

## **Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society JLHS Chapter – Candidate Packet**

Dear Jackson Liberty Rho Kappa Candidate:

RHO KAPPA Social Studies Honor Society is the only national organization for high school juniors and seniors that recognizes excellence in the field of social studies. RHO KAPPA provides national recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies.

The mission and purposes of RHO KAPPA shall be:

- To promote scholarship and to recognize academic excellence in social studies among high school students.
- To provide opportunities for exploration in the social studies in secondary school environments and the community.
- To encourage interest in, understanding of, and appreciation for the social studies.

All candidates must read this entire document, complete and submit all parts of the application no later than **Friday, February 26, 2021 by 12:00 to Mr. Gorzynski in room C122**. Please be sure to carefully review the entire packet and see Mr. Gorzynski with any questions you may have as soon as possible. **No late applications will be accepted.**

Mr. Gorzynski

Jackson Liberty Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society Faculty Sponsor

**Application Cover Sheet**

I understand that completion of this form does not guarantee selection. Falsification of information on this form will lead to disqualification from candidacy. Every entry requires an appropriate signature and that completed applications will not be accepted late under any circumstances.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the information provided by my daughter /son on this form and can verify that it is true, accurate and complete in its presentation.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership and Selection Process

Membership in Rho Kappa is based upon academic achievement in courses within the field of social studies as well as overall academic GPA. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate high academic standards; including maintaining high grades in their social studies courses. Failing to do so will result in removal from the organization.

Active members shall demonstrate an ability to work with others, to conduct research and inquiry in the field of social studies and shall possess qualities of industry, initiative and reliability as they pertain to academic excellence.

Active members shall exhibit a genuine interest in, and enthusiasm for, social studies scholarship and topics.

Active members shall contribute service to the high school or the community in which the chapter resides at the direction and discretion of the school's principal and the chapter's sponsor.

A faculty selection committee, consisting of the chapter faculty sponsor and other faculty members within the school, will carefully review each student application packet and decide if students have met the requirements for membership in the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. Selection will be reached by a majority vote of the selection committee. Students will be promptly notified if they have or have not been selected for membership.

### Membership criteria include the following:

- **All candidates** for membership in Rho Kappa **must initially apply as juniors** (except senior transfer students).
- All junior candidates **must** have completed **two core courses in the field of social studies** and **be prepared to complete at least three core courses** by the end of junior year.
- The **minimum grade point average** for these **social studies courses** must be **3.50**, verified by the Guidance Department.
- The candidate's **overall cumulative high school GPA** shall be a minimum of **3.00**, verified by the Guidance Department.
- Candidates will be required to **show participation** in activities that demonstrate **civic engagement in school or community**.
- Candidates must express their **desire and aspiration** to be a member of the organization.
- Candidates must have **two faculty recommendations**, including **one** from a member of the **social studies department**.

**Membership criteria** (continued)

- **Junior candidates** who are **not accepted** for membership on account of not meeting **GPA standards** outlined above, **insufficient** school and/or community **service**, or for some other reason determined by the **faculty selection committee**, may **re-apply** for further consideration **as seniors**.
- All prospective **senior candidates** **MUST** have **previously applied** for membership **as juniors**, submit another completed candidate packet, meet all academic and service standards outlined within the membership criteria as well as show examples of service to the school and community over the course of the previous year since last applying for membership consideration by the faculty selection committee.
- Any member whose social studies grades drop below the chapter's minimum GPA requirement for two consecutive semesters shall be dismissed from Rho Kappa.
- Members **must** fulfill **attendance** requirements for Rho Kappa **meetings**.
- Members **must** perform a minimum of **10 community service hours** during the school year, which may include organized Rho Kappa service activities.
- All Rho Kappa inductees must pay a **\$25 fee** to cover costs including the chapter's annual new inductee fee and honor chords received at graduation.

**Participation in School / Community Service**

One of the membership requirements for acceptance into Rho Kappa is that candidates will be required to show participation in activities that demonstrate **civic engagement in school or community**.

“Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community.” – N.Y. Times article, “The Definition of Civic Engagement.

Activities which demonstrate civic engagement are those which have been for the betterment of the school, community or our nation. They should not be services or activities for which you have been paid for or compensated.

Candidates must clearly demonstrate documentation which can verify involvement and time commitment. Clearly explain/indicate in what capacity you were involved or contributed to the activity or service goal. Students should not use parents as sponsors/advisors.

Complete the chart on the next page which demonstrates service or activities you have undertaken with the goal or intent of making a contribution to improve or positively develop your school or community.

**I. Participation in School / Community Service Chart**

<b>Name of Activity or Service</b>	<b>Date and total hours of involvement</b>	<b>Description of Activity or Contribution</b>	<b>Sponsor/Advisor's Name and Email</b>	<b>Sponsor/Advisor's Signature</b>

## **II. Self-Evaluation**

Rho Kappa Honor Society is committed to the virtues of industry, initiative and reliability. Rho Kappa also requires that its members demonstrate an ability to work with others. Briefly explain how you have engaged in activities in school or your community which display such qualities as well as how you envision yourself making a positive contribution on a college campus, community or for your nation in the future.

Responses should be about 200 words, typed, double spaced, using 12-point font.

## **III. Teacher Recommendations**

Candidates must have two teachers complete a recommendation form to be considered for acceptance into Rho Kappa. At least one recommendation must come from a social studies teacher. Teachers who complete the form must have taught the candidate in class. Teachers will return completed recommendation forms to Mr. Gorzynski's mailbox or deliver them directly to Mr. Gorzynski in room C122.

## **IV. Candidate Interview**

The Rho Kappa Faculty Council reserves the right to interview any/all candidates regarding information provided in his/her application.

## Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society Teacher Recommendation Form

**Applicant:** Complete the top portion only and submit to your chosen teacher.

Student/Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Dear Teacher:**

This student is seeking to become a member of the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. The faculty selection committee would like your input to help make this decision. If you have been asked to recommend this student, then **you must have taught the candidate in class**. Please complete this form and return the completed recommendation to Mr. Gorzynski's mailbox or deliver them directly to Mr. Gorzynski in room C122.

What course did you teach this student and when? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the boxes below with the appropriate rating for the student.

**Rating: 1=Below Average 2=Average 3=Above Average 4=Exceptional**

Rating and Example (if you'd like)	Criteria
	Displays an ability to work well with others, showing respect and courtesy
	Displays the highest standards of honesty and reliability
	Shows initiative in the classroom, group activities and personal work and assignments
	<b>***For Social Studies Teacher:</b> Exhibits a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for social studies scholarship and topics

**Overall Comments on Student's Character and why he/she should be considered:**

---

---

---

---

**Teacher Signature and Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society Teacher Recommendation Form

**Applicant:** Complete the top portion only and submit to your chosen teacher.

Student/Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Dear Teacher:

This student is seeking to become a member of the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. The faculty selection committee would like your input to help make this decision. If you have been asked to recommend this student, then **you must have taught the candidate in class**. Please complete this form and return the completed recommendation to Mr. Gorzynski's mailbox or deliver them directly to Mr. Gorzynski in room C122.

What course did you teach this student and when? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the boxes below with the appropriate rating for the student.

**Rating: 1=Below Average   2=Average   3=Above Average   4=Exceptional**

Rating and Example (if you'd like)	Criteria
	Displays an ability to work well with others, showing respect and courtesy
	Displays the highest standards of honesty and reliability
	Shows initiative in the classroom, group activities and personal work and assignments
	<b>***For Social Studies Teacher:</b> Exhibits a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for social studies scholarship and topics

**Comments on Student's Character and why he/she should be considered:**

---

---

---

---

**Teacher Signature and Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



### Application Checklist

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed all written parts of the application in full.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have stapled all parts of the application in the following order:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Application Cover Sheet with signatures
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Part I. - Participation in School / Community Service Chart
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Part II. – Self Evaluation Response
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have followed up with the teachers who are submitting my two recommendations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have provided phone numbers / e-mail contacts for my non-school activity / service advisors / sponsors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have proofread all written responses and checked for appropriate signatures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am ready to submit this completed application to Mr. Gorzynski in C122

**REMINDER...DEADLINE IS FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 26**