

**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**



Education Through Interscholastic Athletics

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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**NYSPHSAA Announces George W. Hewlett High School
as 2019 Community Service Challenge Champion**

LATHAM, NY- The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is proud to announce George W. Hewlett High School (Section VIII) as the spring 2019 winner of the Community Service Challenge. Hewlett High School was chosen as the winning school by the NYSPHSAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), which is comprised of two current student-athletes from each of the 11 sections.

Established in the Fall of 2010, the program encourages students to stay active in their communities. This year, NYSPHSAA has partnered with Team Up for Community to allow online submissions. The Team Up for Community portal provides schools the opportunity to showcase community service projects which ultimately fosters young peoples' sense of civic engagement and community thus helping them achieve their educational, developmental and social goals. This is the first year NYSPHSAA will be honoring Community Service Challenge Champions after each sport season. This spring, 78 projects were submitted by NYSPHSAA member schools with a total of 3,239 student-athletes involved in the projects equaling over 22,137 hours volunteered.

Hewlett High School held its 5th Annual Leaders Club Field Day on May 20th, 2019. The Leaders Club is a group of students from Hewlett who must participate in two sports and also exhibit leadership, sportsmanship, responsibility and patience. The board of the Leaders Club consists of co-presidents, co-vice presidents, a treasurer, a secretary and two faculty advisors.

"As a student-athlete who's been a part of this club all throughout high school, it's one of the most special things that Hewlett has to offer," said Samantha Panzarella, Senior and Co-President of the Leaders Club. "It was an honor to have been Co-president of Leader's Club and to have had an impact in making this field day what it was. I feel that this was the most successful field day the club has had as we were able to take in so many more kids from many other high schools, and create new activities, while still emulating what this day is all about. I couldn't have asked for better club advisors, fellow board members, and club members as everyone really put their best foot forward to make this event as impactful and meaningful as it was."

This year's Leaders Club Field Day saw a record nine schools and 120 kids participate in the event. Life skill students from across Nassau County came together for the day which included events

like a 40-yard dash, javelin throw, obstacle course, long jump, arts and crafts station, and more. The Leaders Club worked with the Board of Education to approve purchase order and contracts, buy t-shirts, create school signage and create an itinerary of events for the day.

“Receiving this award and being recognized by NYSPHSAA is a tremendous honor for Hewlett High School’s students and faculty,” David Viegas, Hewlett Director of Physical Education Health and Athletics. “One of the district’s values is to honor our commitment to the community and to create opportunities for students to fulfill their potential and through our physical education leaders and our Field Day I believe that we have provided a meaningful and authentic event that showcases our commitment to the local community.”

For the 2018-19 school year a total of 274 projects were submitted with a total of 13,459 student-athletes participating in some type of community service project. In total 156,157 hours were volunteered and \$418,039 was raised for charitable causes.

Hewlett High School will be presented an award and recognized for their accomplishments at the NYSPHSAA Recognition Luncheon during the Central Committee Meeting on July 30th at the Turning Stone Resort.

Previous Community Service Challenge State Champions-

2019 – Winter, Harrison High School (Section I)

Fall, Canandaigua Academy (Section V)/Eastport South Manor (Section XI)

2018 –Farmingdale High School (Section VIII)

2017 – Akron High School (Section VI)

2016 – Mahopac High School (Section I)

2015 – Kings Park High School (Section XI)

2014 – Arlington High school (Section I)

2013 – Columbia High School (Section 2)

2012 – Ossining High School (Section I)

2011 – Adirondack Central School (Section III)

About NYSPHSAA (Twitter: [@NYSPHSAA](#) | Facebook: [NYSPHSAA](#) | YouTube: [NYSPHSAASports](#)):

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc. is a non-profit, voluntary, educational service organization composed of public, parochial, and private schools dedicated to providing equitable and safe competition for the students of its member schools. The organization conducts 32 championship events and governs the rules and regulations of high school athletics in New York State. Membership is open to secondary schools providing interschool athletic activities for boys and girls in grades 7-12.

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