

MONUMENTAL

nhs volunteers at the monument
community garden

IMPACT



Serving the community, staying on top of academics, completing tutoring hours, and doing an Individual Service Project. That's what it takes to be in the National Honor Society.

NHS takes on chapter projects as a year-long goal in a target area, such as the environment. The Monument Community Garden is one of those projects. Students worked to get the garden ready for winter. "I did weeding, mulching, putting in new soil, breaking down crops from the summer so it could be put in the compost and planting new seeds for next year," **Nicolas Barton, 11**, said. Many club members worked in a garden for the first time and learned

new skills.

Volunteers not only give up their time to complete chapter hours, but also to support a good cause. "It's important to help the community because it's where you live. If you don't help your community, then the area where you live will be a bad place," **Dane VanDenHoek, 11**, said.

For many NHS members, it's not just about completing hours, but also the impacts community service will have on other people. "NHS is a great thing that anyone who can join, should, because it just allows you to help your community and help the people around you and give back," **John Moritz, 12**, said.



1. Working with **Kaylei Fields, 12**, at the community garden, **Brooke Bornitz, 11**, shovels dirt from the flowerbeds. Bornitz had never volunteered at a garden before. "I learned a lot about just how to garden and a lot of scientific research about the community. There is a lot of energy in the soil and it can make you happy," Bornitz said. **2.** Scattering composted soil on the flower beds, **Hiram Orcutt, 11**, prepares the garden for new plants. Orcutt worked on cleaning up the garden and making it look better. "It's just being part of the community and helping the community is a big deal. It wasn't tended for a while and grass and pine needles were everywhere. Once we got done with it, it was a lot better," Orcutt said. **3.** While **Caleb Chau, 11**, holds a basket to collect seed pods, **Conor Fry, 11**, looks in the dirt for seeds to save. Fry worked on pulling corn out of the ground and breaking down seed pods. "There was a lot of small stuff we had to do and it's not difficult, but you need a lot of hands. It's nice to have a few extra," Fry said. *photos by Lily Carter*