

# BETA BASICS:

## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



**NATIONAL BETA** is the largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization in America.

Committed to recognizing high academic achievement, rewarding and nurturing worthy character, National Beta fosters leadership skills and encourages service to others.

Founded in 1934 by John W. Harris, Ed., National Beta has worked with nearly seven million students in grades 4-8 (Junior Beta Club) and grades 9-12 (Senior Beta Club).

There are now more than 500,000 active members and more than 8,750 clubs nationally and internationally.

As a student-centered organization, National Beta seeks ways to develop and nurture elementary and secondary school students by providing opportunities and experiences that demonstrate the ideals of achievement, character, leadership and service.

National Beta is founded on the the following four pillars:

**ACHIEVEMENT** - Recognizing and honoring high academic achievement

**CHARACTER** - Preparing students for life and empowering them to be successful

**LEADERSHIP** - Developing the leaders of tomorrow

**SERVICE** - Demonstrating our motto: *Let Us Lead by Serving Others*

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National Beta affords schools many benefits. Foremost, National Beta is an internationally recognized honor society that celebrates students' academic achievements. Additionally, National Beta offers:

- Character education and service learning opportunities which inspire students to become servant leaders.
- An extraordinary experience for leadership development, goal-setting, self-esteem building and more at annual Beta Leadership Programs conducted each summer, as well as Student Leadership Summits held throughout the year.
- Outstanding showcases of students' talents and academic abilities, as well as social interaction at State and National Conventions.
- Abundant scholarship opportunities for graduating 12th grade Senior Beta members.
- A positive contribution to a school's climate and culture.

## MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROMOTE THE IDEALS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, 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

NATIONAL BETA, 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.

# BETACREED

As a member of National Beta and as a citizen of my community, state, and nation I believe in and shall strive to promote the principles of:

## HONESTY

Knowing that honesty is necessary to the formation of good character, and that the principles of honesty dictate that I not only refrain from acts of dishonesty; but that I perform my duties fully and take advantage of the opportunities afforded me by my circumstances.

## JUSTICE

Believing that it is only right and proper that I should be just and fair in my dealings; that I should condemn no one without giving a chance to defend themselves; and that I should consider all factors before forming an opinion of another's motives, or before passing judgment upon other's actions.

## SERVICE

Being convinced that the rendering of helpful service is a duty and privilege conferred upon me by my forebears and by my environment and that I can attain lasting satisfaction only by rendering such service to the best of my ability.

## COOPERATION

Knowing that I must work closely and in a friendly manner with others in this day of highly organized social and economic endeavor; and that I must respect authority and strive at all times to be dependable— if I am to be of greatest helpfulness to society.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Believing that full happiness is possible only through full acceptance of responsibility for my actions and for preserving and passing my rich inheritance on to coming generations.

## INDUSTRIOUSNESS

Being aware of the fact that— if I am to be a factor for progress in my community and a real help to my associates — my mind must be alert to understand and my hands ready to perform promptly and fully the tasks that come my way.

## HUMILITY

Being convinced that humbleness of spirit is the only proper attitude for me to maintain in my relation with my associates, and that such spirit and attitude will make for my own peace of mind and for the well-being of those with whom I come in contact.

## CHARITY

Knowing that if I am— tolerant in my appraisal of the ideas of others; generous in the use of my worldly assets; considerate of the rights of others; courteous in my actions toward all alike; gentle in my efforts to correct errors in others; kind in the exercise of my duties — I shall then be better able to contribute to the happiness of myself and others.