

NSPA Code of Ethics Policy

Adopted by the NSPA Board of Directors on July 28, 2004. Amended July 24, 2006.

It is the intent of the Board of Directors of the National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) in adopting this Code of Ethics that the members of the Board of NSPA be held to the highest standard of ethical conduct. Effective service to the NSPA membership and the public in their role as Board members requires each Board member to guide his/her actions according to the personal ideals expressed in this Code of Ethics. Only by doing so can Board members ensure optimum performance of the Board of NSPA's primary responsibility to the membership of NSPA.

In pursuit of their commitment to provide and encourage professional development for scholarship providers, improve institutional and national policy regarding scholarships, and to expand public recognition of the importance of college scholarships, individual Board members recognize other major commitments as a part of their office:

- **The NSPA Membership.** Each Board member is responsible to all NSPA members and not solely to those who elected him/her; nor solely to any organization to which he/she may belong, or which may have supported his/her election. As an integral part of his/her duties, he/she represents the authority and responsibility of NSPA. This authority must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the NSPA.
- **Decision-making.** Each Board member is obliged to participate in decisions pertaining to the NSPA. As an elected representative of the NSPA membership, the Board member can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.
- **Individual Feelings and Philosophy.** Every individual Board member has something to contribute to NSPA.

Understanding and acting upon the foregoing premises, each Board member shall:

First and foremost, conduct his/her activities as a Board member in congruence with the values which the Board of NSPA has adopted, thereby serving as an example of a decision-making body striving to consistently make ethical choices. The ethical values endorsed by the Board of NSPA are as follows:

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| Honesty | Conducts human interactions in a fair straightforward manner; tells the truth; does not cheat, steal, or intentionally mislead; behaves with integrity, in a manner consistent with one's professed values and ideals. |
| Responsibility | Accepts responsibility for the foreseeable consequences of one's actions, reactions, choices, and goals; demonstrates an active commitment to the welfare of others. |
| Compassion | Demonstrates sensitivity and a decent measure of caring and concern for fellow human beings; exhibits generosity and love. |

Perseverance	Diligently pursues goals in the face of adversity; demonstrates a willingness to work.
Respectfulness	Holds one's self, each other person, and the environment in high regard; acknowledges the inherent value in each human being and each living thing; honors the rights of others to be autonomous and to be treated with dignity.
Cooperation	Interacts with others in a mutually beneficial way; seeks thoughtful and peaceful ways of resolving conflict.
Civic Duty	Respects the principles of representative democracy, expresses informed views; participates in the democratic process; observes rules and laws; demonstrates a commitment to the public good.
Courage	Demonstrates a willingness to act positively on a moral value even in the face of potential personal loss; a willingness to take calculated risks to achieve a positive result.

In the conduct of their activities as Board members, the application of the above moral values will encourage each Board member to:

- Consider his/her position on the Board as a public trust and not use it for private advantage or personal gain.
- Be constantly aware that he/she has no legal authority except when acting as a member of the Board. Board members shall present their concerns and concepts through the process of Board debate. If in the minority of any decision, they shall abide by and support the majority decision. Divergent opinions shall be respected.
- Encourage ideas and opinions from NSPA members and endeavor to incorporate those views into the deliberations and decisions of the Board.
- Devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions so as to be able to base decisions upon all available facts and vote in accordance with honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
- Remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which the organization is administered and to select the board and staff who will implement those policies.
- Promote and participate actively in a concerted program of timely exchange of information with the NSPA membership.
- Recognize that the deliberations of the Board in closed session may be released or discussed in public only with Board approval.
- Make use of opportunities to enlarge his/ her potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops, and training sessions made available by local, state, and national agencies.
- Report violations or suspected violations of this Code of Ethics Policy in accordance with the NSPA Whistleblower Policy.

A Code of Ethics is a clear statement to the NSPA membership and to the public that the Board of NSPA understands its role and commitment to provide an example of ethical decision making as one of the most powerful lessons it can provide to the NSPA membership, the national scholarship community and the public.