



FSSC 2024

Segunda Circular

Año LVIII

***Por favor, lea esta circular con atención. Se han hecho cambios incluyendo los temas para los años PARES (2024).**

October 17, 2023.

Dear Spanish Teachers and Students:

Osceola County School of the Arts and Celebration High School are hosting this year's conference. Lizette Marrero, Luisa Barrios-Cremonesi, and their students are this year's sponsors. The theme is ***Español, más que una lengua, un tesoro***. The 2024 Florida State Spanish Conference will be held **March 7-9, 2024**. It will be held, as in the past, at the Wyndham Orlando Resorts on International Drive. Forms for all competition registrations as well as for hotel reservations are enclosed.

Due dates

DECEMBER 15th, 2023.

1- **ALL** forms and registration fees (per person attending) are due. Registration will not be processed until we receive **all** forms and fees.

February 1st, 2024.

1-Deadline for Florida Chapter of AATSP fees *(all teachers sending students to the conference must pay the \$15.00 POINT ROOM fee)*. You may send payment via PayPal through our site <https://www.thefssc.org/get-involved> or you may make a check payable to the **Florida Chapter of AATSP**. Send check to:

Linda Villadoniga
FSSC Secretary
631 Shores Blvd
St Augustine, FL 32086

February 1, 2024.

1- Deadline for the hotel reservation. Registration will not be processed until the hotel receives **both** forms and down payment fee. Per the Wyndham: The cut-off day for all reservations is **Friday, February 1, 2024**. Reservation requests received after 5:00 pm local time at the Hotel on the cut-off date will be accepted at the Hotel's prevailing rate, based on room availability."

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February 15th, 2024.

- 1-Last day to make changes in competitions. **Remember, all substitutions must be made from the existing alternate list.**
- 2- Banquet Dinner Selection Form is due.
- 3- Last day to add Costume, Entertainment, or Senior Scholarship entries. Entries **must** be pre-registered.

ALL forms must be postmarked by the date indicated OR WILL INCUR A \$25 LATE FEE

COSTS

Registration Fees

The Conference registration fee is **\$70.00 per student, school sponsor, or teacher chaperone***. The **non-teacher chaperone fee is \$80.00**. This fee covers the cost of the banquet, conference rooms, dance, awards, and other Conference expenses.

***FSSC requires 1 chaperone per every 10 students (16 students require 2 chaperones). Check your school's policy regarding male chaperones.**

*Please make check payable to **FSSC 2024** and send it with completed forms to:*

**Linda Villadóniga/FSSC 2024
FSSC Secretary
631 Shores Blvd
St. Augustine FL 32086**

Please note that **NO CHECK WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS ALL REGISTRATION AND STUDENTS' ELIGIBILITY FORMS ACCOMPANY IT.**

All registration fees MUST be postmarked by **January 16th, 2024**. After this date, NO registration will be accepted due to banquet and program commitments.

HOTEL

The Price per room is \$139 per night. The Resort Fee Charge of \$26.00 is waived for the group and group benefits are provided at no additional charge. Daily Benefits (valued at \$94) include:

- Wireless in-room high-speed internet (\$9.95)
- Daily Fitness Center and Spa Access including unlimited use of equipment, sauna, steam room, lockers, and shower facilities (\$10.00)
- Usage of the 24-hour technology lounge computers with internet (\$10.00)
- Live network airline kiosk with board pass printer (\$2.00)
- Up to first 30 minutes of long-distance telephone calls (within the continental US) (\$3.00)
- Unlimited local and toll free telephone calls (\$2.00)
- Weekday newspaper in the hotel lobby and fitness center (\$2.00)
- Scheduled daily bus transfers to and from Universal Studios, SeaWorld, and Universal's City Walk (\$10.00)

Reservations should be made no later than **February 1, 2024, in order to receive the conference rate.** The regular hotel rate will be charged after this date. Please remember that the FSSC contract prices are negotiated annually according to the number of rooms booked at the hotel. According to FSSC Bylaws, ALL competitors (and teachers/chaperones) **MUST** stay at the Wyndham Orlando Resorts.

A HOTEL FORM is ENCLOSED WITH THIS PACKET, **MAKE A COPY FOR YOURSELF** AND SEND ONE COPY TO THE HOTEL ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT AND A COPY OF YOUR TAX-EXEMPT CERTIFICATE. PLEASE SEND A DUPLICATE COPY OF

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YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS TO FSSC. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL SINCE NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE.

The hotel will not accept personal checks for rooms, so please be sure you pay with a school check, credit card, or cash. **Tax on the room is waived only if a copy of the school tax-exempt certificate is provided** (see your school bookkeeper for it). **The Resort Tariff of 7.5% is NOT tax-exempt but IS INCLUDED at the price of \$139.00 per night.**

Students are allowed to have incoming calls but are **not allowed to make outgoing calls from their rooms. The pay movie channel will be off-limits to all students.** The hotel makes every effort to facilitate check-in. Therefore, each school must follow the following procedure to avoid any problems:

1. Hotel reservations must be made before **February 1, 2024**.
2. Send the enclosed hotel reservation form, rooming list, tax-exempt certificate, and deposit to the hotel. Once the hotel receives the forms and deposit, they will immediately send you a confirmation notice for each room. If you do not receive a confirmation notice within a reasonable time, contact hotel reservations.
3. Send a copy of all hotel forms with your registration packet to FSSC. **We must have an emergency phone number for each student participating in the conference.** Please make a copy of your rooming list and bring it to the Conference. If there are any room changes, you must notify us upon arrival. If the change requires more or fewer rooms than initially requested, the hotel must be notified of these changes in writing. **You may FAX this information to the hotel at (407) 345-5611.** Please remember that unless you notify them of changes you may be charged for the rooms, even if you do not use them.

PARTICIPANTS

Each school may bring up to 16 students. **No observers may attend.**

Questionnaire: The FSSC questionnaire is enclosed. Please remember that **all participants and alternates must fill out a copy and that they must be returned with your registration and fees by January 15, 2024, to Linda Villadóniga, FSSC 631 Shores Blvd, St. Augustine, FL 32086.** Please **proofread and sign** each student questionnaire form.

Eligibility: Students must meet the standards set by Florida Statutes for Interscholastic Competition. They are required to have a 2.0 G.P.A. for the grading period preceding the competition. They must also have passed 5 of 6 or 5 of 7 classes. If the status changes, an eligible alternate must be substituted from your alternate list.

Categories: Student participants will be divided into four categories. They are:

- (A) Students who have ONLY learned Spanish exclusively in the classroom.
- (B) Students with limited outside experience at home or in a Spanish-speaking environment.
- (C) Students with extensive outside experience at home or in a Spanish-speaking environment.
- (D) Students are reared and educated in a Spanish-speaking environment.

Only **high school** students in levels 1 thru AP Literature (6) are allowed to compete. Students must be/have been (4 by 4 schools or the like) enrolled in a Spanish class this year. They will be registered according to the years of Spanish study. **There is no AP category. AP Language** is considered **five** years and **AP Literature** is considered **six** years. All students coming to the conference must participate in at least one of the three academic areas of competition: impromptu (required of all participants), declamation, and dramatic presentation.

Divisions: There will be two divisions in the competition with equivalent trophies awarded for each division. The maximum number of delegates representing any one school is sixteen. The divisions are:

Division I: In this division, no more than 70% of delegates must be in Category A; a maximum of 30% of delegates in Categories B, C, and D.

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Division II: This division includes schools with more than 30% of delegates in categories B, C, and D.

SPONSORS:

There must be one school sponsor for the first ten students. The FAATSP directly promotes the Florida State Spanish Conference, therefore each sponsor and teacher sending their students to participate must pay the fee which is used to help defray the cost of the Point Room's supplies and to give Senior Exam Scholarships. The fee per teacher sending students (whether the teacher is attending or not) is \$15. Send your fees to **Florida Chapter AATSP Treasurer**. The deadline for FAATSP fees is **February 1, 2024**. The fees must be paid by this date in order for your school to participate. **Make checks payable to Florida Chapter AATSP.**

CHAPERONES:

Remind all non-school board employees to sign in as school volunteers before leaving for the conference.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS:

Students participate in three types of competition:

Impromptu Speeches: *Each* student will give a two-minute, non-memorized discourse on a given topic. A list of **NEW sample topics** can be found on our website: www.thefssc.org. Each school may have up to sixteen participants, but **ALL** registered team members must compete in this area. (See FSSC Constitution Article VIII Section 1A) Since no sponsor or chaperone may attend the impromptu competition, videotaping and photography of this competition are **NOT** permitted. **Students are NOT permitted to bring laptops, smart watches, phones, copies of their outlines or any material for impromptu preparation into the rooms during the speech competition.**

Declamations: Students may also compete in an oral presentation of poetry which may not exceed three minutes. Hand motions, movements, voice intonations, and costumes to accompany the mood of the recitation are encouraged. Each school may have up to six participants. All levels must meet a **two-minute minimum time**. Anyone not meeting a two-minute minimum time **CAN NOT** receive a "sobresaliente". **Students are NOT permitted to bring laptops, smart watches, phones, copies of their outlines or any material for impromptu preparation into the rooms during the declamation competition.**

The only exception to this rule: category 1A, 1B, and 2A students

Any 1A/B or 2A students not meeting a **one-minute minimum time CAN NOT** receive a "sobresaliente".

Dramatic Presentation: Each school may enter one skit or short play. If the play consists of two or three students, a minimum duration of six minutes is required. If four or more students are in a play a minimum time of eight minutes is required. The maximum time is fifteen minutes for both situations. Plays with prompting or any reading of parts, as well as plays not meeting the minimum time or exceeding the maximum may not receive "sobresaliente". In this competition, the school will receive a triple-point value.

JUDGING: Two judges will rate each participant based on diction, interpretation, and overall effectiveness. **Remember: It is up to each individual judge whether to allow anyone other than the competitors into his or her room for declamation and dramatic presentation. This decision is final and shall be respected.**

AWARDS: Each entry will receive one of the four assessments: Bueno, Excelente, Superior, and Sobresaliente. Certificates, ribbons, and trophies will be awarded accordingly in all categories of competition.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Several scholarships offered by FAATSP, FSSC, and other organizations will be awarded to seniors wishing to participate in the Senior Scholarship Exam. **ONLY THREE SENIORS PER HIGH SCHOOL CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS ESSAY CONTEST.** Seniors participating in the essay contest must be enrolled in levels II through VI. **STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT MUST BRING A PHOTO ID.**

NON-ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS:

Regional Dress: The regional dress contest will be held at the banquet. Any student wishing to participate must be **pre-registered** in the enclosed form. Regional dress must be representative of a Spanish-speaking country. The country and region of the costume must be indicated on the registration form. (Limit to 3 entries per school).

Entertainment: Each school may compete in the entertainment auditions (limit to 3 acts per school) by pre-registering in the enclosed form. Auditions will be held on Friday around noon. Entertainment must be representative of a Spanish-speaking country. **The name of the song and the country represented must be indicated on the registration form.** Finalists will perform at the banquet for an award.

Scrapbook: Each school may enter one scrapbook depicting the 2023-2024 activities of the Spanish students in their school. The scrapbook will be judged as followed: neatness, organization, content, creativity, use of the language, and overall effectiveness. For your scrapbook to be judged, it must be turned in at the registration area upon arrival on Thursday. Work submitted should be solely by the students. This year we will also accept digital scrapbooks. The rubric for the digital scrapbook is part of this mailing.

Poster Competition: Each school may enter one original poster depicting the conference theme: ***“Español, más que una lengua, un tesoro”***. The poster will be judged on neatness, quality of graphics, design concept, appropriateness, and originality. Posters must be made of poster board and must be turned in at the registration area upon arrival on Thursday to be judged. They will be on display throughout the Conference.

Cultural Competition:

Please see attached letter from Lizette Marrero and Luisa Barrios-Cremonesi about the cultural contest and centerpieces.

Awards: The awards for non-academic competitions are Primer Premio, Segundo Premio, and Tercer Premio. These awards will not be considered in the total point accumulation for the Outstanding School Award for the Conference.

CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS

Since many schools are already designing their own competition t-shirts, FSSC will not be selling t-shirts at FSSC 2024. Instead, we will be turning this into an **optional** yearly competition. Each school is invited to participate in this competition.

Each school choosing to enter this competition:

- designs a t-shirt to go along with the **theme of the year: *Español, más que una lengua, un tesoro***. All designs must be original and have not borrowed any significant portion of the design from outside sources including, but not limited to, the internet. The person(s) responsible for the design will be required to sign a statement saying that the design is an original piece of work.
- brings an extra t-shirt* (size doesn't matter) to FSSC to enter. The entry t-shirt **CANNOT** have anything which would identify the school.
- the sponsor of each competing school will serve as a judge, in addition to a panel of 3 judges

The winning design will be announced at the Awards Ceremony and that school will win **a waiver for the \$125 School Registration Fee for the following year**. The “extra” t-shirt entered in the competition will be exchanged in a t-shirt swap that will take place at the Awards Ceremony.

DRESS CODE

While there is no dress code per se, please remind your students that they represent not only your school but YOU as well. Students should always dress appropriately. There are swimming pools and workout rooms at the Wyndham Orlando Resort which are available to FSSC attendees and according to their school guidelines.. The Banquet on Friday night is a celebration. Sunday “best” (boys: collared shirts, dress pants (including dress jeans), and dress shoes are expected, ties and jackets are optional; girls should wear attire that they would wear to church or the like, skinny jeans and a blouse would be acceptable). Jeans with tears and holes are NOT appropriate attire for the Banquet.

Dance (following Banquet): Students may change into more comfortable clothing if they desire, again exercising good taste.

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SCHOOL NUMBERS:

Upon receipt of your *complete registration and fees*, each school will receive a number based on the date that forms and fees are received by the FSSC Secretary. The lower the number, the earlier check-in and student competition times. The sooner you return your registration forms and fee, the lower your number. Each school will receive an email confirming a spot in the conference. **If you have not received your confirmation by January 15, 2024**, please contact **Linda Villadóniga** by email at **fsscsecretary@gmail.com**.

Mail all forms AND monies to this address:

**Linda Villadóniga/FSSC 2024
631 Shores Blvd
St. Augustine, FL 32086**

Make all conference checks payable to FSSC 2024

****Make a hotel check payable to Wyndham Orlando Resorts and take it with you or send it directly to the hotel with a copy of your form and rooming list.**

Wyndham Orlando Resorts
8001 International Dr.
Orlando, FL 32819
ATTN: Florida State Spanish Conference Reservations

If you have any urgent questions, please TEXT Linda Villadóniga at **904-377-2252** Please leave a number where you can be reached in the late afternoon or early evening as well as the name of your school and your name. Please remember: *"Estamos para servirles y lograr que la Conferencia del 2024 sea todo un éxito"*.

Sincerely,

*Linda Villadóniga
FSSC Secretary*