

# National Beta Club

The National Beta Club began as the dream of founder, Dr. John W. Harris, a professor at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. Since the first Beta Club was formed in Landrum, SC in 1934, The National Beta Club has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. We are committed to recognizing and promoting high academic achievement, encouraging service to others, and developing character and leadership skills. Since its beginnings, The National Beta Club has worked with over five and a half million young people in grades 5-9 (Junior Beta Club) and grades 9-12 (Senior Beta Club). There are now more than 418,000 active members and more than 8,000 clubs in 42 states, District of Columbia, 3 U.S. territories and 4 foreign countries.

Being a student-centered organization, The National Beta Club continually seeks ways to develop and nurture elementary and secondary school students by providing opportunities and experiences that enable them to demonstrate the ideals of character, achievement, service and leadership. Some of the many benefits we offer our members include:

- Official membership credentials including Beta pins, certificates and membership cards
- Student publication, *Beta Journal*, published four times a year.
- Access to BetaWeb, a student-centered website
- Awarding of over \$250,000 in scholarships each year to outstanding National Beta Club members in their senior year
- An opportunity to exercise their many talents and abilities, as well as interact socially with others at State and National Conventions

## Mission Statement

To promote the ideals of character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students, to reward meritorious achievement and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school.

## Vision Statement

The National Beta Club, a student-centered organization, continually develops and nurtures individuals by providing opportunities and experiences enabling them to demonstrate the ideals of character, achievement, service and leadership in a global community.

## Preamble

Believing that creditable student effort and achievement should be encouraged and rewarded, and seeking to cultivate the ideals of service and leadership in our citizens of tomorrow, the governing body of The National Honorary Beta Club has instituted this organization for the promotion of these ideals, and those stated in the Beta Creed, among elementary and secondary school students.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be: to promote the ideals of honesty, service, morality, ethical conduct, and leadership among elementary and secondary school students, to reward meritorious achievement, and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school.

## **Address**

The National Beta Club  
151 Beta Club Way  
Spartanburg, SC 29306  
Toll Free: 1-800-845-8281  
FAX: 1-864-542-9300

## **Motto**

The motto of The National Beta Club is "Let Us Lead By Serving Others." This motto, more than simply a catchy phrase, states the philosophy upon which The National Beta Club is based. Service to others is indeed one of the most important characteristics of Beta Club membership. Opportunities to serve are found in every school and community situation, whether large or small-urban, suburban or rural. There are needs that could and should be addressed by Beta members in every school and community.

## **Convention**

The National Beta Club holds annual state conventions in eighteen states. There are eighteen Senior Beta and thirteen Junior Beta state conventions with activities ranging from academic contests to quiz bowls to talent competitions. Conventions give the opportunity for members to interact, share project ideas, and showcase their academic and leadership abilities. National Beta Club conventions are held in exciting locations giving members the chance to see areas which they might not ordinarily have the opportunity to see.

## Famous Betas

- **Lamar Alexander** (*Maryville HS, TN*), current Senator, former governor of Tennessee, former Secretary of Education;
- **Roy Blount** (*Decatur HS, GA*), author, humorist;
- **Bill Clinton** (*Hot Springs HS, AR*), former U. S. President;
- **Millard Fuller** (*Lanett HS, AL*), founder of *Habitat for Humanity*;
- **Heather French** (*Mason County HS, KY*), Miss America 2000;
- **Leeza Gibbons** (*Irmo HS, SC*), host of syndicated radio program *Hollywood Confidential*;
- **Dr. Alex Haller, Jr. MD** (*Pulaski HS, VA*), former Chief of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins Hospital;
- **Archie Manning** (*Drew HS, MS*), former pro football athlete, New Orleans Saints;
- **Diane Sawyer** (*Seneca HS, KY*), ABC-TV host of *Good Morning America*;
- **Herschel Walker** (*Johnson County HS, GA*), pro football athlete; Heisman Trophy recipient;
- **Trisha Yearwood** (*Piedmont Academy, GA*), country music recording artist;
- **Ericka Dunlap** (*William R. Boone High School, FL*), Miss America 2004;
- **Jake Delhomme** (*Teurlings Catholic High School, LA*), Super Bowl Quarterback for Carolina Panthers;
- **Diana DeGarmo** (*Shiloh High School, GA*) *American Idol* runner-up;
- **Brodie Croyle** (*Westbrook Christian School, AL*) Quarterback for Kansas City Chiefs

## Requirements to join the MHS Beta Club

- Junior or Senior
- Minimum 3.35 cumulative grade point average (GPA)
- Good attendance record
- Good behavior record
- Promote the ideals of “character, service, and leadership”
- One-time \$20 fee

## MHS Beta Club Sponsors

- Beth Harris, School Counselor
- Erin Lanham, Marketing/Business Teacher
- Gretchen Little, Math Teacher