

# BEST USE OF THE HONORS TOPIC

## AWARD CRITERIA

This award recognizes outstanding comprehensive programs in the area of the International Honors Topic. A comprehensive program is defined as one with several activities related to an overall theme and based on the Honors Topic. A well-rounded program should include activities within the chapter, on campus, in the community, and participation on the regional level. Requirements are listed below:

Describe the chapter's comprehensive programs relating to the Honors Topic in an essay of 1250 words or less. The essay should be typed and double-spaced. The essay should consist of:

- (1) a thesis paragraph giving an overview of the chapter's related programs,
- (2) several supporting paragraphs, and
- (3) a conclusion.

The essay should explain:

- (A) the chapter's objectives,
- (B) the chapter's accomplishments, and
- (C) the chapter's growth in this area.

**NOTE: Must submit FOUR copies of this award to the Regional Coordinator by stated deadline (February 3, 2010) to be eligible for this award.**

## BEST USE OF HONORS TOPIC JUDGING CRITERIA

When entries are received, they are opened and recorded in a computer file for each chapter. After sorting, entries are distributed to judges in other regions for scoring. Late entries and entries lacking all required elements are disqualified and will not be judged. Entries are read, scored, and ranked by three judges—1<sup>st</sup> place = 8 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 7 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 6 points.....8<sup>th</sup> place = 1 point.

Presentation – 10 possible points

- ✓ Were directions followed?
- ✓ Was the entry free of spelling and grammatical errors?
- ✓ Was the essay well-written, with a definite thesis paragraph, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion?
- ✓ Did the essay creatively convey the chapter's message?

Quality of Programming – 60 possible points

Coherence – 20 possible points

- ✓ Were the programs applicable to the Hallmark category entered?
- ✓ Were the programs consistent with the ideals of Phi Theta Kappa?

Comprehensiveness – 20 possible points

- ✓ Did the activities combine to form a comprehensive program in this Hallmark?
- ✓ Were the activities well rounded on a chapter, college, community and regional level?

Originality – 20 possible points

- ✓ Were the activities originated and followed through by the chapter with careful planning and execution?
- ✓ Did the activities show an unusual level of creativity on behalf of the chapter?

Articulation – 30 possible points

- ✓ Did the chapter communicate its objectives in this Hallmark as requested?
- ✓ Did the chapter demonstrate in the essay the chapter's accomplishments in this area?
- ✓ Did the essay explain how the chapter grew in this Hallmark?