



# WORLD IS A CLASSROOM

## ESSAY CONTEST



The World is a Classroom Essay Contest was created in recognition of Ripley Hunter, Co-Founder and Past Chair of the SYTA Youth Foundation (SYF) for his commitment and dedication to changing young lives through travel. Based on the belief that travel is essential for a complete education, it is SYF's goal to make a positive difference, through travel, in the young lives of our global citizens. Since its inception, the SYTA Youth Foundation has impacted more than 8,500 students.

The World is a Classroom Essay contest is a scholarship granted to five individuals whose essays meet the criteria within four categories:

**LEGIBILITY | SINCERITY | CREATIVITY | CONTENT**

*All scholarships are vetted and approved through the SYF Board of Trustees.*

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Any student (grades 9-12) who is currently enrolled in a secondary public or private academic institution is encouraged to use their creativity to compose an essay that illustrates their personal story of how travel has impacted their lives.

### HOW MUCH IS AWARDED?

The author of the winning essay will be awarded a \$1,500.00 scholarship and may be asked to share their essay in person or by video at a SYTA Youth Foundation virtual or in-person event. The 2nd through 5th essay winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and all winning essays will be featured in the Teach & Travel magazine.



### APPLICATION PERIODS:

Application Opens: February 2, 2026  
Application Closes: April 24, 2026  
*Announced the week of June 22, 2026*