



ANNOUNCEMENT

Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship 2026

This \$5,000 scholarship is granted by Milady "Bunny" Blaha, the eldest child of Albert J. Blaha, founder of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas (CHS), to a graduating Texas high school senior or college, university or vocational/technical school first-year student of Czech descent. Primary qualification (unlimited points) is high school-age Czech heritage-related involvement. Proof of registration and student ID number at a college, university or vocational/technical school is required of the selectee prior to disbursement of the financial award which will be made to the school, not directly to the selectee. Applicants must have less than 30 post-high school credit hours to be eligible.

NOTE: CHS of Texas awards two scholarships each year: the Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship and the Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship. Applicants may apply to both but will be limited to receiving one award. Follow these requirements carefully. Items submitted for Peter Scholarship may not meet these requirements.

Please submit the following: (All personal documents and, preferably, attestations and recommendations as well are to be in Times New Roman font, 14-point, single-spaced, with one-inch margins)

1. One cover sheet with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address; high school name, address, and phone number; college name and student ID number. Please tell us how you learned of this scholarship (not required).
 2. Copy of only most recent high school transcript (preferably State of Texas Academic Achievement Record) or college, university or vocational/technical school transcript.
 3. Documentation of your Czech heritage/lineage origin. Submit no more than two documents. Possible ideas:
 - Family tree or lineage back to Czechoslovakia (with first and last names, birth and death dates, and village or region of origin as much as possible) (This may be an existing document or created by the applicant).
 - Birth or baptismal certificate, passport or visa of ancestor(s) showing country of origin.
 - Immigration ship manifest showing name(s) of ancestor(s) and country of origin.
 4. Two letters of recommendation only (200 words or less each): 1) one from a teacher, counselor, employer or other cognizant adult attesting to your academic or vocational/technical promise; 2) one from a cognizant adult attesting to your interest and involvement in Czech heritage. (Letters not from parents)
 5. An original 200-word essay describing: 1) what your Czech heritage means to you; 2) your planned or current studies in a college, university, or vocational/technical school; 3) your intended career; and 4) why you should be selected.
 6. An original 300-word essay on the history of the regions and major religions of Czechoslovakia (before it became the Czech Republic).
 7. A list of ways in which you have been involved with Czech heritage while in high school. Skip a line between each numbered item. To receive points, include one piece of evidence only (e.g., photo or program) or one attestation (150 words or less from one cognizant adult, not a parent) for each item. Possible ideas:
 - Take Czech language or history lessons.
 - Interview a senior (80 or more years) person of Czech descent about his/her life or parents' lives.
 - Help clean up or mow a cemetery with Czech graves.
 - Membership in CHS. Submit attestation that you are a dues-paying member and have attended 2 meetings.
 - Organize, volunteer with or participate in a Czech-related program, e.g., the CHS Queen Pageant, a Czech celebration, festival, play, polka band, or dance group.
 - Make kolache, klobase, or other traditional Czech food.
 - Visit the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC), the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center, Czech painted churches of Texas, or another Czech center, museum or historic site.
 - Attend a Czech festival, program, pageant, play, other Czech event.
- You may list more than one activity in the same category. You may list activities in other categories. In photos, historical markers, signs, etc. must be legible to count for points; state the Czech heritage significance if not obvious.

Do not submit SAT or ACT scores, a resume' or any other documents not requested.

All items must be submitted (recommend obtaining a tracking number) and received in one envelope via USPS, FedEx, or UPS no later than March 6, 2026, at:

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas
Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship
Attn: Kyle Stuckly
712 Mosley Rd
Ennis, TX 75119

REV (2) September 2025