

*Kempner High School
Capítulo Mario Vargas Llosa*



Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica

Standards and Requirements for La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica

"Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, Capítulo Mario Vargas Llosa" is the Spanish National Honor Society at Kempner High School. The society follows the National guidelines and bylaws, and therefore candidacy is open only to students currently enrolled in Spanish III, IV, and V. Members are nominated to La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica upon completion of the first semester of Spanish 3, 4 or 5. They are chosen because of their interest in the study of the Spanish language and culture as well as their ability to speak, read and write the Spanish language. To obtain an invitation to join, certain grade requirements must be met:

SPANISH III	• 95 overall average in Spanish up to/including Spanish III
SPANISH IV	• 90 semester average in Spanish up to/including Spanish IV
SPANISH V	• 85 average in Spanish up to/including Spanish V

Candidates and members are also required to have good conduct records and no instances of cheating.

- New members are usually notified early in the second semester of their eligibility.
- Once inducted, the student remains a member as long as they maintain the required GPA, keep current on membership requirements, and do not violate the objectives of the Sociedad.
- Scholarships (when possible) will be awarded on a point basis, which is cumulative throughout membership; however, only students enrolled in Spanish during their senior year are eligible for scholarship consideration. One senior each year can be nominated by the chapter sponsor to compete for a national scholarship.

Appointment to and continued participation in La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica will be based on the following criteria, in addition to being 'in good standing':

1. The student must be enrolled in, or have completed Spanish 3,4 or 5 ; (note that for full membership privileges, (ie eligible for scholarships, voting, to be an officer)you must be currently enrolled in a Spanish class , or have completed level 5)
2. The student must have and maintain an average of an A or B+ (85%-100%) in his/her Spanish courses;
3. The student must have demonstrated through course work, class projects, travel, communications with Hispanic students, etc. a true interest in the learning of the Spanish language and culture. When a member drops to less than an 85% grade average in Spanish during any marking period and it is not raised in the subsequent marking period, the member shall be on probation in La Sociedad. If it is not improved for semester averages, the student will be removed from the membership roster, and must improve to the required average before being reinstated. In order to be reinstated, there is also a \$15 reinstatement fee.

4. The student must complete 6 hours of volunteer service related to Spanish each semester, due by the last day of regular classes each semester. Two hours each semester must be “sponsored” hours (hours earned through a SHH project).

Any deficit “doubles.” [for example if only 5 hours are completed by the deadline, the deficit of one hour requires two hours of service to be completed along with the next semester’s requirement.] After a semester in default, the member is placed on probation or dropped. * Exception, if the officers schedule an event during exam week volunteer hours can apply for that semester.

5. The member must accrue 16 club points per year, 8 per semester due by the last day of regular classes each semester. (points are awarded by attending meetings, contributing items to meetings or projects and wearing club T-shirt). Any deficit “doubles” [for example if only 7 points are completed by the deadline, the deficit of one point requires two points to be completed along with the next semester’s requirement.] * Exception, if the officers schedule an event during exam week points can apply for that semester.

6. The member must pay the induction or renewal dues annually to maintain membership status. Dues are waived the year following receiving a passing score on the AP Spanish Language or AP Spanish Literature exam, to recognize academic achievement.

If dues and/or service hour requirements are not fulfilled by the following semester, the student must be re-invited, or reinstated, and complete double service. Only members currently taking a Spanish class can be re-invited.

Seniors who have maintained good standing in membership, and completed all service hours and club points will receive an honor cord to wear at graduation, and to keep as a reminder of their accomplishment.

Students enrolled in PreAP, AP Spanish 4, and AP Spanish 5 that meet the GPA requirements for that level may be granted Provisionary Membership and allowed to participate in all Sociedad activities during fall semester. If criteria is still met, they will be invited to be inducted as full members of the Sociedad.

If a nominee declines membership, they will not be eligible again until the following school year, providing all criteria are met. If a member does not meet criteria and are dropped from membership, they must be re-invited in order to re-join. All deficiencies must be cleared to be eligible for invitation.

Service Projects

While a member of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, students must complete 6 hours of community service each semester. Service should include supporting / using the Spanish language, which may include being willing to tutor other Spanish students as well as ESL students, assisting with the Sociedad’s web page, bulletin board, or newsletter, and translating, or interpreting for the school or community. Members may be asked to offer their services to our Hispanic community, as well as to the worldwide Spanish speaking community when there is a need. Other service projects are encouraged and will be discussed at our meetings. Service hours should be recorded on the Service sheet, and handed in by the last class day of each semester. Senior hour sheets in Spring semester are due ten days prior to Senior Awards night. Extra hours and non-service activities should be recorded on the Tally sheet.

Meetings and Participation

Board meetings (only officers need to attend, but others are welcome) will be one week prior to monthly meetings, after school from 2:30 - 3:00 PM or called as needed. There will be meetings of all members scheduled approximately once a month, and some special events are also planned. Reminders will be posted on our Edmodo page.

Questions and ideas should be sent to Sra Yarrito at Palmira.Yarrito@fortbendisd.com

Members should participate in Sociedad Fund-raisers, which may include the Pride Shop. This money will be for awards, a senior scholarship, induction and competition expenses, and other special causes, such as field trips we might plan.

All members are required to join at least one of fifteen possible committees.

Officers will head these committees –

- **Initiation for new members** - Help organize the year's ceremony to initiate new members of the Society.
- **International Festival or other community event**
- **Fall Kick-off**
- **Teach the Teachers**
- **Toast the Teachers**
- **Fiesta Fridays**
- **Fundraisers** - We will possibly be having projects to raise funds for the Sociedad.
- **Homecoming** - Help create decorations for the Spanish Honor Society for Homecoming activities.
- **Nietos Project**
- **Tarde de Cine**
- **Winter social /project**
- **Dia de Amistad social / project**
- **Awards and inductions**
- **Quijote Festival / Foreign Language Competition and 5 de mayo Program** – There will be many opportunities to help make these events successful!
- **Farewell Party for Seniors** - Lets make this year in the society memorable for those leaving us. Create a wonderful farewell party for all the Seniors of the Society.

Committee participation earns leadership points, which count towards scholarships and other club awards. You cannot get both points and service credit for the same activity.