



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're now 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 and One Book South Dakota programs. More details are listed below.

Applications are due November 29, 2020, to be considered for 2021 programs. SDHC's Program Committee will review applications no later than early January 2021.

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.

SDHC's PROGRAMS

Speakers Bureau

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 and 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 and Book Club to Go

These programs pair local reading groups with a discussion leader and a supply of up to 30 books for the group from our lending library.

2021 One Book South Dakota

The 2021 One Book selection will be announced in November or December.

Book Club to Go

Scholars are needed to facilitate reading groups throughout South Dakota for [Book Club to Go](#) programs. The South Dakota Humanities Council has many reading programs available for book clubs organized by individuals, libraries, bookstores, museums and other non-profit organizations. The SDHC especially encourages programs from our “Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys.” The books in this collection explore Muslim culture, including its relationship to Christianity and Judaism. You can read more about the titles in our lending library here: <http://sdhumanities.org/host-a-program/reading-group-toolkit/titles-a-f/>.

Groups that participate in a reading program will receive up to 30 copies of any 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 scholar) about a month before the program begins. Over forty titles are available for loan; for a full listing of those titles, visit the SDHC website. 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 (<http://sdhumanities.org/programs-and-events/obsd/>) or choose a book from our Book Club to Go library (<http://sdhumanities.org/host-a-program/reading-group-toolkit/titles-a-f/>). 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.

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 advertise and promote their programs.

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

The typical stipend for one day, for one program is \$150. 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 \$200. The scholar is awarded an extra \$75 for each additional day of presentation. SDHC no longer pays for meal costs. If you have questions about payment guidelines, please email deb@sdhumanities.org or call 605-688-6113.

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.