

SMLCA HOUSE HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

Section 1 - House System.....	2
Section 2 - The Houses.....	3
Section 3 - House Structure.....	4
Section 4 - House System Roles.....	5
Section 5 - Expectations of Student Leaders.....	7
Section 6 - Points System.....	8

Section 1 - House System

The House System at Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy is built upon these five pillars “Love the Lord your God with: **heart, soul, mind, strength** and **love** your neighbor as yourself.”

Our pillars come together to create faith-filled young people striving towards a common purpose. These goals contribute to the school verse: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

With these pillars in mind, the House System exists to further the mission and ministry of the school by working proactively to:

- Integrate faith more fully into community life
- Enable students to grow academically, spiritually, and socially
- Provide greater pastoral care by integrating students into a support system
- Equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to provide effective leadership
- Promote unity among students and growth of relationships between grade levels
- Inspire academic excellence and development of each individual’s gifts and talents
- Nurture a vibrant school spirit

Section 2 - The Houses

Each House at SMLCA is named after a missionary, an apologetics theologian, a Christian scientist, and a Christian lexicographer who each contributed to the field of education, either directly through school systems or by religious orders developing academic and spiritual paths to life. SMLCA's Houses are: Elliot, Lewis, Carver, and Webster.

- **Elliot House**

- Elisabeth Elliot (1926 – 2015) was a Christian author and speaker. Her first husband, Jim Elliot, was killed in 1956 while attempting to make missionary contact with the Auca people of eastern Ecuador. She later spent two years as a missionary to the tribe members who killed her husband.

- **Lewis House**

- Clive Staples Lewis (1898–1963) was one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century and arguably one of the most influential writers of his day. He was a Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at Oxford University until 1954, when he was unanimously elected to the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University, a position he held until his retirement.

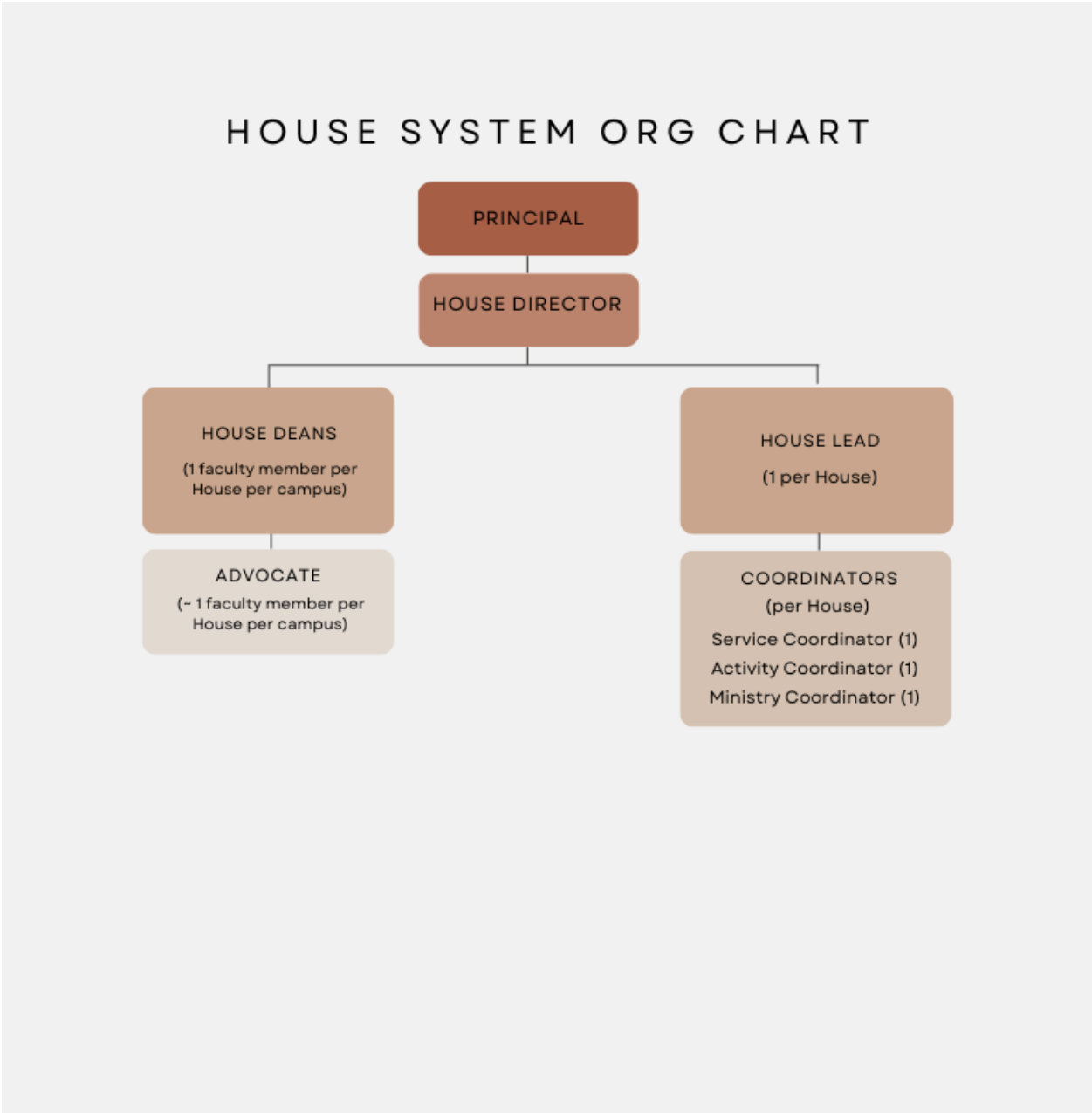
- **Carver House**

- George Washington Carver (1864 – 1943) was an American agricultural scientist and inventor who promoted alternative crops to cotton and methods to prevent soil depletion. He was one of the most prominent black scientists of the early 20th century.

- **Webster House**

- Noah Webster Jr. (1758 – 1843) was an American lexicographer, textbook pioneer, English-language spelling reformer, political writer, editor, and author. He has been called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education". Webster's name has become synonymous with "dictionary" in the United States, especially the modern Merriam-Webster dictionary that was first published in 1828 as "*An American Dictionary of the English Language.*"

Section 3 - House Structure



Section 4 - House System Roles

The structure of the House System organizes the school into four separate groups known as Houses. The House System is designed to be student driven, with numerous student leadership opportunities.

Faculty House Leadership

House Director

The House Director is a faculty member chosen by the administration to oversee and coordinate the running of the Houses in conjunction with the House Deans and School Captains. These responsibilities include:

- Oversee the sorting of students into the Houses
- Orient new faculty members into the House System
- Create, in conjunction with the Deans, a monthly calendar with suggestions for using House time
- Plan events for the school as a whole
- Establish meeting dates with House Deans
- Evaluate the workings of the House System
- Communicate information to the school as a whole
- Act as a liaison between the Houses and the Administration
- Work with the Principal to budget appropriate funds for the Houses, monitor these funds, and distribute funds to the Houses

Deans of House

The Deans of House are faculty members chosen by the administration; House Deans are responsible to oversee their House and meet periodically with the House Director. These responsibilities include:

- Plan House activities and competitions with Student Leaders
- Schedule meetings with the Student Leaders
- Develop leadership among the House Leads and Coordinators
- Evaluate performance of House Leads
- Assist in interviewing and selecting House Leads
- Oversee reporting of points earned, and service hours accumulated with House Advocate
- Cultivate spirit within the House
- Working with the Advocate, maintain an expense report spreadsheet for the year.

House Advocate

A faculty member is assigned as an Advocate to each House. The Advocate will fulfill these responsibilities:

- Take attendance at each meeting and event

- House points submissions (including service hours pulled from Praxi report, every 9 weeks)
- Plan and purchase meeting supplies. (ie. food, drink, poster board, etc)
- Assist Deans with communication
- Fill in for Dean in their absence
- Sign-ups for bi-weekly lunch competitions
- Set-up and take down for bi-weekly lunch competitions
- If a house has more than one advocate, it is the role of advocate #1 to train advocate #2

Student House Leadership

House Leads are responsible for student leadership of each House. These students meet regularly with the House Deans.

House Leads

- Meet with House Dean as determined
- Plan House activities and competitions
- Ensure communication among the Student Leaders
- Send points to the House Advocate #1
- Gather and forward all service information to the Service Coordinator and House Dean
- Develop and promote House spirit

House Activity Coordinator

- Communicate all activities to students
- Encourage students to participate in activities, clubs, etc.
- Assist House Advocate in recording student participation at these designated events
- Help to plan activities and competitions for the Houses
- Coordinate and plan school-wide events as assigned to each House (ex. Field Day, socials etc.)

House Service Coordinator

- Help students record and submit Service Hours
- Inform students of current service opportunities
- Encourage students to participate in meaningful service projects and be prompt in reporting their service hours
- Remind students to put service hours in Praxi

House Ministry Coordinator

- Lead prayer and devotional at House meetings
- Lead ice breakers at chapels (all 4 Houses lead)
- Lead pre-sermon prayer after worship (1 House per service)

- Introduce chapel speakers (1 House per service)
- Minister to House

Section 5 - Expectations of Student Leaders

In addition to those responsibilities noted in Section 4, the following expectations are placed upon all Student Leaders, regardless of their House position. Much is expected of Student House Leaders because much trust and responsibility has been placed in them; the success of the House system rests with the actions, behaviors, and examples set by each Student Leader. The House Director and/or Deans will conference with any Student Leader who does not adhere to the following; actions may include a disciplinary or other action up to and including removal from the leadership position.

All student leaders are expected to:

- Act as a leader in all situations.
- Take attendance at each event.
- Be an example and role model to all students
- Be supportive, establish trust, and nurture those in your House.
- Always represent the school in a positive light: be polite, greet and introduce yourself to visitors, and welcome them to SMLCA.
- Project energy and enthusiasm into your house.
- Encourage participation in discussions, projects, and activities.
- Organize the time and activities (prayer services, discussions, service projects, etc.) with your House Deans and House Leads; be creative and productive with your House time.
- Keep your students aware of House point totals and upcoming point events.
- Be on time for school every day.
- Never incur a discipline infraction; if you do, report it to your Dean ASAP.
- Be in proper uniform at all times, according to the SMLCA Student Handbook.

Section 6 - Points System

The components of the Points System are intended to reinforce the SMLCA House System Mission Statements as well as the House Pillars. The House Cup will be awarded to the House with the highest total of points at the end of the year. All events and categories are awarded as listed below. All results are reported to the House Dean. Point standings will be visible on school monitors or the junior high whiteboard daily. Points can also be viewed in the LiveSchool App. Please see the SMLCA House Calendar in Google for House-related events. Points can be earned through the following, and new events may be added throughout the year:

4 Categories: All points must be added to Live School within 48 hours of receipt

Service - *Heart*

- Serving at your Church
- Serving at Community Events
- Serving at School-sponsored Events
- Road Project

Competitions - *Soul*

- Spirit competitions
- Lunch competitions
- Winter Games
- Spring Olympics

Academics & Attendance - *Mind*

- A Honor Roll - Each 9 weeks
- Perfect Attendance - Each 9 weeks
- No Tardies - Each 9 weeks
- 3 or fewer Demerits - Each 9 weeks
- Principal's List - Each Semester
- Mr. & Ms. SMLCA
- Ring of Honor

Athletics & Arts - *Strength*

- Athletic Participation
- Arts Participation
- Event Attendance