

CSF Information for Parents

How does my child become a member of CSF?

Students may only join CSF if there is a chapter on his/her high school campus.

At the beginning of each new semester, the CSF adviser holds a membership drive that is promoted to the student body. Students must fill out and submit an application during the enrollment period only. Late applications are not accepted and there is no retroactive membership. Applications may only be submitted to the CSF adviser at the school. No applications are accepted in the state office.

Membership is based on the previous semester's grades. Each chapter has an application that the student uses to compute his/her points. The completed application along with a copy of the student's transcript or report card is submitted to the adviser prior to the deadline date.

Who is eligible to apply for CSF membership?

Upon completion of the first semester of the sophomore year, students may apply for membership. This is the first semester that counts towards CSF honor graduation.

What about 9th grade students?

Associate members are those students who are applying based on grades they earned as a freshman (applying in the spring after first semester freshman grades and the following September based on second semester freshman grades). These semesters of membership do not count towards graduating with honors.

An incoming 9th grader who was a CJSF Honor graduate from his/her middle school is granted immediate membership in CSF. The student must provide proof of the honor to the CSF adviser during the first membership drive. No other incoming 9th grader may be a member of CSF.

What is required to be a member?

Students need a total of ten points based on the lists of courses offered at the school. A minimum of seven of the ten points must be from Lists I and II courses, with four of these points from List I. The additional three points may be from List III. Students may use up to five courses (25 credits) to apply for membership. However, a D or an F in any subject, even if not being used for CSF points, disqualifies the student for that semester.

List I are the academic, college prep courses that are within the state framework. List II are also academic courses that are not on List I, and List III are almost all other courses offered at the school with a few exceptions. For more specific information on the Lists, please refer to the CSF Bylaws, Article IV, Section 6.

Good citizenship is also a membership requirement.

There are no other requirements for CSF membership. A chapter may not have a service or activities requirement for membership. However, some do choose to differentiate between active and inactive members by offering additional recognition during the year and/or at graduation.

Who maintains the membership information for my student?

All membership records are the responsibility of the chapter's CSF adviser. The state organization never receives the names of the members. There are over 150,000 students in CSF and CJSF each semester so the organization must rely on the chapters to keep track.

What is a CSF Life Member (Sealbearer) and how is this earned?

A Life Member or Sealbearer (the terms are used interchangeably) is a student who has earned at least four semesters of membership based on grades earned in 10th through 12th, with one of the semesters based on senior grades. This is not automatic and is only granted to those who have submitted their applications and qualified for membership. If the student needs to use his/her final senior grades to earn the fourth semester of membership, the CSF adviser must give him/her an opportunity to do so. How this is handled is up to the chapter adviser.

What recognition does a Life Member (Sealbearer) receive?

Students who are Life Members (Sealbearers) are to receive a CSF lamp pin, a gold seal on their diploma, and notation of the honor on the transcript. There are optional items available if the CSF chapter so chooses. In some schools these optional items are used to distinguish between active and inactive members or 100% members (students who have earned membership all six semesters – 10th through 12th).

What is the Seymour Memorial Award? Who is eligible? How does my child apply?

The Seymour Award is named after Charles Seymour, founder of CSF, and his wife Marian. It recognizes CSF Sealbearers who exemplify the CSF motto, "Scholarship For Service."

Students must achieve Sealbearer status after first semester of their senior year in order to be nominated for the Seymour Award.

This is an adviser-nominated award only. Students may not directly apply. Each CSF adviser of a chapter in good-standing may nominate up to two of their Sealbearers for the award. The students, along with their adviser, submit their application to the Seymour Memorial Awards Committee who selects ten finalists in each of the five CSF regions.

Currently, each of the finalist receives \$2,000 from CSF. These students must attend their regional conferences in order to receive the award. At the conference, the students participate in an interview and one of the ten in each region is selected as the recipient and receives an additional \$3,000.