



Jiřina LaVine Memorial Scholarship

In order to promote and enhance the appreciation of Czech and Slovak culture and heritage, the Czech & Slovak Club of Kansas City has established two annual scholarship awards in the amount of \$250 and \$500, to be granted based on academic promise and evidence of cultural awareness and appreciation. Eligibility criteria and instructions for interested applicants follow.

Eligibility

- A. The applicant must be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a Czech & Slovak Club of Kansas City member who is current on dues.
 - 1. The applicant must be a full-time high school student or enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational school.
 - 2. **For an eligible high school sophomore or junior**, a \$250 award will be deposited into a 529 educational savings account.
 - 3. **For an eligible graduating high school senior or currently enrolled post-secondary student**, a \$500 award will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Office at the student's post-secondary institution.
- B. The scholarships are single-year awards. However, a recipient may submit a new application for a second scholarship in a subsequent year.
- C. A 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale is the minimum for consideration.
- D. The Club's Scholarship Chairman will determine the recipients, with consensus of at least two other Club members.
- E. In the event that there are no eligible recipients, the funds will remain in the treasury of the Czech & Slovak Club of Kansas City.
- F. If a chosen recipient fails to register as a full-time student at his or her specified college, the money will remain in the Club treasury; no scholarship in that amount will be given that year.

Procedure for All Applicants – Please submit the following:

- A. Completed application form (page 3)
 - 1. The purpose of this form is to help establish the academic promise of the applicant.
 - 2. The boxed section on the application form requesting rank in class and current GPA must be completed and signed by a school administrative official—principal, counselor, or registrar.

- B. A two- to three-page personal essay on the general topic of your appreciation of your Czech/Slovak heritage.
1. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font.
 2. To assure an unbiased evaluation, the essay must be “blind”; that is, there is to be no identification of the author anywhere on or within the text of the document. Essays which fail to comply with this requirement will not be considered.
 3. The essay must be accompanied by a cover sheet containing the title of the essay, the applicant’s name, and the date.
 4. The essay will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:
 - Content** (10 points) – The essay is built around a clear main idea supported by vivid and interesting details which engage, inspire and intrigue the reader.
 - Organization** (5 points) – The opening paragraph invites; the conclusion resolves. Within the body of the essay, the sequence is logical, purposeful and cohesive.
 - Voice** (5 points) - The writing is honest and enthusiastic. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words.
 - Conventions** (5 points) Grammar, mechanics and usage are flawless.
 5. The essay must merit a score of at least 18 out of 25 points to be considered for a scholarship.
 6. Here are a few suggested writing prompts to jumpstart your thinking:
 - Growing up in a Czech or Slovak family (experiences, traditions, values)
 - A family member who best represents the Czech or Slovak heritage for you
 - How your Czech or Slovak heritage affects your values and goals at present

The deadline for applications is **July 1** of the current year. Recipients will be notified no later than **August 1** of the current year, at which time further information will be requested pertaining to the disposition of funds.

An envelope containing the completed application form and the essay with cover sheet attached must be postmarked no later than July 1 and mailed to

Carol Jacobson
Czech & Slovak Club Scholarship
21116 SE Clover Hills Rd.
Cleveland, MO 64734

Please email any questions to Carol Jacobson at czechens@hotmail.com.

Jiřina LaVine Memorial Scholarship ~Application Form~

Name _____

Date of birth: _____ Current year in school: _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Name(s) of parents/grandparents who are members of the Czech & Slovak Club of Kansas City:

High school or post-secondary institution in which currently enrolled:

Intended major or course of study: _____

NOTE: THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY CURRENT SCHOOL PERSONNEL (Administration, Registrar, or Guidance)

Name of Student: _____

Current Grade Point Average _____

Current Rank in Class _____ of _____ students

Signed: _____

Position: _____ Date: _____

On the back of this sheet, please list the following: extracurricular activities, including offices held; honors and awards; community involvement and service. (Be sure to highlight any participation in Czech & Slovak Club of Kansas City activities and events.)

About Jiřina LaVine



Born in Czechoslovakia in 1924, Jiřina witnessed the horrors of World War II first-hand. After six long years of Nazi occupation, Czechoslovakia was liberated in 1945, but freedom was short-lived as the Communists took control of the country in 1948. At that point, Jiřina, with the blessing of her family, left her beloved homeland and came to America, arriving at Ellis Island in 1949.

She eventually made her way to Kansas City, where she lived for the remainder of her life, working for Standard Oil for 30 years.

Jiřina had many interests—skiing, travel, her family, and her ongoing passion for her homeland. She was a foundational member of the Czech & Slovak Club of Kansas City and represented the Club as a Commissioner to the Mayor’s Ethnic Enrichment Commission from 1986-2010 and as chairperson for the Diplomatic Balls of 1995 and 2007. She was voted to be an Honorary Commissioner in 2010. She received national recognition in 2006 when she was honored with the Czernin Palace Memorial Medal, given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic for her work in fostering Czech-US relations.

Following Jiřina’s death in January 2015, the Club Board voted unanimously to name the annual scholarship in her honor. She was an exemplar of accomplishment, resiliency, fortitude, and determination to contribute to her community, qualities which the Czech & Slovak Club would hope to see emulated in our scholarship recipients, as well as her dedication to preserving the Czech and Slovak heritage for future generations.