

Welcome to our first 50th reunion event for the Nathan Hale class of 1975!



"The older we get, the more we realize how short life really is and how few the chances we have to spend with people we grew up with, so this is my little attempt at getting Classmates to reunite. I saw an opportunity, so I stepped up to help." From our Anonymous Donor.

Tonight, we start a new chapter in the journey that began fifty years ago! Think about it: this fall, we entered Nathan Hale as students. For the first time, Bears, Bobcats, and Oilers became Rangers. We decided to celebrate that moment in time to begin our 50th reunion celebration party with our first **E.P.I.C.** event! And thanks to an anonymous donor, the event is **FREE!** (Please don't ask who or if they are here, just be grateful!) The donor's quote above summarizes well the spirit and intent of this evening's celebration and future events we have planned. In this first newsletter, we want to share our adopted principles and information about upcoming events. Also, pay attention, as clues in this newsletter will help you win tonight's giveaway.

What does E.P.I.C. stand for? E.P.I.C. Plus One are our guiding principles. To unite our class, which like America, is very diverse, we felt we needed principles that everyone could agree on. Our view was that if we did what we always have done, we would see the same old crew. There is nothing wrong with that, but why not work to connect and include everyone? We have a crazy idea that we can show America how a group of diverse, opinionated people can disagree and still live agreeably in community with one another, working for a cause larger than themselves. We arrived at these principles,

1. **Excellence is our standard.** We will use our 50th to remember, honor, and rejoice in how blessed we were to be Hale Rangers.
2. **Politics and the pandemic are off-limits.** If you want to talk about all that, get your own room!
3. **Inclusive of everyone.** We are expanding the tent to include *every* classmate.
4. **Connect and Reconnect with every Ranger classmate.** No Ranger goes into the future alone! We use our 50th to rebuild a bond that will last our lifetimes.
5. **We give back.** This is our Plus One principle to give back to Nathan Hale High School, assuring that future generations of Rangers experience what we experienced. Let's make a difference.

Four plus one. All of these are important, but one of our driving goals is to connect and reconnect every classmate with at least one other classmate. We will plan various events locally and wherever classmates are to build bridges around the things we are passionate about. Do you love to fish? Use that love to connect with classmates. Do you love visiting museums? Organize a tour and invite classmates. From golf to sewing to whatever you are interested in, we want to build connections that will last the rest of our lives.

We are taking the reunion on the road! Apart from starting the reunion three years early, the other break from tradition is that we want to form local chapters of classmates in various regions around the country. We are encouraging events in these areas just like this event.

We are a non-profit group dedicated to helping Nathan Hale High School. Every event will be used to highlight HHS and give classmates opportunities to give and serve in support of HHS. No one needs to feel that they must give, but we want to provide opportunities to make a difference. We are exploring obtaining official non-profit status. Our current plan is to work with the existing HHS Foundation structure but also maintain our own status giving us more flexibility in what we donate to. We believe obtaining non-profit status will enable us to raise funds for events like this.

Who is paying for the free stuff? Donors. All giveaways come from donations from classmates specifically earmarked for giveaway prizes. In addition to the large gift, several other classmates provided the funds for the free giveaways tonight. For instance, Mark's company, Charis Associates, stepped up to provide funding for the Koozies. So, if your church ever needs financial help, call Mark! That way, his CFO will not complain about the check he wrote. (Here is a clue that CFO is an answer to one of the ice-breaking questions.) **If you would like to contribute to our next event, talk to one of us!**

What do you do with that swag bag? It's yours to keep. However, the bag will be used for future events to support HHS. Specifically, a current need of HHS is the culinary unit. As a result of the shutdown, they were forced to throw out all the stored food that expired. The current instructor is new and starting from square one. Here is a list of needs on Amazon.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2HXNXI8VQ27F7?ref=wl_share

We encourage each attendee or group of attendees to fill the bag and take it to the Hale Culinary School (keep the bag).

More swag is coming! We will have more swag soon for sale as we attempt to raise more money to do more cool stuff. So, stay tuned.

Help us feed the Hale football team on October 28th! Several have asked if they can pay for their free ticket to tonight's game. The answer is no; this is truly a gift from a classmate. However, if you want, donate any amount to help pay for feeding the football team. Plus, sign up to help volunteer that night by contacting Lucy Lee Goodwin.

Hey ladies, join the Hale's Angels! Back before COVID, a few female classmates would meet from time to time for lunch and other events. They became known as the Hale's Angels. They're back!! Contact Toni Barron Barnes for more information.

What is next? You tell us. Tonight's event was the idea of one person. We gave the green light, empowered them, and helped them succeed. If you have an idea, let us know.

That's it for now. Have fun. Connect and reconnect. You will meet classmates and some people who graduated before us but have joined us; we see you, Tony Mumma, class of '74! (That's a clue!) So, Trade contact information. Catch up, share pictures, and have a blast. Oh, and enjoy the ballgame!

The officers of the 50th Reunion Committee

Mark Brooks – Chairman Lucy Lee Goodwin – Vice-Chair of Philanthropy and Hospitality

Linda Judkins Klingmann – Vice-Chair of Regional Chapters; Cindy Nightingale-Whitehead -Treasurer

Kelly Knopp serves the role of Legal / Comptroller Mike Goodman – Ex Officio Chairman.