



Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH)

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Bylaws

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What is the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica?

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH) is an honor society for high school students enrolled in Spanish and Portuguese and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) www.aatsp.org. This society was formally organized as the Spanish National Honor Society in 1953, the name was changed in 1959. At present there are over 2,000 national and international chapters.

The Saint Joseph High School chapter is named "**Machu Picchu**" in honor of a [pre-Columbian Inca](#) site located 2,430 meters (8,000 ft) above sea level. It is situated on a mountain ridge above the [Urubamba Valley](#) in [Peru](#), which is 80 kilometers (50 mi) northwest of [Cuzco](#) and through which the [Urubamba River](#) flows. Often referred to as "The Lost City of the Incas". Machu Picchu is one of the most familiar symbols of the [Inca Empire](#). It was declared a Peruvian Historical Sanctuary in 1981 and a UNESCO [World Heritage Site](#) in 1983. Since it was not plundered by the Spanish when they conquered the Incas, it is especially important as a cultural site and is considered a sacred place.

The purpose of the society is **to recognize high achievement of high school students in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and to promote a continuing interest in Hispanic and Portuguese studies.**

Any secondary school student who has maintained an honor average in the study of Spanish or Portuguese for a minimum of three semesters and is in the 11th or 12th grade is eligible. **Definition of "Honor Grade" is left to the discretion of the individual sponsor** but it is remembered that the SHH is an honor society for those students of high academic achievement.

At Saint Joseph High School, we have Academic Requirements and Club Requirements. The Academic requirements establishes that as a member of this society, the student is expected to maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA, to have an "A" in the last 3 semesters of Spanish classes, to be currently enrolled in AP Spanish Literature or AP Spanish

Language with an “A” as minimum. Also, as club requirements she is expected to be available for tutoring, participate in fundraisers, and attend all meetings. The eligibility for membership is not determined solely by grades, but by **10 hours of community service using Spanish in addition to the grade requirement**. If the student misses two meetings, she will be automatically dropped from the society. This honorary society will benefit students in the future as long as they put their time and effort into it. As a responsible member the student is expected to donate clothes or/and toys for orphans kids of Tijuana with HIV+ (on December), participate in the Foreign Film Nights (4 en total) and all the school’s Latino events such as “15 de septiembre,” “Día de los muertos,” “Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe,” “Tarde de Poesía”, and “Cinco de Mayo.” They also will get basic information about the 3 more important Latin American civilizations (Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas) and will be tested on November before the induction. All students must pass this test in order to remain as a member of this elite association.

Once students have their dues current, they are ready to follow their induction procedure. For more information you can visit the SHS website www.sociedadhonorariahispanica.org. The induction takes place in the media center the last Monday of November at 7:00 pm. The parents, the department chairperson, the principal and/or the superintendent, some members of the school board and some prominent members of the Hispanic community as well as faculty and staff are invited to presence the induction. Often there is entertainment provided by the students themselves or some members of the Mariachi or Choir of the school. The students are completely involved in the planning and executing of the ceremony, so that the burden of putting it together does not fall completely on the sponsor.

When the ceremony is over, students will have completed the minimum club requirements of the SHH chapter in Saint Joseph High School. From here on, students can plan extra activities to increase the involvement of the students and the visibility of the chapter in the school and the community.

The amount of work students do will be dependent on how responsible and willing the students in the chapter are to accept responsibility and carry through on what they have started.

The students are **encourage to send in poetry**, prose or graphics pertaining to the Hispanic world for publication in the literary magazine, ¡Albricias!. Every active chapter receives a copy of the magazine, which is published quarterly. Every student whose work is accepted gets a check for \$35 (\$50, if the drawing is chosen for the cover) and a copy of the magazine in which the work appears.

The Spanish Honor Society also have two very important contests each year for students. The first is the Bertie Green Junior Travel Award, which sends 20 juniors to Mexico, Costa Rica or Spain during the summer for 10-12 days. Each chapter may choose one student to apply for the award. The application for the award is published in our Becas y Premios packet, which is sent to each chapter sponsor during the month of December. Applications for the awards are due on February 15 of each year.

The second award is the Joseph S. Adams Senior Scholarship Award, received by graduating seniors each year. Twelve awards of \$2,000 each and 40 of \$1,000 are given to 52 seniors. As in the case of the Junior Travel Awards, each chapter may choose one candidate to apply. The application can also be found in the Becas y Premios packet.

Finances:

Students must pay \$30.00 for the induction ceremony. This will cover food and Diplomas dues. Also, senior students must pay \$15.00 for the Stole dues.