



BERTIE GREEN TRAVEL AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

INFORMATION FOR 2024-2025



Each year eighteen 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 2025

The Dominican Republic is the travel destination for the 2025 Bertie Green Travel Award. The SHH will award 21 students with the trip, scheduled for July 7-14, 2025. The group will meet at the Miami International Airport (MIA). Applicants should ensure they are available to begin travel July 6 and return July 15, if needed.

TRAVEL AWARD DESCRIPTION

Each Bertie Green Travel Award includes the following:

- guided excursions in the Dominican Republic
- lodging
- three meals per day while in the Dominican Republic
- travel insurance during the trip
- a \$400 travel allowance for round-trip transportation from student's home to Miami International (MIA) airport
- round trip flights from Miami airport to the Dominican Republic
- ground transportation in the Dominican Republic
- **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 allowance, snacks, additional travel insurance, souvenirs, and personal items.
- The trip will include a considerable amount of walking. Please view the travel company's special provisions/meals and allergies policies [here](#).

DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** Thursday, December 5, 2024.
- **Notification of winners and alternates:** February 15, 2025.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be high school juniors, SHH members, and currently enrolled in a Spanish or Portuguese language class.
- The SHH sponsor's AATSP membership must be valid through 2025.
- Only ONE student per chapter may apply for the SHH junior 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 2025 Dominican Republic trip, students and families must provide their own transportation to and from the Miami International Airport (MIA). Winners will be given a window of time to plan arrival and departure so that a representative of the SHH can accompany the students at the airport. Students must submit their travel information to the 2025 Travel Coordinator. After the trip, students will submit a trip reflection and then receive \$400 as a travel allowance.
- 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
 - Meals within the airports
 - Souvenirs
 - Personal items
- Basic travel insurance is provided while on the trip. Award recipients are encouraged to purchase travel insurance in case they must cancel their trip after committing. If a student decides he or she is unable to travel after committing, families may be responsible for cancellation or change fees the SHH/AATSP is unable to recover.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated for COVID-19. Specific requirements may be set by the travel company or governments of either country. COVID-testing and vaccination requirements for travel will be shared with winners at a later date, and failure to meet these requirements may result in forfeiture of the trip.
- After returning from the trip, winners will be required to send to the SHH Director a reflection written in Spanish or Portuguese that summarizes the travel experience. The reflection may be shared on the SHH website or in *Albricias*, the SHH literary magazine.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- In order for the student to be considered eligible, all the items below must be submitted via the online application.
 - If you have any issues with the form, review [these troubleshooting tips](#).
 - The student's name and chapter name must appear within each file submitted.
 - There is not a required naming structure for the files.
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. Since this is a commitment to travel if selected, this page must be *hand signed* by the student, sponsor, and parents/guardians. Sponsors should communicate with families to ensure they understand what the award entails and that they are ready for the students to accept the travel award if they win.
 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 Dominican 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.
- 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 and with other accounts.

4. One original 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 the Dominican Republic and tell why you would investigate it if you had an opportunity to visit the country.
- Identify one Dominican 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 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 itself (not only in the file name).

- 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 within the document. 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, if applicable. Explain your level of participation in each activity. Be sure your name and SHH chapter name is within the file (not only in the file name).
- 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 – 30% (20% content; 10% comprehensibility)
- Essay – 30%
- Extra-curricular Activities – 25% with special attention given to SHH experiences
- Reference letters – 10% (5% each)
- Transcript – 5%

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 SHH application.
- Each of the following six files must be submitted electronically on the Google Form. [Click here](#) for troubleshooting tips. 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, but we recommend a description of the file and the student's name in the title.
 - Six files to attach to the Google Form
 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 submitting, 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 **Thursday, December 5, 2024, 11:59 PM.**
- All applications will be acknowledged. At the end of the application, you should receive a confirmation message. This will be followed by an e-mail message once your application is reviewed for completion. 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.