



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship 2025

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 qualification (unlimited points) is current or past Czech heritage-related involvement. Proof of registration 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.

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, 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 tell us how you learned of this scholarship (not a requirement).
2. An original 300-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. Use paragraph breaks where appropriate.
3. Documentation of your Czech heritage/lineage origin. 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. 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. To receive points, include evidence (e.g., photo or program) or an attestation (150 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.
  - 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.
  - 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. You may list activities in other categories.

5. Copy of only most recent high school or college, university or vocational/technical school transcript.
6. 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)

All items must be submitted in one envelope postmarked no later than March 3, 2025 and sent to:

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas  
Attn: Richard Skopik  
Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship  
305 Kingston Dr.  
Waco, TX 76712

REV August 2024