

Constitution of Rho Kappa Kingwood  
Social Studies Honor Society  
Affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies

Created May 2017

### Preamble

Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society is the only national organization for high school students that recognizes excellence in the field of Social Studies. The mission and purpose of the Kingwood High School chapter of Rho Kappa is to promote scholarship and to recognize academic excellence in Social Studies.

### Article I - Name

The official name of this organization shall be Rho Kappa Kingwood. The organization will be an official chapter within the national Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society affiliated with the National Council for the Social Studies. The national Rho Kappa Constitution shall serve as the general guideline for all Rho Kappa Kingwood functions, and these bylaws shall specify the eligibility requirements and procedures of the chapter.

### Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this chapter shall be to encourage interest in, understanding of, and appreciation for the Social Studies. The chapter is intended to enhance the student's civic education at Kingwood High School and incentivize participation in Advanced Academics. The coursework requirements for membership reflect a commitment to the liberal arts and social sciences, which serve as the foundation of civic education.

### Article III - Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is bestowed upon a student by the chapter. A Faculty Selection Committee assembled by the Chapter Faculty Sponsor shall confer membership on applicants. The Faculty Selection Committee shall consist of the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and at least one other faculty member within the Social Studies Department. The total number of faculty members shall be determined by the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and faculty members from other departments may serve on the committee at the Chapter Faculty Sponsor's discretion.

Section 2. Membership is based upon academic achievement in coursework 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 the required GPA in their Social Studies coursework. Failure to do so will result in removal from the chapter.

Section 3. In order to apply to be a member of Rho Kappa Kingwood, students must meet the following criteria:

- a) Must have successfully completed two advanced placement or dual credit Social Studies courses.
- b) Must be on pace to successfully complete five advanced placement or dual credit Social Studies courses by graduation.
- c) Have a weighted overall GPA of 4.0 or higher.
- d) Have a weighted overall Social Studies GPA of 4.5 or higher.
- e) Must have no incidents of academic dishonesty.
- f) Must have a complete application meeting all application requirements (including any application fees)

Section 4. Selection into Rho Kappa shall not be based, in any way, on the basis of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical and mental disabilities.

#### Article IV - Officers

Section 1. The Officers (and their duties) of Rho Kappa Kingwood are as follows:

- a) **President:** Shall be responsible and held accountable for the following duties of the society: coordinating meeting dates, appointing committees for projects, mediating between the members and the Faculty Sponsor, and making sure that the meetings and projects run smoothly and efficiently. In addition, shall be responsible for drawing up the agenda for all meetings.
- b) **Vice President:** Shall be responsible for all duties of the President when the President is absent, facilitate communication between the President and Faculty Sponsor, and keep track of officer and member attendance at chapter meetings and events. In addition, shall be responsible for reminding members of the requirements to remain a member in good standing, and to communicate the consequences of failing to meet member expectations.
- c) **Treasurer:** Shall be responsible for all chapter monetary functions. Shall keep track of the dues owed by each member, as well as keep track of any projects or events that may need financing by the chapter. In addition, shall communicate deadlines for dues payments and consequences for failure to submit dues on time.
- d) **Secretary:** Shall be responsible for circulating approved agendas for all meetings, recording the minutes and decisions made at each meeting, keeping track of all chapter projects, making sure that members are aware of meetings, reminding officers and members of agreed upon deadlines and duties, and anything else deemed necessary to publish or circulate meeting minutes.
- e) **Historian:** Shall act as a liaison between the organization and the school media. Shall be responsible for ensuring that all organization projects and events are documented effectively. Such documentation may include photography, video, written notes, and other mediums.
- f) **Publicist:** Shall act as a liaison between the organization and the community media. Shall be responsible for ensuring that all organization projects and events are promoted effectively. Such promotion may include flyers, social media, web design, etc. In addition, shall be responsible for the editing of any chapter publications.

## Article V - Elections

Section 1. The election of chapter Officers shall take place during the spring semester *after* current sophomores have been admitted to the chapter. The positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be reserved for Seniors. The positions of Secretary, Historian, and Publicist are *available* to Juniors but may be held by Seniors. All chapter Officer candidates shall complete an application, have an interview with the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and current Officers, and give a brief statement to chapter members about their motivations and goals. All current chapter members will have an opportunity to vote in Officer elections. The method of voting (ex: physical ballots, online voting, etc.) may be determined by the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and current Officers on an annual basis.

## Article VI - Meetings

Section 1. The chapter Officers shall meet no less than twice monthly and the entire Rho Kappa chapter shall meet no less than twice per semester. The chapter meetings will be scheduled by the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and Officers and shall be in accordance with Kingwood High School policy and regulations for club meetings. Special meetings may be called for the chapter by the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and Officers.

## Article VII - Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended for a majority vote all of chapter members. Proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the Chapter Faculty Sponsor and Rho Kappa Officers for consideration. A majority of the Officers must agree that the proposed change should be presented to the chapter members for consideration and a vote.