



Become a Humanities Scholar

Communities across South Dakota want to bring the humanities close to home. The South Dakota Humanities Council helps make this happen.

We are continually accepting applications for scholars to carry the humanities across South Dakota. Our humanities scholars present with our Speakers Bureau and lead reading discussions with our Book Club to Go, One Book South Dakota, and Young Readers One Book programs. More details are listed below.

APPLICATION

Application is on a rolling basis, meaning that you can apply at any time during the year. Application cutoff is annually on August 1st to be considered for the new fiscal year that begins each November 1st. If applications are received after the August 1st cutoff, they will be considered in the next cycle. Scholars must apply *each year*. If you are a current scholar, you can have a copy of your previous application sent to you for review. Fields that do not change can be copied and pasted into the new application, making the process quick and easy. SDHC's Program Committee will review applications early in September.

To apply online, visit <http://sdhumanities.org/programs-and-events/speakers-bureau/how-to-become-a-scholar/>. For a paper application, send your mailing address to deb@sdhumanities.org or call 605-688-6113.

Scholars accepted into the Speakers Bureau will be featured in up to five programs on the website. If you like working with students, we are currently looking for additional scholars willing to lead discussions at the middle school level and for our Young Readers One Book program.

SDHC's PROGRAMS

Speakers Bureau

This is a collection of humanities scholars who present on a variety of topics comprising the humanities – including, but not limited to, history, culture, language, literature, philosophy, arts and sciences, heritage, traditions, and beyond. Through the council's Speakers Bureau, community groups can easily host a humanities scholar at a local event.

One Book South Dakota, Young Readers One Book, and Book Club to Go

Scholars are needed to facilitate reading groups throughout South Dakota. These South Dakota Humanities Council reading programs are available for book clubs organized by individuals, libraries, bookstores, museums, and other non-profit organizations.

One Book South Dakota

The One Book selection changes annually and is announced on our [One Book South Dakota](#) web page.

Young Readers One Book

This book selection changes annually and is featured at the [Young Readers Festival](#) held in conjunction with the [Festival of Books](#).

Book Club to Go

Titles in the Council's lending library support the [Book Club to Go](#) program. For the full listing of over forty titles, visit the [SDHC Lending Library](#) website.

Groups that participate in one of the above reading programs will receive up to 30 copies of a title and can have a scholar lead their book discussion. Scholars will be sent the book chosen by the group (and agreed on with the facilitating representative) about a month before the program begins. Please note that some titles in our lending library have a limited number of copies available. Questions about book availability can be directed to our office at 605-688-6113.

Suggestions for books to be added to our lending library can be emailed to jennifer@sdhumanities.org. If you have suggestions for a One Book or Festival author, please fill out the brief form (5 questions) here: <https://sdhumanities.wufoo.com/forms/one-book-south-dakota-festival-of-books> .

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the Humanities?

"The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life." (From: www.NEH.gov) --National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended

What constitutes a “Humanities Scholar”?

This is a person trained in one of the humanities disciplines, having earned an M.A. or a Ph.D., or an individual whose career and personal history shows commitment to the humanities.

What does an SDHC scholar do?

SDHC scholars travel throughout the state to present Speakers Bureau programs and/or host reading discussions. Scholars can lead book discussions about the One Book SD, Young Readers One Book, or choose a book from our Book Club to Go library. Speakers Bureau scholars present programs on a wide variety of topics suitable for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Chautauqua speakers animate history with their costumed impressions of various historical figures, from Native American women in the era of the Wounded Knee Massacre to famous South Dakotans such as Calvin Mellette (the first governor of South Dakota), Amelia Earhart, outlaw Tom O'Day and many more. Our speakers also present traditional programs in several humanities disciplines. They explore topics such as traditional Lakota spirituality and the role of ceremony in today's ever-changing world; the high-profile criminal trials presided over by Peter C. Shannon, Chief Justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court; the history of stained glass in South Dakota, and more.

Where are the programs hosted?

Organizations apply to host a scholar through the South Dakota Humanities Council. Typical applicants include libraries, museums, historical sites, historical societies, parks, tribal entities, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, as well as community centers and agencies that are open to the public. Applicant organizations do not need to be located in South Dakota, but programs must take place within the state. We encourage SDHC scholars to contact organizations which they feel would benefit from their programs. When a mutual program date and time is agreed upon, the organization can then make application to SDHC to host the scholar.

What does an SDHC scholar get paid for doing a program?

The typical stipend for one day, for one program is \$200. SDHC pays state rate for mileage (42 cents per mile) and lodging — \$75 plus tax year-round (equal to \$79.88 including 6.5 percent tax) when necessary. If a scholar conducts more than one program in one day OR travels more than 240 miles round-trip, the stipend increases to \$250. The scholar is awarded an extra \$75 for each additional day of presentation. SDHC does not pay for meal costs. If you have questions about payment guidelines, please email deb@sdhumanities.org or call 605-688-6113.

Does a scholar need to record cost-sharing/in-kind donations?

Cost-sharing and in-kind donations are very important to the South Dakota Humanities Council! The SDHC is required by the National Endowment for the Humanities to “match” the funds provided to us through in-kind donations. Matches are accomplished through contributions in the form of donated goods, services, time, or expertise. As a coordinator or scholar on one of our program grants (Speakers Bureau, One Book, Young Readers One Book, or Book Club to Go) you are asked to provide this information. Consider the following points when determining cost-sharing or in-kind allowances.

“Donated/In-Kind Services” – for **Scholars* (Presenters and Discussion Leaders)
“Donated/In-Kind Services” is a section of the scholar’s “Request for Payment/Evaluation” paperwork that is emailed to them at the time of grant approval.

* Stipends and travel or lodging reimbursements are paid directly to you by the SDHC and are NOT considered a part of cost-sharing or in-kind donations.

Use the guide below to document the services you performed that were donated and not compensated for by SDHC.

Time: The value of hours or days you worked to create and implement the program.

Office/Meeting Space: The value of space or rent-free space within the community and surrounding area where you worked when creating the program.

Equipment: Examples of equipment are computers, software, furniture, and office equipment that you used as you were creating your services. Equipment may be used, surplus, brand new, or even loaned. The value of donated equipment shall not exceed the fair market value of equipment of the same age and condition at time of donation, and the value of loaned equipment shall not exceed its fair rental value.

Services: Service donations may be advertising, patents, royalties, and copyrights; or professional services donated by groups such as corporations, small businesses, vendors, or colleges. Donated transportation or publishing support would be specific examples. This category would also include volunteer services provided for the program by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled or unskilled labor outside of yourself. These services can be counted as cost-sharing if the service is an integral part of the approved program. Volunteer services shall be valued at rates consistent with those ordinarily paid for similar work within the state.

Supplies: These are tangible goods such as office supplies. The value of donated supplies or other expendable property should be reasonable and not exceed the fair market value.

Can I apply to be an SDHC scholar if I do not live in South Dakota?

Yes. However, SDHC only pays mileage for scholars while they are in state. For example, if an SDHC scholar were traveling from Nebraska to South Dakota, SDHC would pay mileage from the state border to the location of the program and then mileage on the return from the location of the program to the South Dakota state border. All programs sponsored by the South Dakota Humanities Council must take place in South Dakota.

Additional Questions?

Please email deb@sdhumanities.org or call 605-688-6113.