

## **SOCIEDAD HISPÁNICA DE AMISTAD STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

The SHA has been designed with elementary and middle school teachers in mind. The organization functions as a “club” completely separate from school or as a part of the curriculum. Meetings and activities may be done on the student’s own time, or everything can be done during class as an enhancement to current curriculum. Assuming you are ready for your students to begin the activities, fun, and fellowship of a chapter of the SHA, here are the steps to follow:

1. Fill out a charter application and send it to the National Director, along with the \$25 charter fee.
2. You will receive a confirmation of the name of your chapter and a charter for display.
3. Considering your school and programs, decide how to structure your chapter. Because there are so many different types of programs in elementary and middle schools, we offer Regular Memberships *and* Honor Memberships. You may decide to have either of the two or even both of them. To help you decide which memberships to offer, look at the following examples:

### **SCHOOL A: Regular Memberships Only**

Teaches Spanish as an exploratory only. Decides to offer *Regular Memberships*, in which students complete at least one project in each of three areas. Students continue to work on projects as they study the language. The Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad offers contests, wearables, links with other chapters, etc., to enhance the language learning experiences of each member.

### **SCHOOL B: Honor Memberships Only**

Teaches Spanish I. Decides to offer only *Honor Memberships*, in which students must have studied the language for a full school year, must have an excellent academic average in Spanish, and must complete advanced projects. Students work on projects until they have fulfilled the requirements for *Honor Membership*. The SHA supports the efforts of the student members, as described above.

### **SCHOOL C: Regular and Honor Memberships**

Teaches both exploratory and Spanish I, or may teach the language for several years and decide to offer both *Regular* and *Honor Memberships*. Students become *Regular Members* shortly after they begin their study of the language. As they continue their study, the quality and quantity of projects is increased. Those who successfully meet all requirements are awarded *Honor Memberships*. Both types of members receive the continued support of the SHA, as described above.

1. Choose projects for your students. They may be done in school as a part of your regular curriculum, or outside school. You may choose individual, small group, or large group projects. You decide what works for your classes and school.
2. Send a list of names and \$5 (to cover printing and mailing) for each student who is to receive a membership certificate to the National Director of the SHA.
3. Following the instructions in the handbook, have an induction ceremony for members.
4. Continue to enjoy the support of the SHA as your students participate in more projects, link with other chapters, and enjoy learning and sharing their knowledge with others!

**NOTE:** When students enter high school, they may begin working to qualify for membership in the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, the national honor society for Spanish and Portuguese students. Students may qualify for travel awards and college scholarships at this level.