

Constitution and Bylaws

**Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica
Benito Juárez Chapter
Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

Article I. Name and Classification

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, also known as

“SHH.” The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is a national organization.

Section 3. The chapter of SHH at AAST is named “Benito Juárez”. This chapter recognizes all bylaws of the national society.

Section 2. The purpose of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is to recognize high achievement in Spanish and Portuguese by students of secondary schools and to promote continuity of interest in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies.

Article II. Qualifications for Membership

Section 1. To be eligible for membership in the SHH, students must meet the following criteria:

- a) Students must be actively enrolled in an upper level Spanish class (Spanish III or higher)
- b) Students must have completed at least three courses of Spanish **or** be taking Spanish III at the time of application for membership.
- c) Students must have an overall GPA of 3.8 weighted or higher.
- d) Students must have a cumulative Spanish average of 85 or higher from .
- e) Students must never have failed a class due to attendance.
- f) Students must have a good behavior record and no discipline issues on record.

Section 2. The Spanish teachers of the upper level classes will offer applications to students who meet the criteria stated in Section 1 These students may apply for membership in the AAST Benito Juárez chapter.

Article III. Application and Initiation

Section 1. During the first few weeks of school, the Spanish teachers of the upper level classes will offer applications to students.

Section 2. Potential SHH members complete a form for admission to give to the SHH chapter sponsor(s) for consideration by the application deadline.

Section 3. The Spanish teachers and SHH sponsor(s) meet to confer on the candidates and come to a consensus of the new members for initiation.

Section 4. The SHH sponsor(s) will meet with an Assistant Principal should there be a concern in behavior and/or discipline of a student.

Section 5. Acceptance and congratulatory letters will be sent to candidates approximately 3-4 weeks before the initiation ceremony. The letter explains about mandatory attendance at the orientation meetings for new initiates and the ceremony protocol.

Section 6. The Initiation Ceremony will be held for new members and their siblings and family. The SHH sponsor and officers will determine a location and time.

Article IV. Qualifications for Continued Membership

Section 1. Each year members commit to fulfilling an activity from each of the following categories: Academic Commitment and Community Commitment.

Section 2. Academic commitment may be defined in part as: current enrollment in a Spanish class and/or another world language while maintaining an overall GPA of 3.8 weighted.

Section 3. All members must accrue 10 service hours per year. All service hours must be completed within organized activities, events and projects provided by the AAST chapter and must be signed off by a member of the Spanish department staff. Examples are participation in the following: in an appointed SHH leadership role; in a donation or fundraising drive benefiting a local, national or international Latino community/organization; or working on a special project that serves Spanish-speaking people in the any city area, participating in SHH-sponsored events/fundraisers, preparing for SHH State Conference.

Section 5. Students meet monthly at the discretion of the SHH sponsor with a 75% attendance rate with the purpose to discuss, plan, and generate participation for: the initiation ceremony, Spanish tutoring, fundraisers and drives, holiday bake sales, application and preparation for the Junior Travel Award and the Senior Scholarship Award, submissions to *Albricias*, etc.

Section 6. Students must continue to demonstrate academic integrity and character: i.e. no recorded incidents of cheating, plagiarism, misconduct, insubordination or intentional dishonesty.

Section 7. If a student does not complete the Community Commitment or Academic Commitment, he or she may be placed on probationary status for one semester. If requisites for that semester are not met, the student may be removed from the SHH Chapter.

Section 8. If a student does not continue in the study of Spanish, he or she is considered an Associate Member during any year not enrolled in a Spanish class. Associate Members may participate in chapter activities and receive graduation regalia, provided that they meet the Academic and Community Commitment of the chapter. Associate Members may not vote, hold office, or apply for national awards. Some exceptions may be made for seniors who completed the highest level of Spanish offered at Any High School during their junior year.

Article V. Dues and Fees

Section 1. Before induction, a new member must submit a designated amount of membership dues. These dues include one-time national membership dues of \$25.00 and other fees to cover the costs of induction ceremony, graduation regalia, chapter t-shirts, and other chapter activities.

Section 2. To renew membership in the chapter, a member will pay a designated amount of at least \$5 to cover the costs of chapter activities and graduation regalia. A higher amount may be requested to include chapter t-shirts.

Article VI. Elections and Duties of Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Español chapter are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. The Secretary/Treasurer position may be combined. The officers must be enrolled in a Spanish class at the time of election and service and must be juniors or seniors in order to hold office as a representative of the SHH.

Section 2. Officers are nominated by the active members present during one of the final meetings of the school year, approved by the SHH sponsor. All SHH active members are invited to vote by ballot.

Section 3. The duties of the officers are as follows: to have consistent attendance at meetings; to serve as models of diplomacy for other members of the SHH and the Any High School community; to delegate, plan and organize the induction ritual through ceremony parts, the reading of the script in Spanish and English, the set-up of the ceremony venue, the preparation of food and beverages for the ceremony, and to speak with new members about their responsibilities and commitments in order to maintain membership in good standing, etc.

Section 4. The role of the President is to delegate and organize the annual induction ceremony, preside at meetings consistently, and serve as the SHH student spokesperson, prospective candidates, the Spanish Department and the high school.

Section 5. The role of Vice President is to assist the President collegially, use social media to announce all meetings, keep Excel record of SHH tutor service and fundraiser projects, and be in charge of official correspondence of the SHH chapter within the school and community.

Section 6. The role of the Secretary is to keep the ledger of initiates, active members and their qualifications and attendance up to date via Excel sheet.

Section 7. The role of the Treasurer is to keep the financial records of the SHH chapter and follow the rules for deposit and disbursement as outlined by the Any High School bookkeeper. The Treasurer corresponds with the SHH Sponsor to ensure that payment of the SHH national dues in order to receive the certificates for distribution at the ceremony.

Section 8. The role of Historian is to record chapter events, taking pictures and creating pages for the “Español” chapter scrapbook. The Historian will also work with the SHH Sponsor to submit chapter news to the national organization.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. Each member must maintain 75% attendance at the monthly meetings.

Section 2. Meetings are to be regularly scheduled by the sponsors and officers with some delay time due to months with extended holiday breaks.

Section 3. The last meeting of the year will take place late-April or early-May to select new officers and to set direction for the goals of the following school year.

Article VIII. Awards and Recognition

Section 1. The SHH Chapter Sponsor may award the Certificado de Excelencia to initiated members, winners in the National Spanish Examinations, or to the initiated member who has achieved the highest grade point average in Spanish or Portuguese for that school year. Duplicate certificates are awarded in case of ties. The number of awards is limited to 10% of current initiates.

Section 2. The SHH Chapter Sponsor may award the Certificado por Servicios to recognize initiated members who have rendered meritorious service to the Chapter. The number awarded is limited to 10% of current initiates.

Section 3. The SHH Chapter Sponsor may award the Premio de Honor to the best graduating senior of the Chapter. The certificate may be obtained from the National Director of the SHH, and will be sent upon receipt of the student's name. The names of both the student and the Chapter sponsor will be published nationally if sent by the deadline. Each Chapter may receive only one certificate each year.

Section 4. Student members of the SHH chapter may apply for the national Bertie Green Junior Travel Award and Joseph A. Adams Senior Scholarship. Only one person from the chapter may apply for each award. Therefore, a committee of Spanish teachers may determine the best applicant based on the essay and list of activities required for the application.

Section 5. All active SHH members are encouraged to submit original written work in Spanish or artwork related to Spanish to *iAlbricias!*, the student journal of the SHH.

Article IX. Insignia

Section 1. The insignia of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is the official one of the AATSP, as represented on stationery and/or correspondence, or for which may be shown for awards for excellence in Spanish and Portuguese.

Section 2. The seal of the AATSP is the official seal of the SHH, and it may be used in conjunction with any other seal upon approval of the National Council.

Section 3. The motto of the SHH is: *Todos a una.*

Section 4. The colors of the SHH are red and gold.

Section 5. The flower of the SHH is the carnation.

Article X. Emergency Bylaws

Section 1. Additional regulations for facilitating the government of the Español chapter and the activities of the Chapter may be prepared by the officers whenever the exigencies for such regulations may arise.

Section 2. Dues may be initiated at the beginning of each year to be determined by the Sponsor and advisors if necessary.