



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship 2024

This \$1000 scholarship is granted by Milady “Bunny” Blaha, the eldest child of Albert 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 qualifications include current or past Czech heritage-related involvement. Proof of registration in a program of studies 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. Must have less than 30 post-high school credit hours. Must not have been awarded another scholarship exceeding \$400.

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

1. A cover sheet including your name, address, phone number and e-mail address; and high school name, address, and phone number. Please state how you learned of this scholarship.

2. An original 300-400-word essay describing what your Czech heritage means to you; your planned or current studies in a college, university, or vocational/technical school; your intended career; and why you should be selected. Use paragraph breaks where appropriate.

3. Documentation of Czech heritage. 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 created by the applicant)

- Birth or baptismal certificate, passport or visa of ancestor(s)

- Immigration ship manifest showing name(s) of ancestor(s)

4. A list stating ways in which you have been involved with Czech heritage in descending order of involvement level. Skip a line between each numbered item. Include evidence (e.g., photo or program) or attestation (200 words or less from one cognizant adult for each, not a parent). 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.

Record or photograph information on several interesting Czech grave markers.

Membership in CHS and attend several 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 or other traditional Czech food.

School project on Czech culture, heritage, history or language.

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.

You may list more than one activity in the same category.

5. Copy of most recent high school or college, university or vocational/technical school transcript.

6. Two letters of recommendation (300 words or less each): one from a teacher, counselor, employer or other cognizant adult attesting to your academic or vocational/technical promise; one from a cognizant adult attesting to your interest and involvement in Czech heritage. (Letters not from parents)

All items must be submitted in one envelope postmarked no later than March 11, 2024 and sent to:

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas

Attn: Richard Skopik

Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship

305 Kingston Dr.

Waco, TX 76712

REV September 2023