

# SOCIEDAD HISPÁNICA DE AMISTAD

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad?**

It is a society for elementary and middle school students of Spanish or Portuguese.

### **Who started the society?**

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) created the SHA.

### **Why did the AATSP feel the need to start this group?**

The AATSP began the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, an honorary high school society, in 1953. Since students are beginning to study languages earlier than ever before, it was felt the time had come to offer a society for younger students.

### **What is the difference between the SHH and the SHA?**

The SHH (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica) is an honorary society for high school students of Spanish or Portuguese. The SHA (Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad) is an activities-based society for elementary and middle school students.

### **Who can sponsor a chapter?**

Any elementary or middle school teacher of Spanish or Portuguese who is a member of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese can sponsor a chapter.

### **Who can be a member?**

There are two types of memberships. Any elementary or middle school student who is enrolled in Spanish or Portuguese can be a Regular Member. There are additional requirements for Honor Membership.

### **What are members expected to do?**

Members participate in individual and chapter projects, which are organized into three categories: ambassadorship, service to school, and service to community.

### **Who decides what projects to do?**

Chapter sponsors and members choose the projects. Sponsors will be provided with suggestions for projects or may tailor projects to suit chapter members and school.

### **How does a student get to be an Honor Member?**

Honor Members must have studied Spanish or Portuguese for at least one year, must maintain a high academic average, and must complete projects in ambassadorship, school service, and community service.

### **How much does it cost?**

The school pays a one-time \$25 fee to establish a chapter. There is a \$5.00 membership fee per student payable prior to induction.

### **How can we form a chapter?**

You will find the AATSP membership and SHA charter applications forms on the website.