



BERTIE GREEN TRAVEL AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

INFORMATION FOR 2022-2023

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 2023

Costa Rica is the travel destination for the 2023 Bertie Green Travel Award. The trip is scheduled for July 11-July 18, 2023. The group will meet at the Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport.

TRAVEL AWARD DESCRIPTION

Each Bertie Green Travel Award includes the following:

- guided excursions in Costa Rica
- lodging
- three meals per day while in Costa Rica
- travel insurance
- a \$400 travel allowance for round-trip transportation from student's home to Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) airport
- round trip flights from BWI airport to Costa Rica
- ground transportation in Costa Rica
- **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, tips, 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:** Wednesday, December 8, 2022.
- **Notification of winners and alternates:** Saturday, February 15, 2023.

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 2023.
- 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 2023 Costa Rica trip, students and families must purchase their own airline ticket to Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI). 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 flight information to the 2023 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 before departing BWI and after leaving San Juan, Costa Rica
 - Tips
 - Souvenirs
 - Personal items
- 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.
 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 Costa 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 Costa Rica and tell why you would investigate it if you had an opportunity to visit the country.
- Identify one Costa 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 – 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%

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.
 - 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 8, 2022, 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 days, contact the AATSP National Office at SHH@aatsp.org.

