



## BERTIE GREEN TRAVEL AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

### INFORMATION FOR 2021-2022

Each year twenty or more travel awards are given to high school juniors who are members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH). The students travel to a country or region of the Spanish-speaking world to explore its cultural highlights and be immersed in the language. The departure date for the trip is generally scheduled for July. All trips are chaperoned by SHH sponsors who have been selected based on a thorough interview process including a background check.

#### TRAVEL DESTINATION AND SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Puerto Rico is the travel destination for the 2022 Bertie Green Travel Award. The trip is scheduled for July 13-July 21, 2022.

#### TRAVEL AWARD DESCRIPTION

Each Bertie Green Travel Award includes the following:

- guided excursions in Puerto Rico
- lodging
- three meals per day while in Puerto Rico
- travel insurance
- up to \$400 reimbursement for round-trip transportation from student's home to San Juan airport
- ground transportation in Puerto Rico, including airport transfer between San Juan airport and hotel
- **NOTE:** The following items are not included in the Award and must be covered by the student and/or parents, guardian: airfare fees above the \$400 reimbursement, snacks, tips, souvenirs, and personal items.
- The trip will include a considerable amount of walking. Please view the travel company's accessibility policy [here](#).

#### DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021.
- **Notification of winners and alternates:** Saturday, February 15, 2022.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be high school juniors, SHH members, and currently enrolled in a Spanish or Portuguese language class
- Only ONE student per chapter may apply for the SHH award
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

- If a student winner cannot travel during the specified time, the trip will be forfeited, and an alternate winner will be selected.
- The travel award must be used in the year it is granted.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF WINNERS

- For the 2022 Puerto Rico trip, students and families must purchase their own airline ticket to SJU – San Juan, PR. Winners will be given a window of time to plan arrival and departure so that a representative of the AATSP can meet the students at the airport. Students must submit their flight information to the 2022 Travel Coordinator. After the trip, the AATSP will reimburse up to \$400 for flight costs.
- Student award recipients and their parents or guardians must agree to pay for the following items:
  - Additional baggage fees not included in the travel package
  - Tips
  - Souvenirs
  - Personal items
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated for COVID-19. More information about COVID-testing and vaccination status for travel will be shared with winners at a later date.
- After returning from the trip, winners will be required to send to the SHH Travel Coordinator a 250-word essay that is written in Spanish or Portuguese and that summarizes the travel experience. The essay will be uploaded and then archived on the SHH website.

### APPLICATION MATERIALS

- In order for the student to be considered eligible, all the items below must be submitted via the online application.
  - The student's name and chapter name must appear within each file submitted.
1. **Application Form.** The first portion of the Google form must be completed by the sponsor. We recommend that sponsors and students complete the form together.
  2. **Signatures Form.** The completed signatures form *with original signatures* must be scanned and then uploaded onto the Google form.
  3. **A standard video clip** (5 minutes maximum) in Spanish. Student instructions: Discuss with your teacher or chapter sponsor at least five of the following topics in detail:
    - yourself
    - your Spanish language experiences including motivation for taking Spanish and participating in the SHH
    - your participation in and service to your SHH chapter
    - an aspect of Puerto Rican culture that intrigues you
    - how previous travel abroad opportunities or other experiences have changed your view of the world
    - what you think will be the greatest challenge of this group travel experience
    - how you feel the trip will impact your future academic endeavors

- why you feel the committee should award you the trip since there are many qualified applicants

In order to qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- Speech should be spontaneous and conversational in tone.
- The teacher should ask questions, but the student should be the dominant speaker.
- Both the student and the teacher should be visible in the recording.
- Judges prefer that both the student and teacher are unmasked. Therefore, at this time, a video conference may be best. The video may be recorded via Zoom, Google Meet, or a similar platform approved by the school.
- The video must be non-stop.
- The video must be at least three minutes in length and must not exceed five minutes. Judges will view only the first five minutes of any video submitted.

Video Submission Requirement

- The video must be uploaded to YouTube with permission for anyone with the link to view.
- Double check that your link works on a different computer or device. Ensure that the volume is at an appropriate level, so the judges do not have to strain to listen.
- Include the link to the YouTube video on the designated line of the Google form. Please doublecheck the link to ensure it works on other devices.

**4. One essay in Spanish/Portuguese.** Student instructions: In no more than 500 words, write an essay on one of the following topics:

- Identify an aspect of the culture of Puerto Rico and tell why you would investigate it if you had an opportunity to visit the country.
- Identify one Puerto Rican personality (living or deceased) with whom you would like to visit and tell what you would like to discuss and why.

The essay should be double-spaced. The student's name and chapter name should be on the document.

**5. A copy of the students' official school transcript and academic work in progress.** If a current transcript does not include academic work in progress, please include a report card or other official documentation. Please ensure any additional documents are dated and include the student's name. If a school will not release an official transcript to the student or sponsor, the student may request an unofficial transcript that includes an explanation of the grading scale or system. Scan and upload the file(s).

**6. A list of extra-curricular activities.** Student instructions: Explain honors received, organizations to which you belong, and offices held. Give special attention to your activities with your SHH Chapter. Explain your level of participation in each activity. Be sure your name and SHH chapter name is on the file.

**7. A signed letter of recommendation** from your current Spanish or Portuguese teacher or SHH sponsor who should comment on your proficiency in the language and your motivation toward your Spanish studies. The letter should be on official school letterhead. Scan and upload the letter.

8. **A signed letter of recommendation** from an adult outside of your family who knows you well enough to comment on your ability to get along with others and adapt to unforeseen circumstances. The letter should be on official letterhead or hand-signed. Scan and upload the letter.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Applicant's proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese
- Applicant's special contribution to and for the SHH and the community
- Recommendation letters that reflect the applicant's ability to adapt to new circumstances and groups and to get along with others
- General academic standing and performance

The scoring rubric is weighted in the following manner:

- Video – 35% (20% content; 15% comprehensibility)
- Essay – 25%
- Extra-curricular Activities – 25% with special attention given to SHH experiences
- Reference letters – 10% (5% each)
- Transcript – 5%

### SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- **The chapter sponsor** is responsible for submitting the complete student application form and support materials. *REMINDER:* Each chapter is allowed to send in only one SHH application.
- Each of the following six files must be submitted electronically on the Google form. The YouTube link must be included in the appropriate space on the form. Specific file names are not required as Google will rename each document.
  - Six files to attach to email message
    1. hand-signed signatures form
    2. essay
    3. transcript, including academic work in progress
    4. list of extracurricular activities
    5. letter from teacher/sponsor
    6. letter of recommendation from an adult outside of family
  - Before sending, the chapter sponsor should verify that the necessary six files have been uploaded.
  - By submitting the application, the sponsor verifies that the essay is the original work of the student.
- The deadline for receipt is **Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 11:59 PM.**
- All applications will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an e-mail message acknowledging receipt of the application, contact the AATSP National Office at [SHH@aatsp.org](mailto:SHH@aatsp.org)