLE VII FINANCES

I. CHAPTER FUNDS

- a. Chapter funds are pulled from the Residence Hall Association Yearly Budget.
- b. NRHH President must present a yearly budget for the RHA executive board to approve
- c. NRHH Members will not pay a membership fee
- d. The Rho Eta Alpha Chapter will be a chapter in good standing with the region and NACURH/NACURH offices by completing all affiliation paperwork and dues.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

- I. Amendments to this constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the active membership present at a scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IX NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

- I. NRHH at The University of Southern Mississippi does not restrict membership on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, gender identity, genetic information, race, religion, color or national origin, and/or veteran status, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local law.

