



JOSEPH ADAMS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

INFORMATION FOR 2025-2026



Each year the SHH awards scholarships in the amounts of \$2000 and \$1000 to graduating senior class members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica who have shown evidence of high achievement in Spanish or Portuguese throughout high school.

ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a high school senior and a member of the SHH who is currently enrolled in a Spanish or Portuguese class. If a student has already completed the highest level of Spanish or Portuguese offered prior to the senior year, and as a result is not currently enrolled in a Spanish or Portuguese class, they may still apply. A letter from a school counselor or administrator must be included to verify that there were no Spanish or Portuguese classes available for the student to continue their study of the language.
- The chapter sponsor must certify that they are a member in good standing of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese for 2026.
- Only **one** application per chapter is allowed for the SHH Senior Scholarship. Receipt of more than one application per chapter will disqualify all candidates from the chapter.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF WINNERS

- The selected student winner must use the scholarship beginning in the fall term following high school graduation. The scholarship cannot be extended beyond one academic year.
- If a student decides not to attend a college or university in the fall of 2026, the scholarship will be forfeited, and another student will be selected to receive the scholarship.
- This scholarship will be delivered to the college/university in August 2026. The winner must submit a form with college/university information by August 15, 2026 in order to receive the award.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- In order for the student to be considered eligible, all the items below must be submitted via the online form. Please review [this document](#) for Google Form troubleshooting tips.
- The student's name and chapter name must appear within each file submitted. There is not a specific naming structure for the files.
- **Students should include a *permanent* e-mail address**, not a school e-mail address, on the application as the scholarship payments will not be finalized until after the student's school e-mail account has likely been terminated.
- The link to the YouTube video must be included on the form.

1. **Signatures Form.** The completed application form with original signatures should be scanned and uploaded to the online form.
2. **A standard video clip** (5-minute maximum) in Spanish. The instructions to the student follow: Discuss with your teacher the following topic:

Hoy en día las razones para aprender otro idioma son múltiples. ¿Cuáles son las motivaciones que te llevan a continuar aprendiendo el español?

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

- Speech should be spontaneous and conversational in tone.
- The student should be the dominant speaker.
- Both student and teacher should be visible in the video clip.
- Judges prefer that both the student and teacher are unmasked.
- The recording must be non-stop.
- The video must be at least three minutes and no longer than five minutes. Any recording past five minutes will not be seen by the judges.

Video submission requirement

- The video should be uploaded to YouTube with permission for anyone with the link to view.
- 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 on the Google Form. Please doublecheck the link to ensure it works on other devices.

3. **One argumentative essay in Spanish or Portuguese.** Student instructions: In no more than 500 words, explore one of the following topics:
 - Explica con ejemplos personales cómo el estudio del idioma español y el contacto con otras culturas han ampliado tu perspectiva del mundo.
 - Reflexiona sobre el impacto personal de estudiar el idioma y aprender sobre otras culturas, especialmente en términos de empatía, identidad y crecimiento.
 - The essay should be the original work of the student. Sponsors should verify the authenticity and originality of the student's work, and that it is consistent with the work they produce in class. Essays may be subject to an Artificial Intelligence detection tool. Plagiarism will disqualify the applicant.
 - Please double-space and ensure the student's name and chapter name are on the document.

4. **A copy of your official school transcript and academic work in progress.** Scan and upload the file(s).
 - If the transcript does not include the current academic year, applicants should attach a current report card or other official documentation to the transcript. Ensure the student's name is on the file.
 - If the applicant is not currently enrolled in Spanish or Portuguese, a letter from a school counselor or administrator that states he or she has taken the highest level of Spanish offered by the school must be included. The letter should be on official school letterhead 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.
5. **A list of honors and extra-curricular activities.** Include information on honors received, the name of organizations to which you belong, and offices held. Include all honors and extra-curricular activities, but separate Spanish or Portuguese list(s) from the other information. Include any particular awards you received from SHH. Also indicate achievement tests and grades or scores received. Spanish or Portuguese tests should be separate from other tests.
6. **A one-page signed letter of recommendation** from your Spanish or Portuguese teacher which validates your ability and performance in the study of Spanish or Portuguese. Please ensure the letter is on official school letterhead. Scan and upload the letter to the application form.
7. **A one-page signed letter of recommendation** from either your principal, counselor, or a teacher other than your Spanish or Portuguese teacher. The letter should be on official school letterhead or hand signed. Scan and upload the letter to the application form.

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
- Specific teacher recommendations
- General academic standing and performance
- All achievements and contributions pertaining to Spanish or Portuguese (These should be specific, as they are of special interest to the judges.)

The scoring rubric weighs each part of the application in the following manner:

- Video – 30% (content – 20%; comprehensibility – 10%)
- Essay – 30%
- SHH Participation and Extra-curricular activities – 25%
- Transcript – 5%
- Reference letters – 10% (5% each)

The [full scoring rubric](#) is available on the SHH website.

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 application. We recommend that the student and sponsor schedule a time to submit it together.
- Failure to follow submission procedures may result in the disqualification of the applicant.
- The following six files must be uploaded to the online application form. Review [this document](#) for Google Form troubleshooting tips.
 - Six files to upload
 1. Completed signature form including hand-signed signatures
 2. Essay
 3. Transcript and academic work in progress
 4. List of honors and extracurricular activities
 5. Signed letter from teacher/sponsor
 6. Signed letter of recommendation from principal, counselor or another teacher
 - Before uploaded, the chapter sponsor must verify that the necessary six files have been uploaded.
 - By submitting the information electronically, the sponsor verifies that the essay is the original work of the student.
- The deadline for receipt is **Tuesday, December 9, 2025.**
- All applications will be acknowledged. You will receive a confirmation message from Google when the application is successfully submitted. Once the application is reviewed for completion, you will receive an e-mail. If you do not receive an e-mail message acknowledging receipt of the application within three business days, contact the AATSP National Office at SHH@aatsp.org
- Notification of winners will be made by February 15, 2026.

