



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 7,750 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 *Teach & Travel* magazine.



APPLICATION PERIODS:

Application Opens: February 1, 2027

Application Closes: April 23, 2027

Announced the week of June 21, 2027