

National Student Nurses' Association, Inc
Code of Professional Conduct
For the
NSNA Board of Directors

In accepting my position on the NSNA Board of Directors, I agree to NSNA's Code of Professional Conduct for the Board of Directors. I agree to fully abide by the constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations of NSNA, as well as federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

As an NSNA Board member, I will:

1. Represent the interests of all people served by this organization.

Board Members are elected by the entire House of Delegates and have a responsibility to represent the entire NSNA membership, not their school, state, election area, or special interests.

2. Act in the best interest of NSNA

Exercise ordinary and reasonable care in performing duties and put the association's best interest ahead of other interests.

3. Accept my Duty of Care to make decisions based on research, legal and financial counsel (as needed), and critical thinking that evaluates the short and long term impact of decisions upon NSNA.

- Respect and fully support the duly made decisions of the NSNA Board in accordance with their fiduciary duties of obedience and loyalty. This includes my publicly supporting and representing the duly made decisions of the NSNA Board. During decision making meetings, I accept my responsibility to understand the issues and to participate in discussions and decisions as appropriate.
- Not take any public position representing NSNA on any issue that is not in conformity with the official position of the association.
- Not use or otherwise relate my affiliation with the NSNA Board to independently promote or endorse candidates or parties for the purpose of any NSNA or other student or non-student election (local, state, or national).
- Not use or otherwise relate my affiliation with the NSNA Board to independently promote or endorse products and services not endorsed by NSNA.

4. Avoid Conflicts of Interest.

- Be accountable to NSNA above all else. I will not use the organization or my service on the NSNA Board for personal advantage or for the advantage of friends, family, school/state chapter, or supporters (campaign promises). (Refer to NSNA Conflict of Interest Policy).
- Not seek or accept, on behalf of myself or any other person, any financial advantage or gain that may be offered because or as a result of my affiliation as a Board member of NSNA.

5. Keep confidential information confidential.

When correspondence and documents are marked "confidential," I will keep information confidential (i.e. all contract negotiations are confidential).

- Maintain full confidentiality of information obtained as a result of NSNA Board service in accordance with NSNA Board policy or direction.

6. Approach all NSNA Board issues with an open mind and be prepared to make the best decision for the whole organization. As an NSNA Board member, I will not make my personal decision or make any commitment to others to vote a particular way on an issue before participating in a deliberation session in which the matter is to be discussed and action duly taken. Every NSNA Board member has the right to be heard prior to decision making by the NSNA Board. All deliberations should take place in official meetings. **Governance is a collective act.**

- Respect the work and recommendations of all NSNA committees who are duly charged and have convened and deliberated accordingly.

7. Never exercise authority as an NSNA Board member except when acting in a meeting with the full NSNA Board or as delegated by the NSNA Board. I agree to exercise caution when expressing opinions or sharing information with members at my own or other school chapters and when attending state meetings. I will refrain from “appearing” to be acting with the authority of the NSNA.

8. Focus NSNA Board efforts on NSNA’s Mission and not on personal goals.

NSNA Board members as individuals have no individual authority over the organization. Each NSNA Board makes decisions in formal sessions as a collective governing body keeping NSNA’s Mission in mind.

Contact NSNA's President and/or Executive Director for any questions related to the NSNA's Code of Professional Conduct for the Board of Directors and know their roles include providing information and support to all the NSNA Board members.

Approved by the 2008-09 NSNA Board of Directors, November 2008.